

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### Re: RAINSCREEN STUCCO / HAL-TEX BREATHERBOARD

The following notice will now be printed on sheets of HAL-TEX breatherboard:

Notice: Follow lap lines and keep laps flat, not ridged, for uniform stucco thickness. Uneven stucco can result in stress cracks especially when mounted to metal supports.

The purpose of this notice is to remind installers and job site supervisors of the importance of maintaining a uniform flat surface when installing breatherboard on rainscreen projects. Horizontal lap joints in particular should not be ridged in order to avoid creating a groove in the back of the stucco which can later become a focal point for potential stress cracks. Use tape if necessary to keep the loose flap down prior to wire lath installation. Avoid putting screws directly through lap as this may help create a ridge.

It is important for the consultant in charge of each project to ensure that their project manager is aware of the above issue so that field action can be taken to eliminate or at least minimize creation of lap ridges in breatherboard.

We must emphasize that breatherboard plays no role in creating stresses in the stucco. Stresses might occur for various reasons such as curing shrinkage, temperature cycles causing expansion/contraction, movement of support members, or perhaps other reasons. Appropriately placed expansion joints should be used where stress cracks may be anticipated.

**Fig 1:** Breatherboard Laps Edge Views:

