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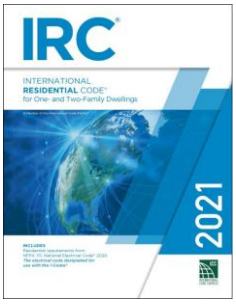
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2021 IRC Question Of The Week

Where gypsum wallboard is used as a thermal barrier to separate foam plastic from the interior of the dwelling, the separation shall be minimum _____ gypsum board.

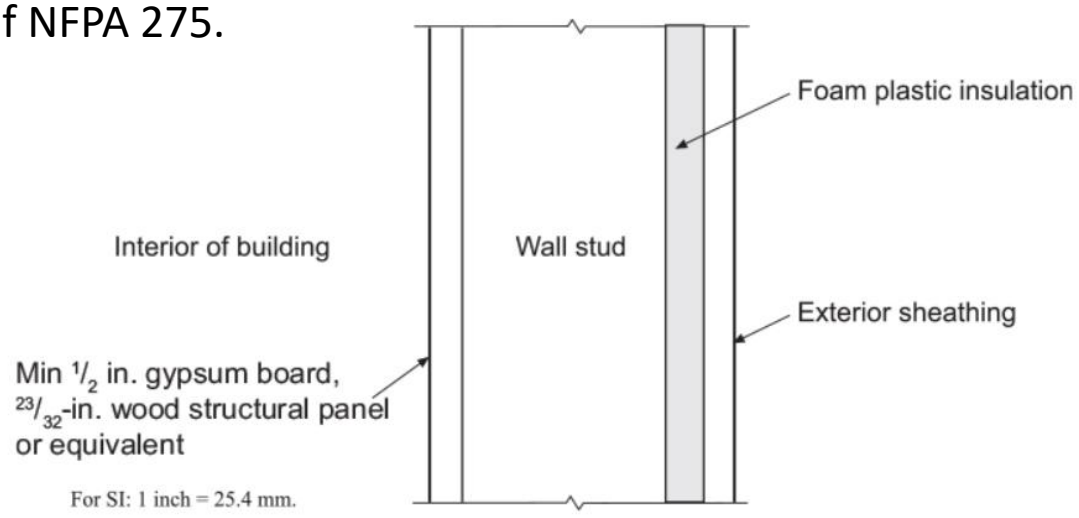
A) 3/8-inch
B) 1/2-inch Type X
C) 1/2-inch
D) 5/8-inch





R316.4 Thermal barrier.

Unless otherwise allowed in Section R316.5, foam plastic shall be separated from the interior of a building by an approved thermal barrier of not less than 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard, 23/32-inch (18.2 mm) wood structural panel or a material that is tested in accordance with and meets the acceptance criteria of both the Temperature Transmission Fire Test and the Integrity Fire Test of NFPA 275.



Foam plastic must not be exposed to the building's interior during the early stages of a fire; rather, it must be isolated from the fire for a short period of time. The adequacy of the barrier is based on its ability to remain in place for 15 minutes. The NFPA 275 fire test methods identify specific sample construction, fire exposures and acceptance criteria to qualify a material or product for use as a thermal barrier.