

TECHNICAL SERVICES BULLETIN

REPAIRING DAMAGE/DEFECTS IN THE 2 ½ HOUR ME AREA SEPARATION FIREWALL SYSTEM

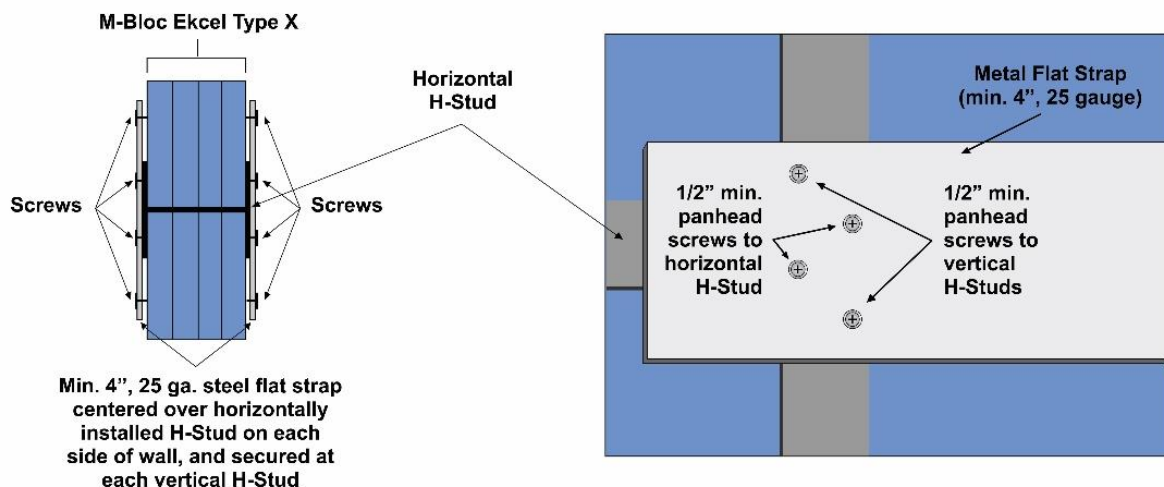
The 2 ½ hour fire rated ME Area Separation Firewall System was released to the industry in March 2022 as a way to isolate sound and protect from fire two (2) separate living units in townhomes, twin homes, duplexes, condominiums and apartments. At times during the installation of the ME ASF system, mistakes are made or damage occurs to this assembly, and for that reason American Gypsum's UL design V344 has the "Alternate Construction" method found below to ensure that the 2 ½ hour fire rating is maintained in the field.

DAMAGE OR DEFECT:	H-STUDS INSTALLED HORIZONTALLY IN THE ME AREA SEPARATION FIREWALL SYSTEM
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ISSUE: At times during the installation of the ME Area Separation Firewall System, a framing crew will mistakenly install an H-Stud horizontally - instead of the required 2" C-Runner Track, to cap or finish off a wall section. This error during installation does void the fire rating of the ME ASF system, but American Gypsum - working with UL, has developed the following corrective action to restore the 2 ½ hour fire rating.

REPAIR: When "H" studs are erroneously installed horizontally to cap the ME Area Separation Firewall in lieu of 2" C-Runner Tracks, do the following:

- ❑ As shown in the detail below, secure a minimum 4" wide metal flat strap (min. 25 gauge) the full length of the horizontally installed H-Stud - on each side of the wall.
- ❑ Ensure that the metal flat strap is centered over the horizontal "H" stud, and attach with four (4) 1/2 in. min long panhead screws, at the location of the vertical H-Stud
- ❑ Two (2) of the screws are used to secure flat strap to vertical "H" stud
- ❑ The other two (2) screws are used to secure the metal flat strap to the horizontal "H" stud, in alternating pattern



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