As the industry evolved, it was apparent that there was a need to develop a test method that was specific for the air and water resistive barrier industry. The ABAA Research Committee worked on the development of a pull adhesion test method, which documented the current practice in the industry and standardized the process. Careful consideration was given to develop a test method that could be used both in the laboratory and in the field so that the manufacturer's test results could be compared to field results.

The test method was vetted by the ABAA Research Committee and approved. The document was then submitted to the ABAA Board for final approval as an ABAA document. The result of this work is the published document ABAA T0002-2019 Standard Test Method for Pull-Off Strength of Adhered Air and Water Resistive Barriers Using an Adhesion Tester. The document can be found HERE.

The differences between the ABAA T0002 test method and the ASTM D4541 and the ASTM D7234 test methods include:

a. Cutting the material – ABAA's requirement is to separate the material under the disk from the balance of the material so that the value obtained is for the size of the disk – other test methods, you do not separate the material. The values are completely different

b. Load rate – ABAA's requirement is one revolution per ten seconds (58 psi/m) – other materials require 150 psi/s or 30 psi/s. A quick sharp loading will produce very high results whereas a low loading rate will produce low results

c. Test duration - ABAA's requirement is test until failure – other test methods are 100 or 30 seconds

d. Termination of test - ABAA's requirement is to continue the test until there is a rupture in the layers. Other test methods are to a specific load

e. Number of pulls - ABAA's requirement is for three pulls in a 39 inch by 39 inch area to be considered one test – other test methods requires three pulls in a representative area

f. Size of disk - ABAA's requirement is for a 2.25 inch diameter disk – other test methods allows for any size of disk typically 0.75 to 3 inches

g. ABAA's requires a digital gauge whereas other test methods allow analog gauges.

ABAA requires that the installers and the auditors use ABAA T0002.

This test method is a step forward in the evolution of the air and water resistive barrier industry. As the test method reflects what is already being done on the construction site, there are not a lot of changes that need to be made.