Purpose: The purpose of this Interpretation of Regulations (IR) is to clarify DSA acceptance of self-furring wire lath used as reinforcement for cement plaster.

1. General: Lath for plaster shall be furred out a minimum of 1/4 inch when installed over a solid surface such as plywood. The use of self-furring lath is subject to a satisfactory jobsite demonstration of the lath installation for each project, with approval by the project architect and enforcement agency.

2. Background: Many types of self-furring lath have depressions in the lath that successfully offset the lath 1/4 inch from plywood or other rigid backing, and therefore meet the 1/4 inch offset requirement of ASTM C933-04 Section 5.1.2 (or Table 25A-B of the 2001 CBC). Furring nails are not required. The lath is not offset from the backing at the location where nails or staples hold the lath to the backing/stud.

3. Application: Satisfactory job-site installation is required. The lath should not be pulled so tight that the depressions are straightened resulting in the lath being pressed tight to the backing. Lath must be furred out 1/4 inch over the majority of the wall area; lath within three inches of attachment points may be exempt from minimum furring requirement in order to accommodate fastening to framing. Also, the nails/staples shall not be overdriven so as to damage the weather-resistant barrier.