Frequently Asked Questions

Who Needs A Flood Barier Shield?

Residential and non-residential buildings situated in flood-risk areas, whose owners are seeking for a dry floodproofing solution for wall openings either at their own preemptive initiative, as part of a community floodplain management plan, or as an alternative to rising to or above the Base Flood Elevation.

Is The FloodBarrierShield Compliant With FEMA's Recommendations?

Yes. The Flood Barrier Shield has been developed specifically in accordance with FEMA's recommendations, Sec. 3.5 'Flood Shields for Openings in Exterior Walls', being designated as a 'lift-out' aluminum shield. For more about these specifications, read the chapter Dry Flooding Measures.

3

Dry Floodproofing Measures

The purpose of dry floodproofing a building is to make it watertight to floods of limited duration (a few hours) and depth (typically less than 3 feet). Dry floodproofing reduces the potential for flood damage by reducing the probability that the building interior will be inundated. It can be an appropriate alternative for flood mitigation when relocating or elevating buildings is not cost-effective or technically feasible.

The minimum performance requirement for dry floodproofing measures is a space that is protected by walls that are substantially impermeable and resistant to flood loads. As noted in Section 1, a substantially impermeable wall should limit water accumulation to a maximum accumulation of 4 inches in a 24-hour period with a sump pump to control seepage (USACE 1995). However, the minimum performance requirement can be exceeded with proper planning, design, and materials.

Special Note

FEMA strongly encourages that flood retrofits provide protection to the DFE (the community's regulatory DFE). However, in some situations, lower flood-protection levels may be appropriate. Owners and design professionals should meet with a local building official to discuss the selected retrofit measure and the elevation to which it will protect the building.

Do I Need A Professional Installer?

No, unless the installation is aimed at obtaining a Floodproofing Certificate (for non-residential buildings FEMA Form 086-0-34 and FEMA 2012b). In accordance to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) if the lowest floor of a building (including any basement) is below the base flood elevation (BFE) shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community, the building owner can compensate by floodproofing the perimeter of the building. This type of dry floodproofing must be certified as providing protection from the BFE by an architect or engineer.

When Do I Need To Install The Shield And How Long Does It Take For The Operation?

When situation arises. Just like sandbags, any time a hurricane is announced or a water flow is announced, the barrier shield should be slided into place. This could vary from 24h-advance to few hours before the anticipated water rise. Provided that brackets are already mounted in place on the walls/door-frame, the shield can be installed in place in just minutes. After the danger has passed, bracket can be removed and store in the basement.