

BBS MEMO

o Board of Building Standards

March 15, 1996

2323 West Fifth Ave., Box 825, Columbus, Ohio 43216

Drywall Manufacturer Product Performance Problems

BOCA Evaluation Services, Inc. has issued a letter to Domtar Gypsum concerning the performance of their drywall. BOCA-ES has requested that Domtar respond to complaints of problems encountered in a central-Ohio residence. The request is based on an installation that was not satisfactorily completed between June 1991 and March, 1992.

Domtar Gypsum, a Division of Domtar, Inc., in Sweetwater Texas, shipped drywall in 1991 for sale in the state of Ohio. The company has had its product reviewed by BOCA-ES for compliance with the applicable building codes, including its use within approved fire partition assemblies. (Refer to BOCA-ES report 92-47) The Manufacturer's product literature states that the drywall conforms to ASTM E 84 for flame spread and smoke-developed ratings.

The owner of the residence alleges that the Domtar drywall is defective: samples of the installed drywall failed ASTM C473 flexural strength tests, had severe paper delamination that does not comply with ASTM C36-93, and contained several texture variations. Test samples were analyzed by an independent consultant for the owner, who reported that the condition of the gypsum board could make it susceptible to failure.

Gypsum board with severe delamination can create a safety hazard. The board could fall unexpectedly, or delaminated paper could increase the flame spread of the wall, reducing fireristance.

BOCA-ES has requested a response from the manufacturer regarding this complaint. If they feel that it requires additional attention, they will issue a report in a future edition of the BOCA magazine or BOCA Bulletin.