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## Products Accepted for Use / Brandguard Eave Vents

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# 09-05

Vent Product Acceptance Issued 07-01-09  
Vent Product Acceptance Revised 08-01-11  
This OSFM Product Acceptance **Expires 12-31-13**

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This policy is only applicable to OSFM plan and construction review projects under OSFM jurisdiction. Local jurisdictions and other agencies enforcing the California Building Standards Code may or may not adopt similar methods of: 1) administering current code requirements; 2) determining equivalent alternates for materials, design, tests, and methods of construction or; 3) approving specific products for use. OSFM CBC "Ch7A Compliance Policies" address those aspects of OSFM plan and construction review that are not clearly addressed by existing regulations in California Building Code Ch7A "*Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure*" and related sections of the code (including California Residential Code Section 327). "Ch7A Compliance Policies" typically indicate acceptable methods of achieving compliance with applicable codes and regulations. This policy is intended for use by OSFM staff and as a resource for design professionals to promote more uniform statewide guidelines for plan review and construction inspection of projects within the jurisdiction of OSFM. Other methods of compliance proposed by design professionals shall be considered.

When "Ch7A Compliance Policies" are used for product acceptance, they are based upon technical data submitted by the applicant. The terms "LISTED" and "APPROVED" have specific legal definitions and **SHALL NOT** be used in describing products accepted for use by this policy. This acceptance policy is not an endorsement or recommendation of the item(s) listed. OSFM staff has reviewed the test results and/or other data but does not make an independent verification of any claims. This acceptance policy should not be used to verify correct operational requirements or installation criteria. Refer to manufacturer's data sheet, installation instructions, and/or other suitable information sources. Further information is available under Wildfire Protection on the OSFM webpage at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfireprotection>.

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**Issue:** The California Building Standards Code provides for the option use of specialized eave vents for wildfire protection, however, there is no nationally recognized test standard upon which to base vent product acceptance.

### Code Section(s) at Issue:

#### 2007 CBC Section 704A.2 Attic Ventilation:

**704A.2.1 General.** *When required by Chapter 15, roof and attic vents shall resist the intrusion of flame and embers into the attic area of the structure, or shall be protected by corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with 1/4-inch (6mm) openings or its equivalent.*

**704A.2.2 Eave or cornice vents.** *Vents shall not be installed in eaves and cornices.*

**Exception:** *Eave and cornice vents may be used provided they resist the intrusion of flame and burning embers into the attic area of the structure.*

#### 2010 CBC Section 706A Vents (& corresponding CRC Section 327 provisions)

**706A.3 Ventilation openings on the underside of eaves and cornice:** *Vents shall not be installed on the underside of eaves and cornices.*

**Exceptions:** **1.** *The enforcing agency may accept or approve special eave and cornice vents that resist the intrusion of flame and burning embers.*

**Resolution:** Based upon review of the OSFM "Application for Listing Service" from Brandguard Vents dated April 8, 2009, the Brandguard's eave vent listed below are accepted for use for use in projects where OSFM has plan review jurisdiction with the following limitations:

1. Installation shall be limited to under eave applications only,
2. Documentation shall be provided at the time of plan review application detailing that all ventilation requirements of California Code of Regulations Title 24 (including the California Building Code) can be met with the proposed installation including, but not limited to:
  - a. Net free ventilating area requirements (CBC section 1203.2), and
  - b. Opening size for attic vents (CBC sections 1203.2.1)

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<u>Model No. (GMFG #)</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Type</u>	
UE 2021-FFS	3-1/2" x 14-1/8" x 1-1/2"	Eave/Soffit	Includes the following Vent Types: Ears Front, Ears Back, Flange Front, Flange Back, Hardie, Plaster Ground, Retrofit
UE 3021 -RS	3 1/2" x 14"	Eave/Soffit	
UE 3011	3 1/2" x 22"	Eave/Soffit	
UE 3041	3" x 22"	Eave/Soffit	
CS 3011	3.1/2" x 120"	Eave/Soffit	

Review of the application material included:

- A testing lab report by Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), Project Number 01.14436.01.207g, issued on April 7, 2009, (based on testing conducted on March 24, 2009), and
- A testing lab report by Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), Project Number 01.14436.01.207f, issued on April 7, 2009, (based on testing conducted on March 24, 2009) and
- An Engineering Evaluation/Opinion letter, supplemental to the original testing documentation, from Southwest Research Institute, dated November 22, 2011, regarding the testing of the last four model numbers listed.
- Supporting documentation of the products and acceptance criteria for attic vents, the products listed below have been approved for use in projects where OSFM has plan and construction review jurisdiction.

California Building Code Section 111.2.4 allow local officials and other enforcing agencies to "approve" alternative products, designs or methods of construction provided the proposed design complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and provides equivalent effectiveness as prescribed by code. CBC Section 704A.3.1 allows for additional provisions for alternate methods.

The acceptance policy does not prevent additional venting products from being reviewed. Any other alternate products requested for use on individual projects may still be reviewed for compliance on a case by case basis.

The acceptance does not set aside any requirements for minimum vent area which shall be calculated by the net free area of the ventilation provided by this product and shall be declared on the construction plans for all new permit applications where this product is utilized.

For more information please see:

**OSFM** Office of the State Fire Marshal  
 Fire Protection Building Construction at  
[osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfireprotection](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfireprotection) or call  
 (916) 227-8200