SIPS (Structurally Insulated Panels) is a recently new method of wall construction and the SIPS industry publishes good technical information. Hard coat stucco requires to be securely attached to framing members. Since SIPS do not incorporate framing members, meeting this requirement is not possible. With a minor adjustment, cement stucco can easily be applied to SIPS. The SIPS industry recommends increasing the amount of ring shank nails by 25%. This could impact the self-furring lath. The lath supports the stucco and furring allows cement encasement of the lath: this must not be compromised. Excessive use of fasteners is not recommended. The SMA provides the following recommendations for cement plaster on SIPS.

THREE-COAT STUCCO: Three-coat stucco (9-11 pounds per square foot) should use wood screws with a wafer style head in lieu of ring shank nails. Lath attachment spacing should be no more than 16 inches vertically and 6 inches horizontally (similar to framing). Attachment should not negate the furring. The screw should fully penetrate the outer wood-based layer of the SIPS. Screw heads must engage two or more strands of lath.

ONE-COAT STUCCO: One-Coat stucco is lighter (5-6 lbs. per foot) than three-coat stucco. Screw fastener spacing may be up to 24 inches on center, but should remain 6 inches on center vertically. An occasional fastener between vertical rows is acceptable.
Withdrawal Charts: Provided by the SIPS industry & for informational purposes only.

SIPS & Stucco CAVEATS:

- The SMA does not recommend the use of staples to attach lath for SIPS
- Use approved Fluid or Sheet good water barriers over SIPS prior to installing a lath
- The water-resistant barriers shall be lapped a minimum 2 inches horizontally and 4 inches vertically. Exceeding minimums is recommended.
- The water-resistant barrier(s) and flashings should be installed in a “shingle-fashion”.
- Nail-Flange windows should be installed and flashed per SMA recommendations
- Flangeless windows and doors require perimeters of casing beads, backer rod and sealant.
- Roof to wall connections should be flashed per SMA (Kickouts)
- All stucco terminations and penetrations shall be flashed to prevent water entry.
- Weep Screeds are required at the base of SIPS walls.
- Fire-ratings are possible with 7/8 inch cement upon approval of the local building department.
- Ring shank nails may be used for one-coat stucco if spacing is 16 inches on center
- Stucco is not recommended over SIPS at soffits or ceilings.
- One-piece control joints should be “over” continuous lath.
- Specific stucco or SIPS manufacturers recommendations supersede SMA recommendations
- For more information refer to www.SIPS.org and www.stuccomfgassoc.com

Established in 1957, the SMA is an industry wide not-for-profit trade association dedicated to promotion and education of the stucco industry. The SMA can provide no warranty, express or implied, due to variables. The user must verify local codes and the suitability of these recommendations.