



AF&PA News

A News Release from the American Forest & Paper Association

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MSR/MEL Added to AWC Span Calculator

AWC's wildly popular online span calculator was recently updated to allow user input of Machine Stress Rated (MSR) and Machine Evaluated Lumber (MEL). With manufacturers taking a renewed interest in machine grading technology and attempting to derive greater value from the premium products they manufacture, having MSR and MEL in the span calculator permits them to point users to this tool for their lumber joist sizing needs. Grades and species shown represent those most commonly manufactured and available today.


Incorporation of MSR and MEL will add even more flexibility to the most popular tool on the AWC website. With an average of 50,300 monthly total page views, the span calculator generates over 1/3 of the traffic to the AWC website.

Tom Rogers of iLevel noted "The addition of MSR/MEL grades in AWC's online Span Calculator expands lumber specification options for architects and engineers when designing for joists and rafters." He added, "It creates visibility that MSR/MEL products are not just for manufacturing pre-fabricated truss components, but that the performance characteristics valued in trusses can be extended to joists and rafters as well."

The span calculator is a free tool available on the AWC website at www.awc.org. For more information, contact Buddy Showalter at buddy_showalter@afandpa.org.


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The American Wood Council (AWC) is part of the wood products group of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, paper, and wood products industry, representing member companies engaged in growing, harvesting, and processing wood and wood fiber; manufacturing pulp, paper, and paperboard products from both virgin and recycled fiber; and producing engineered and traditional wood products. For more information see www.afandpa.org.



American Forest & Paper Association
American Wood Council
Engineered and Traditional Wood Products

Maximum Span Calculator for Joists & Rafters


4,300 Users - [click here](#)

Species	Spruce-Pine-Fir ▼
Size	2x6 ▼
Grade	1650f-1.5E (MSR) ▼
Member Type	Rafters (Roof Live-Load) ▼
Deflection Limit	L/180 ▼
Spacing (in)	16 ▼
Exterior Exposure	Wet service conditions?
	No ▼
Exterior Exposure	Incised lumber?
	No ▼
Live Load (psf)	20 ▼
Dead Load (psf)	10 ▼

The Maximum Horizontal Span is:

15 ft. 2 in.

with a minimum bearing length of **0.47 in.** required at each end of the member.

Property	Value
Species	Spruce-Pine-Fir
Grade	1650f-1.5E (MSR)
Size	2x6
Modulus of Elasticity (E)	1500000 psi
Bending Strength (F _b)	2371.87 psi
Bearing Strength (F _{cp})	425 psi
Shear Strength (F _v)	168.75 psi

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