

NEW FIRE CODE STANDARD FOR SITE-FABRICATED STRETCH FABRIC SYSTEMS

In the 2009 edition of the International Building Code and the International Fire Code (IBC & IFC) there is a new ASTM standard for testing of site-fabricated stretch fabric systems. The standard is **ASTM E-2573-07 "Specimen Preparation and Mounting of Site-Fabricated Stretch Systems to Assess Surface Burning Characteristics"** and it states that all site-fabricated stretch fabric systems test samples must be built to expose a **longitudinal midseam** to the flame front in the Steiner Tunnel (ASTM E-84 test), representing a typical installed system.

A **longitudinal midseam** is defined as "a seam made from the **joining material** used in the stretch system, which is centered on the test specimen and runs the entire length of the test specimen".

The **joining material** is defined as "the frame piece used to join two or more site fabricated stretch panels together, to create a midseam".

This standard has been implemented to make sure that all components of a site fabricated system are tested as a **composite product**, burning all components simultaneously for the entire length of the 10 minute test.

All NOVAWALL® systems test specimens have been built with a longitudinal midseam and have been since we began doing business.

NOVAWALL Systems Inc. is a member of the American Society of Testing Materials. Novawall® has researched national and local fire code requirements extensively, and is involved with keeping the ASTM standards up to date for stretch fabric systems.