

To all property engineers,

Many of you may have read or heard of problems relating to fillers used in drywall products over the last few years.

Certain fillers that were the by-product of power plant ash appear to have been used in the drywall production process. These fillers contain sulfur compounds which, when combined with moisture (in the form of airborne humidity), form a corrosive compound or gas. Reportedly, exposures to these sulfur compounds have been linked to mechanical problems such as corroded fan coils, copper piping and wiring, and computer boards, damage to personal items such as jewelry and mirrors, and to complaints of headaches and respiratory illness from people in close contact with the installed products.

Initially, only drywall manufactured in China was associated with these issues and it was presumed that the products' domestic use was limited to Florida. It appears, however, that the problem potentially is more widespread. Recently, consumers in California, Arizona, Ohio, Texas, Louisiana, Nevada, the Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi and Virginia have registered drywall-related complaints. In addition, a recently filed class action against Georgia-Pacific Gypsum and 84 Lumber alleges that these problems specifically arise from the use of synthetic gypsum in the drywall manufacturing process and that synthetic gypsum is used by many American-based drywall manufacturers.

Most problems being reported relate to residential installations. Nevertheless, given the allegedly widespread use of these products, we wanted you to be aware of the potential problem. It would be prudent for you to review all of your property projects where drywall has been used (irrespective of your State) and to inspect the installation. Indicators of problems are a sulfur (rotten-egg) odor, black soot forming on metal surfaces, and corrosive failures in electrical equipment and wiring.

Please notify Host Hotels and Resorts immediately if you suspect any drywall product installed at your hotel may present these types of problems.

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Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 6:25 AM
To: luebstorf@renaissanceseatle.com
Subject: FW: Bulletin: Problematic Drywall

Here is the dry wall in formation I mentioned at the meeting this past Thursday.

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Cc: McPhail, Alastair; Haberman, Gerard; Design and Construction
Subject: Bulletin: Problematic Drywall

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