



Standard Practice for Evaluating Capabilities of Agencies Involved in System Analysis and Compliance Assurance for Manufactured Building¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E651/E651M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice is intended as a companion standard to Specification E541, Specification for Agencies Engaged in System Analysis and Compliance Assurance for Manufactured Building. Specification E541 covers criteria by which the technical resources of agencies may be evaluated for their capability to perform the system analysis or compliance assurance function, or both, in the evaluation and inspection of manufactured building. This standard² includes questions that should be asked of system analysis and compliance assurance agencies in order for the administrative agency to evaluate their competency. Personnel matters are not highlighted in this standard since they are covered in detail in Specification E541. This is not meant to imply that they are not important.

1.2 The preferred method for utilizing this practice is for qualified personnel of the administrative agency to visit the system analysis and compliance assurance agencies' headquarters to speak to qualified personnel and examine pertinent records and documentation. Alternatively, the evaluation may be done at any location provided the agency being evaluated is fully informed as to the material and personnel they will need to have on hand for the evaluation.

1.3 Some of the following will not be applicable in the evaluation of an agency that has not had prior experience as a building-evaluation organization. It is not the intent of this practice to preclude acceptance of such an agency provided it can otherwise demonstrate that its organizational procedures and experience in other product categories and experience of key personnel reflect a keen awareness of the problems and

processes involved in manufactured building evaluation and thus warrant acceptance. In such instances the administrative agency may wish to consider extending provisional acceptance over a definite period of time, during which it is expected that the agency will have opportunity to gain the requisite experience and demonstrate its capabilities and compliance assurance functions for manufactured building.

1.4 Failure of an agency to respond satisfactorily to one or more criteria in the following should not be sole cause for rejection. Such failure should be brought to the agency's attention and be subject to close scrutiny during subsequent reevaluations.

1.5 This practice is intended to achieve uniformity in the regulation of manufactured building. It may be necessary to make changes and modifications in order to adapt to legislative or other regulatory requirements of some jurisdictions.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*³

E541 Specification for Agencies Engaged in System Analysis and Compliance Assurance for Manufactured Building

3. System Analysis

“6.2.1 Drawings, calculations, and specifications of manufactured building shall be reviewed by agency's engineering

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E36 on Accreditation & Certification and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E36.70 on Agencies Performing Construction Inspection, Testing and Special Inspection.

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² In preparation of this practice, much assistance was gained by referring to Building Science Series 87, “Model Documents for the Evaluation, Approval, and Inspection of Manufactured Buildings,” prepared by the Center for Building Technology, Institute for Applied Technology, National Bureau of Standards, issued July 1976.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.



*staff and details compared with provisions of applicable requirements. The construction of assemblies or components or both, including material identification, shall be compared with published descriptions of listed, approved, or recognized designs where applicable.”*⁴

3.1 Questions:⁵

3.1.1 Does the system analysis agency have on hand copies of the standard(s), codes(s), specification(s), etc., against which the product is being evaluated?

3.1.2 Does the system analysis agency have on hand “how to” manuals such as UPC Plumbing Code Interpretations Manual, NFPA Handbook of the National Electrical Code, etc., and similar manuals which provide the agency with useful background information? Does the agency maintain copies of current product directories, lists, certification directories, etc., published or issued by independent organizations, trade associations, and other groups?

3.1.3 Ask to see checklists and other evaluation aids developed by the system analysis agency, or developed by others and used by the agency, in their evaluation process. Does the agency have: (a) a data collection checklist for determining the adequacy of data submitted by the manufacturer for review (that is, how does the agency know when it has sufficient data to start a review?); (b) a comprehensive review checklist for determining compliance with applicable standards and procedures that cover the full range of architectural, structural, mechanical, etc., features to be reviewed? Does the review checklist include provisions for convenient notation of those items found to be and not to be in compliance with the code(s)?

3.1.4 Ask the system analysis agency to explain the criteria upon which they base their acceptance or rejection of a component, material, device, etc., used in the building system.

3.1.4.1 Is the product specifically identified as to make, model, type designation, etc.?

3.1.4.2 Is the code or standard that forms the technical basis for certification of a product known, such as by being marked on the product, or included in the certifier’s seal, label, or mark, or referenced in the certifier’s test report or other available documents?

3.1.5 Ask the system analysis agency to explain the criteria upon which they base their acceptance or rejection of tests on individual products used in the building system. Does the criteria include at least the following elements:

3.1.5.1 Identification of the specimen tested (manufacturer, type, model number, source of supply, etc.).

3.1.5.2 A detailed description or drawing of the physical characteristics of the specimen, including condition (age, repair, etc.).

3.1.5.3 Number of tests and sampling technique used in selection of specimens.

3.1.5.4 Identification of test method used (if a standard test method) or a detailed description of the test procedure, equipment, and instrumentation used.

3.1.5.5 Tabulation of numerical values associated with test, such as loadings, voltage, etc., and corresponding result readings (for example, deflections), giving the time scale involved.

3.1.5.6 Listing or identification of any significant test conditions not indicated above (such as ambient air temperature, humidity, etc.).

3.1.5.7 Date of test.

3.1.5.8 Name and address of testing organization or laboratory.

3.1.5.9 Signature of the laboratory’s officer or authorized representative (generally a test engineer in charge who is a professional engineer), and date of signature.

3.1.6 Does product bear the seal, label, or mark of product certifying agency or organization? If “no” for some or all products, ask agency to explain basis of acceptance. If “yes”:

3.1.6.1 Is seal, label, or mark of product certifying agency registered?

3.1.6.2 Does the product certifying agency have strict procedures for controlling the use of its seal, label, or mark?

3.1.6.3 Does product certifying agency or organization conduct routine factory audit of products bearing its seal, label or mark?

“6.2.2 Where production has been instituted, and subsequent to the review of drawings and specifications, qualified personnel from the system analysis agency (or compliance assurance agency) shall visit the factory of the producer of manufactured building to:

6.2.2.1 Compare the actual construction with the drawings and specifications.

6.2.2.2 Examine and record all features required by the codes and standards if not included in the drawings and specifications.

6.2.2.3 Evaluate all required production tests to ascertain that the correct equipment, instruments, and procedures are followed and to determine that the building, assembly, or subassembly is capable of meeting the test requirements.

6.2.2.4 Discuss items of noncompliance with the manufacturer’s representative, identify the source of the requirement, and explain the requirement.”

3.2 Questions:⁵

3.2.1 Confirm that building evaluation agency (system analysis agency or compliance assurance agency) arranges for its personnel to visit a manufacturer’s factory after review of drawings and specifications to perform the steps enumerated in the evaluation process outlined in 6.2.2.1 through 6.2.2.4 above.

3.2.2 Ask to see representative reports prepared by the building evaluation agency subsequent to such factory visits as evidence of documenting the replies to the following, as appropriate:

3.2.2.1 Does the agency examine manufactured buildings in various phases of construction to ascertain that they are being constructed in accordance with the drawings and specifications submitted by the manufacturer?

3.2.2.2 Does the agency examine the manufactured buildings for the purpose of disclosing and recording features of

⁴ Criteria in italics are extracted without change from ASTM Standard E541, Specification for Agencies Engaged in System Analysis and Compliance Assurance for Manufactured Building.

⁵ Questions to be asked of the building evaluation agencies (system analysis agency or compliance assurance agency) by the administrative agency.