All of our ABAA manufacturer members have numerous materials and assemblies that meet and exceed these standards. So, the common factor to the various failures we see in building envelopes across the country is the lack of experience and qualifications of the individuals who are installing the systems. Many times when we ask: “who is given the task of priming the walls and installing the self-adhered membranes on the walls?” The answer is the laborer and/or the lowest paid individual on the crew. These people do not set out to do a bad job, they are simply trying to do the installation the best they can. These highly important tasks are many times viewed as insignificant and that anyone can do them. The contractor typically gets the lowest paid person with little to no experience to do the installation to try to save money.

When design professionals, owners and general contractors specify the ABAA SQAP, the results speak for themselves. The installations are completed in compliance with the manufacturer’s and ABAA requirements. The installers are all properly trained and certified to install the various systems that are specified on the project. The various types of certification are self-adhered, fluid-applied, spray polyurethane foam, insulated and uninsulated board-stock, and factory-bonded assemblies.

CERTIFIED INSTALLERS
ABAA-certified installers have a minimum of 3000 hours in the discipline in which they are certified. They are required by the SQAP to install the systems in compliance with the manufacturer’s installation guides.

DAILY TESTING
Installers are also required to conduct adhesion testing of the installed membranes to ensure they meet the adhesion requirements of the manufacturer. They are also required to complete a comprehensive visual inspection of the installed system. Visual inspections are required for all self-adhered, fluid-applied, board-stock, or spray polyurethane foam systems and the installer shall document the test results each day on daily jobsite reports. The completed DJSRs (Daily Job Site Reports) are then provided to either the general contractor, site superintendent or owner’s representative each day.

CERTIFIED AUDITORS
The installation is also inspected by an ABAA-certified auditor at various levels of completion throughout the installation. The auditor then provides a highly detailed report of the installation.

The ABAA has a comprehensive solution to avoid all of the problems associated with these failures?

APPROVED MATERIALS
The ABAA requires the air barrier contractors to use approved materials on all of our ABAA-specified projects. The materials and assemblies must comply with the ASTM E2178 material standard, and the ASTM E2357 assembly standard to be acceptable on an ABAA-specified project.
COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT REPORTS
This report is then distributed to the architect, general contractor, manufacturer of the air barrier system and the air barrier contractor.

If there were any deficiencies identified during the audit, the air barrier contractor would have to repair any and all deficiencies that were identified by the auditor at their own expense.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
ABAA conducts numerous AIA accredited workshops for contractors and design professionals each year. To inquire about how you can have one of these workshops or lunch and learns in your area, call 1-866-956-5888.

To find a complete list of Manufacturer’s Approved Systems, ABAA Master Specifications, and Accredited Contractors in your area, go to the ABAA website: http://www.airbarrier.org/

We are holding our annual ABAA Conference in Reston, Virginia from October 20-21, 2020. The conference is one of the most highly technical building performance conferences held in the USA each year! There is a host of presenters who are some of the most-respected experts in building performance. We look forward to seeing you there!