MANUAL
for Engineered Wood Construction
2015 EDITION
Updates and Errata
While every precaution has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this document, errors may have occurred during development. Updates or Errata are posted to the American Wood Council website at www.awc.org. Technical inquiries may be addressed to info@awc.org.

The American Wood Council (AWC) is the voice of North American traditional and engineered wood products. From a renewable resource that absorbs and sequesters carbon, the wood products industry makes products that are essential to everyday life. AWC’s engineers, technologists, scientists, and building code experts develop state-of-the-art engineering data, technology, and standards on structural wood products for use by design professionals, building officials, and wood products manufacturers to assure the safe and efficient design and use of wood structural components.
FOREWORD

This Manual for Engineered Wood Construction (Manual) provides guidance for design of most wood-based structural products used in the construction of wood buildings. This Manual is intended for use with the Wood Design Package which includes the following documents:

- ANSI/AWC NDS-2015 National Design Specification® (NDS®) for Wood Construction – with Commentary,
- ANSI/AWC SDPWS-2015 – Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS) – with Commentary,

The American Wood Council (AWC) has developed this manual for design professionals. AWC and its predecessor organizations have provided engineering design information to users of structural wood products for over 75 years, first in the form of the Wood Structural Design Data series and then in the National Design Specification (NDS) for Wood Construction.

It is intended that this document be used in conjunction with competent engineering design, accurate fabrication, and adequate supervision of construction. AWC does not assume any responsibility for errors or omissions in the document, nor for engineering designs, plans, or construction prepared from it.

Those using this document assume all liability arising from its use. The design of engineered structures is within the scope of expertise of licensed engineers, architects, or other licensed professionals for applications to a particular structure.

American Wood Council
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M1.1 Products Covered in This Manual

This Manual was developed with the intention of covering all structural applications of wood-based products and their connections that meet the requirements of the referenced standards. The Manual is a dual format document incorporating design provisions for both allowable stress design (ASD) and load and resistance factor design (LRFD). Design information is available for the following list of products. Each product chapter contains information for use with this Manual and the National Design Specification® (NDS®) for Wood Construction. Chapters are organized to parallel the chapter format of the NDS.

- Sawn Lumber Chapter 4
- Structural Glued Laminated Timber Chapter 5
- Round Timber Poles and Piles Chapter 6
- Prefabricated Wood I-Joists Chapter 7
- Structural Composite Lumber Chapter 8
- Wood Structural Panels Chapter 9
- Cross-Laminated Timber Chapter 10
- Mechanical Connections Chapter 11
- Dowel-Type Fasteners Chapter 12
- Split Ring and Shear Plate Connectors Chapter 13
- Timber Rivets Chapter 14

An additional Standard, titled Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS), has been developed to cover materials, design, and construction of wood members, fasteners, and assemblies to resist wind and seismic forces.

M1.2 General Requirements

This Manual is organized for use with the Wood Design Package which includes the following documents:

- NDS and Commentary;
- NDS Supplement: Design Values for Wood Construction,
- Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS) and Commentary,

M1.2.1 Bracing

Design considerations related to both temporary and permanent bracing differ among product types. Specific discussion of bracing is included in the product chapter.

M1.3 Design Procedures

The NDS is a dual format specification incorporating design provisions for ASD and LRFD. Behavioral equations, such as those for member and connection design, are the same for both ASD and LRFD. Adjustment factor tables include applicable factors for determining an adjusted ASD design value or an adjusted LRFD design value. NDS Appendix N – (Mandatory) Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) and product chapters outline requirements that are unique to LRFD and adjustment factors for LRFD.

The basic design equations for ASD or LRFD require that the specified product adjusted design value meet or exceed the actual (applied) stress or other effect imposed by the specified loads. Load combination equations for use with ASD and LRFD are given in the model building codes.
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M2.1 General Information

Structural wood products are provided to serve a wide range of end uses. Some products are marketed through commodity channels where the products meet specific standards and the selection of the appropriate product is the responsibility of the user.

Other products are custom manufactured to meet the specific needs of a given project. Products in this category are metal plate connected wood trusses and custom structural glued laminated timbers. Design of the individual members is based on criteria specified by the architect or engineer of record on the project. Manufacture of these products is performed in accordance with the product’s manufacturing standards. Engineering of these products normally only extends to the design of the products themselves. Construction-related issues, such as load path analysis and erection bracing, remain the responsibility of the professional of record for the project.

M2.2 Reference Design Values

Reference design value designates the allowable stress design value based on normal load duration. To avoid confusion, the descriptor “reference” is used and serves as a reminder that design value adjustment factors are applicable for design values in accordance with referenced conditions specified in the NDS – such as normal load duration.

Reference design values for sawn lumber, structural glued laminated timber, and round timber poles and piles are contained in the NDS Supplement: Design Values for Wood Construction. Reference design values for dowel-type fasteners, split ring and shear plate connectors, and timber rivets are contained in the NDS. Reference design values for all other products are typically contained in the manufacturer’s code evaluation report.

M2.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

Adjusted design value designates reference design values which have been multiplied by adjustment factors. Basic requirements for design use terminology applicable to both ASD and LRFD. In equation format, this takes the standard form $f_i \leq F'_i$ which is applicable to either ASD or LRFD. Reference design values ($F_b, F_s, F_v, F_c, E, E_{\text{min}}$) are multiplied by adjustment factors to determine adjusted design values ($F'_b, F'_s, F'_v, F'_c, E', E'_{\text{min}}$).

Reference conditions have been defined such that a majority of wood products used in interior or in protected environments will require no adjustment for moisture, temperature, or treatment effects.

Moisture content (MC) reference conditions are 19% or less for sawn lumber products. The equivalent limit for glued products (structural glued laminated timber, structural composite lumber, prefabricated wood I-joists, wood structural panels, and cross-laminated timber) is defined as 16% MC or less.

Temperature reference conditions include sustained temperatures up to 100°F. Note that it has been traditionally assumed that these reference conditions also include common building applications in desert locations where daytime temperatures will often exceed 100°F. Examples of applications that may exceed the reference temperature range include food processing or other industrial buildings.

Tabulated design values and capacities are for untreated members. Tabulated design values and capacities also apply to wood products pressure treated by an approved process and preservative except as specified for load duration factors.

An unincised reference condition is assumed. For members that are incised to increase penetration of preservative chemicals, use the incising adjustment factors given in the product chapter.

The effects of fire retardant chemical treatment on strength shall be accounted for in the design. Reference design values, including connection design values, for lumber and structural glued laminated timber pressure-treated with fire retardant chemicals shall be obtained from the company providing the treatment and redrying service. The impact load duration factor shall not apply to structural members pressure-treated with fire retardant chemicals.
M3: DESIGN PROVISIONS AND EQUATIONS

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M3.1 General

This Chapter covers design of members for bending, compression, tension, combined bending and axial loads, and bearing.

M3.2 Bending Members - General

This section covers design of members stressed primarily in flexure (bending). Examples of such members include primary framing members (beams) and secondary framing members (purlins, joists). Products commonly used in these applications include glulam, solid sawn lumber, structural composite lumber, and prefabricated I-joists. Bending members are designed so that no design capacity is exceeded under applied loads. Strength criteria for bending members include bending moment, shear, local buckling, lateral torsional buckling, and bearing. See specific product chapters for moment and shear capacities (joist and beam selection tables) and reference bending and shear design values.

M3.3 Bending Members - Flexure

The basic equation for moment design of bending members is:

$$ M' \geq M $$

(M3.3-1)

where:

- $M'$ = adjusted moment capacity
- $M$ = bending moment

The equation for calculation of adjusted moment capacity is:

$$ M' = F_{b}' \cdot S $$

(M3.3-2)

where:

- $S$ = section modulus, in.$^3$
- $F_{b}'$ = adjusted bending design value, psi. See product chapters for applicable adjustment factors.

M3.4 Bending Members - Shear

The basic equation for shear design of bending members is:

$$ V' \geq V $$

(M3.4-1)

where:

- $V'$ = adjusted shear capacity parallel to grain, lbs
- $V$ = shear force, lbs

The equation for calculation of shear capacity is:

$$ V' = F_{v}' \cdot \frac{Ib}{Q} $$

(M3.4-2)

which, for rectangular unnotched bending members, reduces to:

$$ V' = \frac{2}{3} (F_{v}') \cdot A $$

(M3.4-3)

where:

- $I$ = moment of inertia, in.$^4$
- $A$ = area, in.$^2$
- $F_{v}'$ = adjusted shear design value, psi. See product chapters for applicable adjustment factors.
M3.5 Bending Members - Deflection

Users should note that design of bending members is often controlled by serviceability limitations rather than strength. Serviceability considerations, such as deflection and vibration, are often designated by the authority having jurisdiction.

For a simple span uniformly loaded rectangular member, the equation used for calculating mid-span deflection is:

\[ \Delta = \frac{5wl^4}{384EI} \]  
\[(M3.5-1)\]

where:
- \( \Delta \) = deflection, in.
- \( w \) = uniform load, lb/in.
- \( l \) = span, in.
- \( EI \) = stiffness of beam section, lb-in.²

Values of modulus of elasticity, \( E \), and moment of inertia, \( I \), for lumber and structural glued laminated timber for use in the preceding equation can be found in the NDS Supplement. Engineered wood products such as I-joists and structural composite lumber will have \( EI \) values published in individual manufacturer’s product literature or evaluation reports. Some manufacturers might publish “true” \( E \) which would require additional computations to account for shear deflection. See NDS Appendix F for information on shear deflection. See product chapters for more details about deflection calculations.

M3.6 Compression Members

This section covers design of members stressed primarily in compression parallel to grain. Examples of such members include columns, truss members, and diaphragm chords.

Information in this section is limited to the case in which loads are applied concentrically to the member. Provisions of NDS 3.9 or NDS Chapter 15 should be used if loads are eccentric or if the compressive forces are applied in addition to bending forces.

The NDS differentiates between solid, built-up, and spaced columns. In this context built-up columns are assembled from multiple pieces of similar members connected in accordance with NDS 15.3.

A spaced column must comply with provisions of NDS 15.2. Note that this definition includes main column elements, spacer blocks with their connectors, and end blocks with shear plate or split ring connectors.

**Compression Parallel to Grain**

The basic equation for design of compression members is:

\[ P' \geq P \]  
\[(M3.6-1)\]

where:
- \( P' \) = adjusted compression parallel to grain capacity, lbs
- \( P \) = compressive force, lbs

The complete equation for calculation of adjusted compression capacity is:

\[ P' = F_{c'} A \]  
\[(M3.6-2)\]

where:
- \( A \) = area, in.²
- \( F_{c'} \) = adjusted compression parallel to grain design value, psi. See product chapters for applicable adjustment factors.

**Special Considerations**

**Net Section Calculation**

As in design of tension members, compression members should be checked both on a gross section and a net section basis (see NDS 3.6.3).

**Bearing Capacity Checks**

Design for bearing is addressed in NDS 3.10.

**Radial Compression in Curved Members**

Stresses induced in curved members under load include a component of stress in the direction of the radius of curvature. Radial compression is a specialized design consideration that is addressed in NDS 5.4.1.
M3.7 Solid Columns

Slenderness Considerations and Stability

The user is cautioned that stability calculations are highly dependent upon boundary conditions assumed in the analysis. For example, the common assumption of a pinned-pinned column is only accurate or conservative if the member is restrained against sidesway. If sidesway is possible and a pinned-free condition exists, the value of $K_e$ in NDS 3.7.1.2 doubles (see NDS Appendix Table G1 for recommended buckling length coefficients, $K_e$) and the computed adjusted compression parallel to grain capacity decreases.

M3.8 Tension Members

This section covers design of members stressed primarily in tension parallel to grain. Examples of such members include shear wall end posts, truss members, and diaphragm chords.

The designer is advised that use of wood members in applications that induce tension perpendicular to grain stresses should be avoided.

M3.8.1 Tension Parallel to Grain

The basic equation for design of tension members is:

$$T' \geq T$$  \hspace{1cm} (M3.8-1)

where:

- $T'$ = adjusted tension parallel to grain capacity, lbs
- $T$ = tensile force, lbs

The equation for calculation of adjusted tension capacity is:

$$T' = F'_t A$$  \hspace{1cm} (M3.8-2)

where:

- $A$ = area, in.$^2$
- $F'_t$ = adjusted tension design value, psi. See product chapters for applicable adjustment factors.

Net Section Calculation

Design of tension members is often controlled by the ability to provide connections to develop tensile forces within the member. In the area of connections, one must design not only the connection itself (described in detail in Chapter M11) but also the transfer of force across the net section of the member. One method for determining these stresses is provided in NDS Appendix E.

M3.8.2 Tension Perpendicular to Grain

Radial Stress in Curved Members

Stresses induced in curved members under load include a component of stress in the direction of the radius of curvature. This stress is traditionally called radial tension. Radial stress design is a specialized consideration that is covered in NDS 5.4.1.

M3.9 Combined Bending and Axial Loading

This section covers design of members stressed under combined bending and axial loads. The applicable strength criteria for these members is explicit in the NDS equations – limiting the sum of various stress ratios to less than or equal to unity.

Bending and Axial Tension

For designs in which the axial load is in tension rather than compression, the designer should use NDS Equations 3.9-1 and 3.9-2.
**Bending and Axial Compression**

The equation for design of members under bending plus compression loads is given below in terms of load and moment ratios:

\[
\left(\frac{P}{P'}\right)^2 + \frac{M_1}{M_1'} + \frac{M_2}{M_2'} \leq 1.0 \quad (M3.9-1)
\]

where:

- \(P'\) = adjusted compression capacity determined per M3.6, lbs
- \(P\) = compressive force determined per M3.6, lbs
- \(M_1'\) = adjusted moment capacity (strong axis) determined per M3.3, in.-lbs
- \(M_1\) = bending moment (strong axis) determined per M3.3, in.-lbs
- \(M_2'\) = adjusted moment capacity (weak axis) determined per M3.3, in.-lbs
- \(M_2\) = bending moment (weak axis) determined per M3.3, in.-lbs
- \(P_{E1} = F_{cE1} A\) = critical column buckling capacity (strong axis) determined per NDS 3.9.2, lbs
- \(P_{E2} = F_{cE2} A\) = critical column buckling capacity (weak axis) determined per NDS 3.9.2, lbs
- \(M_E = F_{bE} S\) = critical beam buckling capacity determined per NDS 3.9.2, in.-lbs

Members must be designed by multiplying all applicable adjustment factors by the reference design values for the product. See M3.3 and M3.6 for discussion of applicable adjustment factors for bending or compression, respectively.

Equation 3.9-4 in the NDS is used to check the intermediate calculation for members subjected to flatwise bending in combination with axial compression, with or without edgewise bending. When a flatwise bending load is checked with the third term of the stress interaction equation (NDS Equation 3.9-3), the axial and edgewise bending interaction in the denominator can become a negative value. The occurrence of the negative value indicates an overstress. However, use of this negative term in the stress interaction equation (NDS Equation 3.9-3) overlooks the overstress in flatwise bending and incorrectly reduces the overall interaction.

**Design Techniques**

A key to understanding design of members under combined bending and axial loads is that components of the design equation are simple ratios of compressive force (or moment) to compression capacity (or moment capacity). Note that the compression term in this equation is squared. This is the result of empirical test data. Moderate compressive forces do not have as large an impact on capacity (under combined loads) as previously thought. It is believed that this is the result of compressive “reinforcing” of what would otherwise be a tensile failure mode in bending.

---

**M3.10 Design for Bearing**

Columns often transfer large forces within a structural system. While satisfaction of column strength criteria is usually the primary concern, the designer should also check force transfer at the column bearing.

For cases in which the column is bearing on another wood member, especially if bearing is perpendicular to grain, this calculation will often control the design.

The basic equation for bearing design is:

\[
R' \geq R \quad (M3.10-1)
\]

where:

- \(R'\) = adjusted compression perpendicular to grain capacity, lbs
- \(R\) = compressive force or reaction, lbs

The equation for calculation of adjusted compression perpendicular to grain capacity is:

\[
R' = F_{cE1}' A \quad (M3.10-2)
\]

where:

- \(A = \text{area, in.}^2\)

- \(F_{cE1}' = \text{adjusted compression perpendicular to grain design value, psi. See product chapters for applicable adjustment factors.}\)
# M4: SAWN LUMBER

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
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M4.1 General

Product Information

Structural lumber products are well-known throughout the construction industry. The economic advantages of lumber often dictate its choice as a preferred building material.

Lumber is available in a wide range of species, grades, sizes, and moisture contents. Structural lumber products are typically specified by either the stress level required or by the species, grade, and size required.

This Chapter provides information for designing structural lumber products in accordance with the NDS.

Common Uses

Structural lumber and timbers have been a primary construction material throughout the world for many centuries. They are the most widely used framing material for housing in North America.

In addition to use in housing, structural lumber finds broad use in commercial and industrial construction. Its high strength, universal availability, and cost saving attributes make it a viable option in most low- and mid-rise construction projects.

Structural lumber is used as beams, columns, headers, joists, rafters, studs, and plates in conventional construction. In addition to its use in lumber form, structural lumber is used to manufacture structural glued laminated beams, trusses, wood I-joists, and cross-laminated timber.

Availability

Structural lumber is a widely available construction material. However, to efficiently specify structural lumber for individual construction projects, the specifier should be aware of the species, grades, and sizes available locally. The best source of this information is your local lumber supplier.

M4.2 Reference Design Values

General

The NDS Supplement provides reference design values for design of sawn lumber members. These design values are used when manual calculation of member capacity is required and must be used in conjunction with the adjustment factors specified in NDS 4.3.

Reference Design Values

Reference design values are provided in the NDS Supplement as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NDS Supplement Table Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4A and 4B</td>
<td>Visually graded dimension lumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Mechanically graded dimension lumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>Visually graded timbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4E</td>
<td>Visually graded decking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Non-North American visually graded dimension lumber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
M4.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

To generate member design capacities, reference design values for sawn lumber are multiplied by adjustment factors and section properties per Chapter M3. Applicable adjustment factors for sawn lumber are defined in NDS 4.3. Table M4.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for sawn lumber in a slightly different format for the designer.

### Table M4.3-1  Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Sawn Lumber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$F_b' = F_b C_D C_M C_I C_L C_T C_{fu} C_i C_r$</td>
<td>$F_b' = F_b C_M C_I C_L C_F C_{fu} C_i C_r (2.54)(0.85) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_v' = F_v C_D C_M C_i C_l$</td>
<td>$F_v' = F_v C_M C_i C_l (2.70)(0.80) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_v' = F_v C_D C_M C_i C_l$</td>
<td>$F_v' = F_v C_M C_i C_l (2.88)(0.75) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_{c_{l'}} = F_{c_{l'}} C_M C_i C_l C_b$</td>
<td>$F_{c_{l'}} = F_{c_{l'}} C_M C_i C_b (1.67)(0.90)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_c' = F_c C_D C_M C_l C_F C_i C_p$</td>
<td>$F_c' = F_c C_M C_i C_p (2.40)(0.90) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E' = E C_M C_i$</td>
<td>$E' = E C_M C_i$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E_{min}' = E_{min} C_M C_i C_T$</td>
<td>$E_{min}' = E_{min} C_M C_i C_T (1.76)(0.85)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bending Member Example

For unincised, straight, laterally supported bending members stressed in edgewise bending in single member use and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 4.3), the adjusted design values reduce to:

**For ASD:**
- $F_b' = F_b C_D C_F$
- $F_v' = F_v C_D$
- $F_{c_{l'}} = F_{c_{l'}} C_b$
- $E' = E$

**For LRFD:**
- $F_b' = F_b C_f (2.54)(0.85) \lambda$
- $F_v' = F_v (2.88)(0.75) \lambda$
- $F_{c_{l'}} = F_{c_{l'}} C_b (1.67)(0.90)$
- $E' = E$

### Axially Loaded Member Example

For unincised axially loaded members used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 4.3) designed to resist tension or compression loads, the adjusted tension or compression design values reduce to:

**For ASD:**
- $F_c' = F_c C_D C_F C_p$
- $F_t' = F_t C_D C_F$
- $E_{min}' = E_{min}$

**For LRFD:**
- $F_c' = F_c C_F C_p (2.40)(0.90) \lambda$
- $F_t' = F_t C_f (2.70)(0.80) \lambda$
- $E_{min}' = E_{min} (1.76)(0.85)$
### M4.4 Special Design Considerations

#### General

With proper detailing and protection, structural lumber can perform well in a variety of environments. One key to proper detailing is planning for the natural shrinkage and swelling of wood members as they are subjected to various drying and wetting cycles. While moisture changes have the largest impact on lumber dimensions, some designs must also check the effects of temperature on dimensions as well.

#### Dimensional Changes

Table M4.4-1 is extracted from more precise scientific and research reports on these topics. The coefficients are conservative (yielding more shrinkage and expansion than one might expect for most species). This level of information should be adequate for common structural applications. Equations are provided in this section for those designers who require more precise calculations.

Design of wood members and assemblies for fire resistance is discussed in Chapter M16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Radial or Tangential Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimensional change due to moisture content change(^1)</td>
<td>1% change in dimension per 4% change in MC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensional change due to temperature change(^2)</td>
<td>(20 \times 10^{-6}) in./in. per degree F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Corresponding longitudinal direction shrinkage/expansion is about 1% to 5% of that in radial and tangential directions.
2. Corresponding longitudinal direction coefficient is about 1/10 as large as radial and tangential.

#### Equations for Computing Moisture and Thermal Shrinkage/Expansion

**Due to Moisture Changes**

For more precise computation of dimensional changes due to changes in moisture, the change in radial (R), tangential (T), and volumetric (V) dimensions due to changes in moisture content can be calculated as:

\[ X = X_0 \left( \Delta MC \right) e_{ME} \]  \hfill (M4.4-1)

where:

- \(X_0\) = initial dimension or volume
- \(X\) = dimension or volume change
- \(\Delta MC\) = moisture content change (%)
- \(e_{ME}\) = coefficient of moisture expansion: linear \((\text{in.}/\text{in.}/\%MC)\) or volumetric \((\text{in.}^3/\text{in.}^3/\%MC)\)

and:

\[ \Delta MC = M - M_o \]  \hfill (M4.4-2)

where:

- \(M_o\) = initial moisture content % \((M_o \leq \text{FSP})\)
- \(M\) = new moisture content % \((M \leq \text{FSP})\)
- FSP = fiber saturation point

Values for \(e_{ME}\) and FSP are shown in Table M4.4-2.

**Due to Temperature Changes**

For more precise calculation of dimensional changes due to changes in temperature, the shrinkage/expansion of solid wood including lumber and timbers can be calculated as:

\[ X = X_0 \left( \Delta T \right) e_{TE} \]  \hfill (M4.4-3)

where:

- \(X_0\) = reference dimension at \(T_0\)
- \(X\) = computed dimension at \(T\)
- \(T_0\) = reference temperature (°F)
- \(T\) = temperature at which the new dimension is calculated (°F)
- \(e_{TE}\) = coefficient of thermal expansion \((\text{in.}/\text{in.}/\text{°F})\)

and:

\[ \Delta T = T - T_o \]  \hfill (M4.4-4)

where:

\[ -60°F \leq T_o \leq 130°F \]

The coefficient of thermal expansion of oven-dry wood parallel to grain ranges from about \(1.7 \times 10^{-6}\) to \(2.5 \times 10^{-6}\) per °F.
The linear expansion coefficients across the grain (radial and tangential) are proportional to wood density. These coefficients are about five to ten times greater than the parallel-to-the-grain coefficients and are given as:

**Radial:**

\[ e_{TE} = [18(G) + 5.5](10^{-6} \text{in./in.}/^\circ F) \]  
(M4.4-5)

**Tangential:**

\[ e_{TE} = [18(G) + 10.2](10^{-6} \text{in./in.}/^\circ F) \]  
(M4.4-6)

where:

\[ G = \text{tabulated specific gravity for the species.} \]

### Table M4.4-2  Coefficient of Moisture Expansion, \( e_{ME} \), and Fiber Saturation Point, FSP, for Solid Woods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Radial (in./in./%)</th>
<th>Tangential (in./in./%)</th>
<th>Volumetric (in.^3/in.^3/%)</th>
<th>FSP (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Cedar</td>
<td>0.0010</td>
<td>0.0021</td>
<td>0.0033</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir-Larch</td>
<td>0.0018</td>
<td>0.0033</td>
<td>0.0050</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englemann Spruce</td>
<td>0.0013</td>
<td>0.0024</td>
<td>0.0037</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwood</td>
<td>0.0012</td>
<td>0.0022</td>
<td>0.0032</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>0.0017</td>
<td>0.0038</td>
<td>0.0063</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Pine</td>
<td>0.0020</td>
<td>0.0030</td>
<td>0.0047</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Hemlock</td>
<td>0.0015</td>
<td>0.0028</td>
<td>0.0044</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Poplar</td>
<td>0.0015</td>
<td>0.0026</td>
<td>0.0041</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table M4.4-3 provides the numerical values for \( e_{TE} \) for the most commonly used commercial species or species groups.

Wood that contains moisture reacts to varying temperature differently than does dry wood. When moist wood is heated, it tends to expand because of normal thermal expansion and to shrink because of loss in moisture content. Unless the wood is very dry initially (perhaps 3% or 4% MC or less), the shrinkage due to moisture loss on heating will be greater than the thermal expansion, so the net dimensional change on heating will be negative. Wood at intermediate moisture levels (about 8% to 20%) will expand when first heated, then gradually shrink to a volume smaller than the initial volume, as the wood gradually loses water while in the heated condition.

Even in the longitudinal (grain) direction, where dimensional change due to moisture change is very small, such changes will still predominate over corresponding dimensional changes due to thermal expansion unless the wood is very dry initially. For wood at usual moisture levels, net dimensional changes will generally be negative after prolonged heating.

Calculation of actual changes in dimensions can be accomplished by determining the equilibrium moisture content of wood at the temperature value and relative humidity of interest. Then the relative dimensional changes due to temperature change alone and moisture content change alone are calculated. By combining these two changes the final dimension of lumber and timber can be established.
Table M4.4-3  Coefficient of Thermal Expansion, $e_{TE}$, for Solid Woods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Radial ($10^{-6}$ in./in./°F)</th>
<th>Tangential ($10^{-6}$ in./in./°F)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Redwood</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir-Larch¹</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir-South</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Spruce</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hem-Fir¹</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Pine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce-Pine-Fir</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Poplar</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Also applies when species name includes the designation “North.”

**Durability**

Designing for durability is a key part of the architectural and engineering design of the building. Many design conditions can be detailed to minimize the potential for decay; for other problem conditions, preservative-treated wood or naturally durable species should be specified.

This section does not cover the topic of designing for durability in detail. There are many excellent texts on the topic, including AWC’s *Design of Wood Structures for Permanence, WCD No. 6*. Designers are advised to use this type of information to assist in designing for “difficult” design areas, such as:

- structures in moist or humid conditions
- where wood comes in contact with concrete or masonry
- where wood members are supported in steel hangers or connectors in which condensation could collect
- anywhere that wood is directly or indirectly exposed to the elements
- where wood, if it should ever become wet, could not naturally dry out.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive – it is merely an attempt to alert designers to special conditions that may cause problems when durability is not considered in the design.
M5: STRUCTURAL GLUED LAMINATED TIMBER

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M5.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values 21
M5.4 Special Design Considerations 22
M5.1 General

Products Description

Structural glued laminated timber (glulam) is a structural member glued up from suitably selected and prepared pieces of wood either in a straight or curved form with the grain of all of the pieces parallel to the longitudinal axis of the member. The reference design values given in the NDS Supplement are applicable only to structural glued laminated timber members produced in accordance with American National Standard for Wood Products — Structural Glued Laminated Timber, ANSI A190.1.

Structural glued laminated timber members are produced in laminating plants by gluing together dry lumber, normally of 2-inch or 1-inch nominal thickness, under controlled temperature and pressure conditions. Members with a wide variety of sizes, profiles, and lengths can be produced having superior characteristics of strength, serviceability, and appearance. Structural glued laminated timber beams are manufactured with the strongest laminations on the bottom and top of the beam, where the greatest tension and compression stresses occur in bending. This allows a more efficient use of the lumber resource by placing higher grade lumber in zones that have higher stresses and lumber with less structural quality in lower stressed zones.

Structural glued laminated timber members are manufactured from several softwood species, primarily Douglas fir-larch, southern pine, hem-fir, spruce-pine-fir, eastern spruce, and Alaska cedar. Other species including redwood and various hardwoods are occasionally used. Standard structural glued laminated timber sizes are given in the NDS Supplement. Any length, up to the maximum length permitted by transportation and handling restrictions, is available.

A structural glued laminated timber member can be manufactured using a single grade or multiple grades of lumber, depending on intended use. In addition, a mixed-species structural glued laminated timber member is also possible. When the member is intended to be primarily loaded either axially or in bending with the loads acting parallel to the wide faces of the laminations, a single grade combination is recommended. On the other hand, a multiple grade combination provides better cost-effectiveness when the member is primarily loaded in bending due to loads applied perpendicular to the wide faces of the laminations.

On a multiple grade combination, a structural glued laminated timber member can be produced as either a balanced or unbalanced combination, depending on the geometrical arrangement of the laminations about the mid-depth of the member. As shown in Figure M5.1-1, a balanced combination is symmetrical about the mid-depth, so it has the same reference bending design values for both positive and negative bending. Unbalanced combinations are asymmetrical about the mid-depth, so they have lower reference design values for negative bending than for positive bending. The top face of an unbalanced member is required to be marked “TOP” by the manufacturer. The balanced combinations are intended for use in continuous or cantilevered applications to provide equal capacity in both positive and negative bending. Whereas unbalanced combinations are primarily for use in simple span applications, they can also be used for short cantilever applications (cantilever less than 20% of the back span) or for continuous span applications when the design is controlled by shear or deflection.

Figure M5.1-1 Unbalanced and Balanced Layup Combinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unbalanced</th>
<th>Balanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structural glued laminated timber members can be used as primary or secondary load-carrying components in structures. Table M5.1-1 lists economical spans for selected timber framing systems using structural glued laminated timber members in buildings. Other common uses of structural glued laminated timber members are for utility structures, pedestrian bridges, highway bridges, railroad bridges, marine structures, noise barriers, and towers. Table M5.1-1 may be used for preliminary design purposes to determine the economical span ranges for the selected framing systems. However, all systems require a more extensive analysis for final design.
### Table M5.1-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Framing System</th>
<th>Economical Spans (ft)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROOF</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Span Beams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight or slightly cambered</td>
<td>10 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapered, double tapered-pitched, or curved</td>
<td>25 to 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantilevered Beams (Main span)</td>
<td>up to 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Beams (Interior spans)</td>
<td>10 to 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girders</td>
<td>40 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-Hinged Arches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gothic</td>
<td>40 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tudor</td>
<td>40 to 140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-Frame</td>
<td>20 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-centered, Parabolic, or Radial</td>
<td>40 to 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Hinged Arches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radial or Parabolic</td>
<td>50 to 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusses (Four or more ply chords)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat or parallel chord</td>
<td>50 to 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangular or pitched</td>
<td>50 to 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowstring (Continuous chord)</td>
<td>50 to 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusses (Two or three ply chords)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat or parallel chord</td>
<td>20 to 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangular or pitched</td>
<td>20 to 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied arches</td>
<td>50 to 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dome structures</td>
<td>200 to 500+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Span Beams</td>
<td>10 to 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Beams (Individual spans)</td>
<td>10 to 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEADERS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows and Doors</td>
<td>&lt; 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage Doors</td>
<td>9 to 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Appearance Classifications

Structural glued laminated timber members are typically produced in four appearance classifications: Premium, Architectural, Industrial, and Framing. Premium and Architectural beams are higher in appearance qualities and are surfaced for a smooth finish ready for staining or painting. Industrial classification beams are normally used in concealed applications or in construction where appearance is not important. Framing classification beams are typically used for headers and other concealed applications in residential construction. Design values for structural glued laminated timber members are independent of the appearance classifications.

For more information and detailed descriptions of these appearance classifications and their typical uses, refer to APA EWS Technical Note Y110 or AITC Standard 110.

### Availability

Structural glued laminated timber members are available in both custom and stock sizes. Custom beams are manufactured to the specifications of a specific project, while stock beams are made in common dimensions, shipped to distribution yards, and cut to length when the beam is ordered. Stock beams are available in virtually every major metropolitan area. Although structural glued laminated timber members can be custom fabricated to provide a nearly infinite variety of forms and sizes, the best economy is generally realized by using standard-size members as noted in the NDS Supplement. When in doubt, the designer is advised to check with the structural glued laminated timber supplier or manufacturer concerning the availability of a specific size prior to specification.
M5.2 Reference Design Values

Reference design values of structural glued laminated timber are affected by the layup of members composed of various grades of lumber, as well as the orientation of the laminations relative to the applied loads. As a result, different design values are assigned for structural glued laminated timber used primarily in bending (NDS Supplement Table 5A) and primarily in axial loading (NDS Supplement Table 5B). The reference design values are used in conjunction with the dimensions provided in Table 1C (western species) and Table 1D (southern pine) of the NDS Supplement, but are applicable to any size of structural glued laminated timber when the appropriate modification factors discussed in M5.3 are applied.

Reference design values are given in NDS Supplement Table 5A for bending about the X-X axis (see Figure M5.2-1). Although permitted, axial loading or bending about the Y-Y axis (also see Figure M5.2-1) is not efficient in using the structural glued laminated timber combinations given in NDS Supplement Table 5A. In such cases, the designer should select structural glued laminated timber from NDS Supplement Table 5B. Similarly, structural glued laminated timber combinations in NDS Supplement Table 5B are inefficiently utilized if the primary use is bending about the X-X axis.

The reference design values given in NDS Supplement Tables 5A and 5B are based on use under normal duration of load (10 years) and dry conditions (less than 16% moisture content). When used under other conditions, see NDS Chapter 5 for adjustment factors. The reference bending design values are based on members loaded as simple beams. When structural glued laminated timber is used in continuous or cantilevered beams, the reference bending design values given in NDS Supplement Table 5A for top of beam stressed in tension should be used for the design of stress reversal.
M5.3  Adjustment of Reference Design Values

The adjustment factors provided in the NDS are for non-reference end-use conditions and material modification effects. These factors are used to modify the reference design values when one or more of the specific end uses or material modification conditions are beyond the limits of the reference conditions given in the NDS.

Adjustment factors unique to structural glued laminated timber include the volume factor, \( CV \), the curvature factor, \( C_c \), stress interaction factor, \( C_i \), and the shear reduction factor, \( C_{vr} \). All are defined in Chapter 5 of the NDS.

To generate member design capacities, reference design values for structural glued laminated timber are multiplied by adjustment factors and section properties per Chapter M3. Applicable adjustment factors for structural glued laminated timber are defined in NDS 5.3. Table M5.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for structural glued laminated timber in a slightly different format for the designer.

### Table M5.3-1  Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Structural Glued Laminated Timber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( F'<em>b = F_b C_D C_M C_i C_L C_V C</em>{fu} C_c C_l )</td>
<td>( F'<em>b = F</em>{CM} C_i C_l C_V C_{fu} C_c C_l (2.54)(0.85) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F'_c = F_c C_D C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( F'<em>c = F</em>{CM} C_i (2.70)(0.80) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F'_t = F_t C_D C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( F'<em>t = F</em>{CM} C_i (2.88)(0.75) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F'_v = F_v C_D C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( F'<em>v = F</em>{CM} C_i (2.88)(0.75) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F'_c = F_c C_D C_M C_t C_p )</td>
<td>( F'<em>c = F</em>{CM} C_i (2.40)(0.90) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_{cl}' = F_{cl} C_M C_t C_b )</td>
<td>( F_{cl}' = F_{cl} C_M C_t (1.67)(0.90) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E' = E C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( E' = E C_M C_t )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_{min}' = E_{min} C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( E_{min}' = E_{min} C_M C_t (1.76)(0.85) )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The beam stability factor, \( C_{st} \), shall not apply simultaneously with the volume factor, \( C_{v} \), for structural glued laminated timber bending members (see NDS 5.3.6). Therefore, the lesser of these adjustment factors shall apply.

### Bending Member Example

For straight, prismatic, untapered, laterally supported bending members loaded perpendicular to the wide face of the laminations and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 5.3), the adjusted design values reduce to:

For ASD:

\[
F'_b = F_b C_D C_v \\
F'_c = F_c C_D \\
F'_{cl} = F_{cl} C_b \\
E' = E
\]

For LRFD:

\[
F'_b = F_b C_v (2.54)(0.85) \lambda \\
F'_v = F_v (2.88)(0.75) \lambda \\
F'_{cl} = F_{cl} C_b (2.40)(0.90) \\
E' = E
\]

### Axially Loaded Member Example

For axially loaded members used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 5.3) designed to resist tension or compression loads, the adjusted tension or compression design values reduce to:

For ASD:

\[
F'_c = F_c C_D C_p \\
F'_t = F_t C_D \\
E_{min}' = E_{min}
\]

For LRFD:

\[
F'_c = F_c C_p (2.40)(0.90) \lambda \\
F'_t = F_t (2.70)(0.80) \lambda \\
E_{min}' = E_{min} (1.76)(0.85)
\]
M5.4 Special Design Considerations

General

This section contains information concerning physical properties of structural glued laminated timber members including specific gravity and response to moisture or temperature.

In addition to designing to accommodate dimensional changes and detailing for durability, another significant design consideration is that of fire performance, which is discussed in Chapter M16.

Note that the information contained in this section addresses design considerations separate from those described in NDS 5.4.

Specific Gravity

Table M5.4-1 provides specific gravity values for some of the most common wood species used for structural glued laminated timber. These values are used in determining various physical and connection properties. Further, weight factors are provided at four moisture contents. When the cross-sectional area (in.²) is multiplied by the appropriate weight factor, it provides the weight of the structural glued laminated timber member per linear foot of length. For other moisture contents, the tabulated weight factors can be interpolated or extrapolated.

Structural glued laminated timber members often are manufactured using different species at different portions of the cross section. In this case the weight of the structural glued laminated timber may be computed by the sum of the products of the cross-sectional area and the weight factor for each species.

Dimensional Changes

See M4.4 for information on calculating dimensional changes due to moisture or temperature.

Durability

See M4.4 for information on detailing for durability.

Table M5.4-1 Average Specific Gravity and Weight Factor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Combination</th>
<th>Specific Gravity¹</th>
<th>12%</th>
<th>15%</th>
<th>19%</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Redwood (close grain)</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>0.198</td>
<td>0.202</td>
<td>0.208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir-Larch</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.235</td>
<td>0.238</td>
<td>0.242</td>
<td>0.248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir (South)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.221</td>
<td>0.225</td>
<td>0.229</td>
<td>0.235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Spruce</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.191</td>
<td>0.194</td>
<td>0.198</td>
<td>0.203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hem-Fir</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>0.198</td>
<td>0.202</td>
<td>0.208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Maple</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td>0.264</td>
<td>0.268</td>
<td>0.274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.307</td>
<td>0.310</td>
<td>0.314</td>
<td>0.319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Pine</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.252</td>
<td>0.255</td>
<td>0.259</td>
<td>0.265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce-Pine-Fir (North)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>0.198</td>
<td>0.202</td>
<td>0.208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Poplar</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.213</td>
<td>0.216</td>
<td>0.220</td>
<td>0.226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Specific gravity is based on weight and volume when oven-dry.
2. Weight factor shall be multiplied by net cross-sectional area in in.² to obtain weight in pounds per linear foot.
M6: ROUND TIMBER POLES AND PILES

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M6.2 Reference Design Values  24
M6.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values  25
M6.4 Special Design Considerations  26
M6.1 General

Product Information

Timber poles and piles offer many advantages relative to competing materials. As with other wood products, timber poles and piles offer the unique advantage of being the only major construction material that is a renewable resource.

Common Uses

Timber poles are used extensively in post-frame construction and are also used architecturally. This Chapter is not for use with poles used in the support of utility lines. Timber piles are generally used as part of foundation systems.

Availability

Timber poles are supplied to the utility industry in a variety of grades and species. Because these poles are graded according to ANSI 05.1, Specifications and Dimensions for Wood Poles, they must be regraded according to ASTM D3200 if they are to be used with the NDS.

Timber piles are typically available in three species: Pacific Coast Douglas-fir, southern pine, and red pine. However, local pile suppliers should be contacted because availability is dependent upon geographic location.

M6.2 Reference Design Values

General

The tables in the NDS Supplement provide reference design values for timber pole and pile members. These reference design values are used when manual calculation of member strength is required and shall be used in conjunction with adjustment factors specified in NDS Chapter 6.

These values, with the exception of $F_c$, are applicable for all locations in the pole or pile. The $F_c$ values can be increased at other locations in accordance with NDS 6.3.9.

Reference design values for poles and piles are based on air dried conditioning. Kiln-drying, steam conditioning, or boultonizing prior to treatment will have the effect of reducing the reference design value per NDS 6.3.5.

Pole and Pile Reference Design Values

Reference design values for piles and poles are provided in NDS Supplement Tables 6A and 6B, respectively.
M6.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

To generate member design capacities, reference design values are multiplied by adjustment factors and section properties. Adjustment factors unique to round timber poles and piles include the condition treatment factor, \( C_{ct} \), the critical section factor, \( C_{cs} \), and the load sharing factor, \( C_{ls} \). All are defined in Chapter 6 of the NDS.

Table M6.3-1 Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Round Timber Poles and Piles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( F'<em>{c} = F_c C_D C_t C</em>{ct} C_p C_{cs} C_{ls} )</td>
<td>( F'<em>{c} = F_c C_t C</em>{ct} C_p C_{cs} C_{ls} (2.40)(0.90) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F'<em>{b} = F_b C_D C_t C</em>{ct} C_{ts} )</td>
<td>( F'<em>{b} = F_b C_t C</em>{ct} C_{ps} C_{ls} (2.54)(0.85) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F'<em>{v} = F_v C_D C_t C</em>{ct} )</td>
<td>( F'<em>{v} = F_v C_t C</em>{ct} (2.88)(0.75) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_{cl} C_l C_t C_{ct} )</td>
<td>( F_{cl} C_l = F_{cl} C_l C_t C_{ct} C_{b} (1.67)(0.90) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E' = E C_t )</td>
<td>( E' = E C_t )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_{min} C_t )</td>
<td>( E_{min} C_t (1.76)(0.85) )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Axially Loaded Pole or Pile Example

For single, axially loaded, air dried poles or piles, fully laterally supported in two orthogonal directions, used in a normal environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 6.3), designed to resist compression loads only, and less than 13.5" in diameter, the adjusted compression design values reduce to:

For ASD:
\[ F'_{c} = F_c C_D \]

For LRFD:
\[ F'_{c} = F_c (2.40)(0.90) \lambda \]
M6.4 Special Design Considerations

With proper detailing and protection, timber poles and piles can perform well in a variety of environments. One key to proper detailing is planning for the natural shrinkage and swelling of wood products as they are subjected to various drying and wetting cycles. While moisture changes have the largest impact on product dimensions, some designs must also check the effects of temperature. See M4.4 for design information on dimensional changes due to moisture and temperature.

Durability issues related to piles are generally both more critical and more easily accommodated. Since piles are in constant ground contact, they cannot be “insulated” from contact with moisture – thus, the standard condition for piles is preservatively treated. The importance of proper treatment processing of piles cannot be overemphasized. See M4.4 for more information about durability.

In addition to designing to accommodate dimensional changes and detailing for durability, another significant issue in the planning of wood structures is that of fire performance, which is discussed in Chapter M16.
M7: PREFABRICATED WOOD I-JOISTS

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M7.2 Reference Design Values 28
M7.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values 30
M7.4 Special Design Considerations 31
M7.1 General

Product Information

Prefabricated wood I-joists are exceptionally stiff, lightweight, and capable of long spans. Holes may be easily cut in the web according to manufacturer’s recommendations, allowing ducts and utilities to be run through the joist. I-joists are dimensionally stable and uniform in size, with no crown. This keeps floors quieter, reduces field modifications, and eliminates rejects in the field. I-joists may be field cut to proper length using conventional methods and tools.

Manufacturing of I-joists utilizes the geometry of the cross section and high strength components to maximize the strength and stiffness of the wood fiber. Flanges are manufactured from solid sawn lumber or structural composite lumber, while webs typically consist of plywood or oriented strand board. The efficient utilization of raw materials, along with high-quality exterior adhesives and state of the art quality control procedures, result in an extremely consistent product that maximizes environmental benefits as well.

Prefabricated wood I-joists are produced as proprietary products which are covered by code evaluation reports. Evaluation reports and product literature should be consulted for current design information.

Common Uses

Prefabricated wood I-joists are widely used as a framing material for housing in North America. I-joists are made in different grades and with various processes and can be utilized in various applications. Proper design is required to optimize performance and economics.

In addition to use in housing, I-joists find increasing use in commercial and industrial construction. The high strength, stiffness, wide availability, and cost saving attributes make them a viable alternative in most low-rise construction projects.

Prefabricated wood I-joists are typically used as floor and roof joists in conventional construction. In addition, I-joists are used as studs where long lengths and high strengths are required.

Availability

To efficiently specify I-joists for individual construction projects, consideration should be given to the size and the required strength of the I-joist. Sizes vary with each individual product. The best source of this information is your local lumber supplier, distribution center, or I-joist manufacturer. Proper design is facilitated through the use of manufacturer’s literature and specification software available from I-joist manufacturers.

M7.2 Reference Design Values

Introduction to Design Values

As stated in NDS 7.2, each wood I-joist manufacturer develops its own proprietary design values. The derivation of these values is reviewed by the applicable building code authority. Since materials, manufacturing processes, and product evaluations may differ between the various manufacturers, selected design values are only appropriate for the specific product and application.

To generate the design capacity of a given product, the manufacturer of that product evaluates test data. The design capacity is then determined per ASTM D5055.

The latest model building code agency evaluation reports are a reliable source for wood I-joist design values. These reports list accepted design values for shear, moment, stiffness, and reaction capacity based on minimum bearing. In addition, evaluation reports note the limitations on web holes, concentrated loads, and requirements for web stiffeners.

Bearing/Reaction Design

Tabulated design capacities reflect standard conditions and must be modified as discussed in NDS Chapter 7 to obtain adjusted design values.

Bearing lengths at supports often control the design capacity of an I-joist. Typically minimum bearing lengths are used to establish design parameters. In some cases additional bearing is available and can be verified in an installation. Increased bearing length means that the joist can support additional loading, up to the value limited by the shear capacity of the web material and web joint. Both interior and exterior reactions must be evaluated.

Use of web stiffeners may be required and typically increase the bearing capacity of the joist. Correct
installation is required to obtain the specified capacities. Additional loading from walls above will load the joist in bearing, further limiting the capacity of the joist if proper end detailing is not followed. Additional information regarding design considerations for joist bearing can be found in M7.4.

Adjusted design reactions (bearing capacities), \( R' \), are determined in the same empirical fashion as is allowable shear.

**Shear Design**

At end bearing locations, critical shear is the vertical shear at the ends of the design span. The practice of neglecting all uniform loads within a distance from the end support equal to the joist depth, commonly used for other wood materials, is not applicable to end supports for wood I-joists. At locations of continuity, such as interior supports of multi-span I-joists, the critical shear location for several wood I-joist types is located a distance equal to the depth of the joist from the centerline of bearing (uniform loads only). A cantilevered portion of a wood I-joist is generally not considered a location of continuity (unless the cantilever length exceeds the joist depth) and vertical shear at the cantilever bearing is the critical shear. Individual manufacturers, or the appropriate evaluation reports, should be consulted for reference to shear design at locations of continuity.

Often, the adjusted shear design values, \( V' \), are based on other considerations such as bottom flange bearing length or the installation of web stiffeners or bearing blocks.

**Moment Design**

Reference moment design values, \( M'_r \), of prefabricated wood I-joists are determined from empirical testing of a completely assembled joist or by engineering analysis supplemented by tension testing the flange component. If the flange contains end jointed material, the allowable tension value is the lesser of the joint capacity or the material capacity.

Because flanges of a wood I-joist can be highly stressed, field notching of the flanges is not allowed. Similarly, excessive nailing or the use of improper nail sizes can cause flange splitting that will also reduce capacity. The manufacturer should be contacted when evaluating a damaged flange.

**Deflection Design**

Wood I-joists, due to their optimized web materials, are susceptible to the effects of shear deflection. This component of deflection can account for as much as 15% to 30% of the total deflection. For this reason, both bending and shear deflection are considered in deflection design. A typical deflection calculation for simple span wood I-joists under uniform load is shown in Equation M7.2-1.

\[
\Delta = \frac{5w\ell^4}{384EI} + \frac{w\ell^2}{k} \tag{M7.2-1}
\]

where:

\( w = \) uniform load in pounds per lineal inch
\( \ell = \) design span, in.
\( EI = \) joist moment of inertia times flange modulus of elasticity
\( k = \) shear deflection coefficient

Individual manufacturers provide equations in a similar format. Values for use in the preceding equation can be found in the individual manufacturer’s evaluation reports. For other load and span conditions, an approximate answer can be found by using conventional bending deflection equations adjusted as follows:

\[
\Delta = \text{Bending Deflection} \left( 1 + \frac{384 EI}{5\ell^2 k} \right)
\]

Since wood I-joists can have long spans, the model building code maximum live load deflection criteria may not be appropriate for many floor applications. Many wood I-joist manufacturers recommend using stiffer criteria, such as L/480 for residential floor construction and L/600 for public access commercial applications such as office floors. The minimum code required criteria for storage floors and roof applications is normally adequate.
M7.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

General

Member design capacity is the product of reference design values and adjustment factors. Reference design values for I-joists are discussed in M7.2.

The design values listed in the evaluation reports are generally applicable to dry use conditions. Less typical conditions, such as high moisture, high temperatures, or pressure impregnated chemical treatments, typically result in strength and stiffness adjustments different from those used for sawn lumber. *NDS* 7.3 outlines adjustments to reference design values for I-joists; however, individual wood I-joist manufacturers should be consulted to verify appropriate adjustments. Table M7.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for prefabricated wood I-joists in a slightly different format for the designer.

The user is cautioned that manufacturers may not permit the use of some applications and/or treatments. Unauthorized treatments can void a manufacturer’s warranty and may result in structural deficiencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$M'_r = M_r C_D C_M C_t C_L C_r$</td>
<td>$M'_r = M_r C_M C_t C_L C_r K_F (0.85) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V'_r = V_r C_D C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$V'_r = V_r C_D C_M C_t K_F (0.75) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R'_r = R_r C_D C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$R'_r = R_r C_M C_t K_F (0.75) \lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$EI' = EI C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$EI' = EI C_M C_t$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$EI_{min}' = EI_{min} C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$EI_{min}' = EI_{min} C_M C_t K_F (0.85)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K' = K C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$K' = K C_M C_t$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bending Member Example

For fully laterally supported bending members loaded in strong axis bending and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of *NDS* 2.3 and 7.3), the adjusted design values reduce to:

For ASD:

$$M'_r = M_r C_D$$
$$V'_r = V_r C_D$$
$$R'_r = R_r C_D$$
$$EI' = EI$$
$$K' = K$$

For LRFD:

$$M'_r = M_r K_F (0.85) \lambda$$
$$V'_r = V_r K_F (0.75) \lambda$$
$$R'_r = R_r K_F (0.75) \lambda$$
$$EI' = EI$$
$$K' = K$$

Lateral Stability

The design values contained in the evaluation reports for prefabricated wood I-joists assume the compression flange is supported throughout its length to prevent lateral displacement, and the ends at points of bearing have lateral support to prevent rotation (twisting). Lateral restraint is generally provided by diaphragm sheathing or bracing spaced at 16" on center or less (based on 1½" width joist flanges) nailed to the joist’s compression flange.

Applications without continuous lateral bracing will generally have reduced moment design capacities. The reduced capacity results from the increased potential for lateral buckling of the joist’s compression flange. *NDS* 7.3.5.3 provides guidance for design of an unbraced I-joist compression flange.

Special Loads or Applications

Wood I-joists are configured and optimized to act primarily as joists to resist bending loads supported at the bearing by the bottom flange. Applications that result in significant axial tension or compression loads, require web holes, special connections, or other unusual conditions should be evaluated only with the assistance of the individual wood I-joist manufacturers.
M7.4 Special Design Considerations

Introduction

The wood I-joist is similar to conventional lumber in that it is based on the same raw materials, but differs in how the material is composed. For this reason, conventional lumber design practices are not always compatible with the unique configuration and wood fiber orientation of the wood I-joist. Designers using wood I-joists should develop solutions in accordance with the following guidelines.

Durability issues cannot be overemphasized. See M4.4 for more information about durability.

In addition to detailing for durability, another significant issue in the planning of wood structures is that of fire performance, which is discussed in Chapter M16.

Design Span

The design span used for determining critical shears and moments is defined as the clear span between the faces of support plus one-half the minimum required bearing on each end (see Figure M7.4-1). For most wood I-joists, the minimum required end bearing length varies from 1½" to 3½" (adding 2" to the clear span dimension is a good estimate for most applications). At locations of continuity over intermediate bearings, the design span is measured from the centerline of the intermediate support to the face of the bearing at the end support, plus one-half the minimum required bearing length. For interior spans of a continuous joist, the design span extends from centerline to centerline of the intermediate bearings.

Figure M7.4-1 Design Span Determination
Load Cases

Most building codes require consideration of a critical distribution of loads. Due to the long length and continuous span capabilities of the wood I-joist, these code provisions have particular meaning. Considering a multiple span member, the following design load cases should be considered:

- All spans with total loads
- Alternate span loading
- Adjacent span loading
- Partial span loading (joists with holes)
- Concentrated load provisions (as occurs)

A basic description of each of these load cases follows:

**All spans with total loads** – This load case involves placing all live and dead design loads on all spans simultaneously.

**Alternate span loading** – This load case places the L, LR, S, or R load portion of the design loads on every other span and can involve two loading patterns. The first pattern results in the removal of the live loads from all even numbered spans. The second pattern removes live loads from all odd numbered spans. For roof applications, some building codes require removal of only a portion of the live loads from odd or even numbered spans. For each hole within a given span, there are two corresponding load cases. Live loads other than the uniform application load, located within the span containing the hole, are also applied simultaneously. This includes all special loads such as point or tapered loads.

**Concentrated load provisions** – Most building codes have a concentrated load (live load) provision in addition to standard application design loads. This load case considers this concentrated load to act in combination with the system dead loads on an otherwise unloaded floor or roof. Usually, this provision applies to non-residential construction. An example is the “safe” load applied over a 2½ square foot area for office floors. This load case helps ensure the product being evaluated has the required shear and moment capacity throughout its entire length and should be considered when analyzing the effect of web holes.

A properly designed multiple span member requires numerous load case evaluations. Most wood I-joist manufacturers have developed computer programs, load and span tables, or both that take these various load cases into consideration.
Figure M7.4-2  Load Case Evaluations

EXAMPLES OF
ALTERNATE SPAN LOADING

EXAMPLES OF
ADJACENT SPAN LOADING

EXAMPLES OF
PARTIAL SPAN LOADING
Floor Performance

Designing a floor system to meet the minimum requirements of a building code may not always provide acceptable performance to the end user. Although minimum criteria help assure a floor system can safely support the imposed loads, the system ultimately must perform to the satisfaction of the end user. Since expectancy levels may vary from one person to another, designing a floor system becomes a subjective issue requiring judgment as to the sensitivity of the intended occupant.

Joist deflection is often used as the primary means for designing floor performance. Although deflection is a factor, there are other equally important variables that can influence the performance of a floor system. A glue-nailed floor system will generally have better deflection performance than a nailed only system. Selection of the decking material is also an important consideration. Deflection of the sheathing material between joists can be reduced by placing the joists at a closer on center spacing or increasing the sheathing thickness.

Proper installation and job site storage are important considerations. All building materials, including wood I-joists, need to be kept dry and protected from exposure to the elements. Proper installation includes correct spacing of sheathing joints, care in fastening of the joists and sheathing, and providing adequate and level supports. All of these considerations are essential for proper system performance.

Vibration may be a design consideration for floor systems that are stiff and where very little dead load (i.e., partition walls, ceilings, furniture, etc.) exists. Vibration can generally be damped with a ceiling system directly attached to the bottom flange of the wood I-joists. Effective bridging or continuous bottom flange nailers (i.e., 2x4 nailed flat-wise and perpendicular to the joist and tied off to the end walls) can also help minimize the potential for vibration in the absence of a direct applied ceiling. Limiting the span/depth ratio of the I-joist may also improve floor performance.

Joist Bearing

Bearing design for wood I-joists requires more than consideration of perpendicular to grain bearing values. Minimum required bearing lengths take into account a number of considerations. These include: cross grain bending and tensile forces in the flanges, web stiffener connection to the joist web, adhesive joint locations and strength, and perpendicular to grain bearing stresses. The model building code evaluation reports provide a source for bearing design information, usually in the form of minimum required bearing lengths.

Usually, published bearing lengths are based on the maximum allowable shear capacity of the particular product and depth or allowable reactions are related to specific bearing lengths. Bearing lengths for wood I-joists are most often based on empirical test results rather than a calculated approach. Each specific manufacturer should be consulted for information when deviations from published criteria are desired.

To better understand the variables involved in a wood I-joist bearing, it’s convenient to visualize the member as a composition of pieces, each serving a specific task. For a typical simple span joist, the top flange is a compression member, the bottom flange is a tension member, and the web resists the vertical shear forces. Using this concept, shear forces accumulate in the web member at the bearing locations and must be transferred through the flanges to the support structure. This transfer involves two critical interfaces: between the flange and support member and between the web and flange materials.

Starting with the support member, flange to support bearing involves perpendicular to grain stresses. The lowest design value for either the support member or flange material is usually used to develop the minimum required bearing area.

The second interface to be checked is between the lower joist flange and the bottom edge of the joist web, assuming a bottom flange bearing condition. This connection, usually a routed groove in the flange and a matching shaped profile on the web, is a glued joint secured with a waterproof structural adhesive. The contact surfaces include the sides and bottom of the routed flange.

In most cases, the adhesive line stresses at this joint control the bearing length design. The effective bearing length of the web into the flange is approximately the length of flange bearing onto the support plus an incremental length related to the thickness and stiffness of the flange material.

Since most wood I-joists have web shear capacity in excess of the flange to web joint strength, connection reinforcement is sometimes utilized. The most common method of reinforcement is the addition of web stiffeners (also commonly referred to as bearing blocks). Web stiffeners are vertically oriented wood blocks positioned on both sides of the web. Web stiffeners should be cut so that a gap of at least 1/8” is between the stiffener and the flange to avoid a force fit. Stiffeners are positioned tight to the bottom flange at bearing locations and snug to the bottom of the top flange beneath heavy point loads within a span. Figure M7.4-3 provides an illustration of a typical end bearing assembly.
Figure M7.4-3  End Bearing Web Stiffeners (Bearing Block)

**Web Stiffeners**

When correctly fastened to the joist web, web stiffeners transfer some of the load from the web into the top of the bottom flange. This reduces the loads on the web to flange joint. A pair of web stiffeners (one on each side) is usually mechanically connected to the web with nails or staples loaded in double shear. For some of the higher capacity wood I-joists, nailing and supplemental gluing with a structural adhesive is required. The added bearing capacity achievable with web stiffeners is limited by the allowable bearing stresses where the stiffeners contact the bearing flange and by their mechanical connection to the web.

Web stiffeners also serve the implied function of reinforcing the web against buckling. Since shear capacity usually increases proportionately with the depth, web stiffeners are very important for deep wood I-joists. For example, a 30" deep wood I-joist may only develop 20% to 30% of its shear and bearing capacity without properly attached web stiffeners at the bearing locations. This is especially important at continuous span bearing locations, where reaction magnitudes can exceed simple span reactions by an additional 25%.

Web stiffeners should be cut so that a gap of at least 1/8" is between the stiffener and the top or bottom of the flange to avoid a force fit. Web stiffeners should be installed snug to the bottom flange for bearing reinforcement or snug to the top flange if under concentrated load from above.

For shallow depth joists, where relatively low shear capacities are required, web stiffeners may not be needed. When larger reaction capacities are required, web stiffener reinforcement may be needed, especially where short bearing lengths are desired. Figure M7.4-4 illustrates the bearing interfaces.
**Beveled End Cuts**

Beveled end cuts, where the end of the joist is cut on an angle (top flange does not project over the bearing, much like a fire cut), also requires special design consideration. Again the severity of the angle, web material, location of web section joints, and web stiffener application criteria effect the performance of this type of bearing condition. The specific wood I-joist manufacturers should be consulted for limits on this type of end cut.

It is generally accepted that if a wood I-joist has the minimum required bearing length, and the top flange of the joist is not cut beyond the face of bearing (measured from a line perpendicular to the joist’s bottom flange), there is no reduction in shear or reaction capacity. This differs from the conventional lumber provision that suggests there is no decrease in shear strength for beveled cuts of up to an angle of 45°. The reason involves the composite nature of the wood I-joist and how the member fails in shear and or bearing. Figure M7.4-5 provides an illustration of the beveled end cut limitation.
Sloped Bearing Conditions

Sloped bearing conditions require design considerations different from conventional lumber. An example is a birdsmouth bearing cut (notches in the bottom flange, see Figure M7.4-6). This type of bearing should only be used on the low end bearing for wood I-joists. Another example is the use of metal joist support connectors that attach only to the web area of the joist and do not provide a bottom seat in which to bear. In general, this type of connector is not recommended for use with wood I-joists without consideration for the resulting reduced capacity.

The birdsmouth cut is a good solution for the low end bearing when the slope is steep and the tangential loads are high (loads along the axis of the joist member). This assumes the quality of construction is good and the cuts are made correctly and at the right locations. This type of bearing cut requires some skill and is not easy to make, particularly with the wider flange joists. The bearing capacity, especially with high shear capacity members, may be reduced as a result of the cut since the effective flange bearing area is reduced. The notched cut will also reduce the member’s shear and moment capacity at a cantilever location.

An alternative to a birdsmouth cut is a beveled bearing plate matching the joist slope or special sloped seat bearing hardware manufactured by some metal connector suppliers. These alternatives also have special design considerations with steep slope applications. As the member slope increases, so does the tangential component of reaction, sometimes requiring additional flange to bearing nailing or straps to provide resistance. Figure M7.4-6 shows some examples of acceptable low end bearing conditions.

Figure M7.4-6  Sloped Bearing Conditions (Low End)
For the high end support, bottom flange bearing in a suitable connector or on a beveled plate is recommended. When slopes exceed 30°, straps or gussets may be needed to resist the tangential component of the reaction.

Support connections only to the web area of a wood I-joist, especially at the high end of a sloped application, are not generally recommended. Since a wood I-joist is comprised of a number of pieces, joints between web sections occurring near the end of the member may reduce the joist’s shear capacity when not supported from the bottom flange.

When a wood I-joist is supported from the web only, the closest web to web joint from the end may be stressed in tension. This could result in a joint failure with the web section pulling out of the bottom flange. Locating these internal joints away from the end of the member or applying joint reinforcements are potential remedies, but generally are not practical in the field.

The best bearing solution is to provide direct support to the joist’s bottom flange to avoid reductions in capacity. Figure M7.4-7 shows typical high end bearing conditions.

**Figure M7.4-7  Sloped Bearing Conditions (High End)**

![Sloped Bearing Conditions (High End)](image)

- **Note:** Web only support conditions are not recommended. (Web segment can pull out from bottom flange)

---

**Connector Design/Joist Hangers**

Although there are numerous hangers and connectors available that are compatible with wood I-joists, many are not. Hangers developed for conventional lumber or glulam beams often use large nails and space them in a pattern that will split the joist flanges and web stiffeners. Hanger selection considerations for wood I-joists should include nail length and diameter, nail location, wood I-joist bearing capacity, composition of the supporting member, physical fit, and load capacity. For example, hangers appropriate for a wood I-joist to glulam beam support may not be compatible for an I-joist to I-joist connection.

In general, nails into the flanges should not exceed the diameter of a 10d common nail, with a recommended length no greater than 1½". Nails into web stiffeners should not exceed the diameter of a 16d common nail. Nails through the sides of the hanger, when used in combination with web stiffeners, can be used to reduce the joist’s minimum required bearing length. Nails help transfer loads directly from the I-joist web into the hanger, reducing the load transferred through direct bearing in the bottom hanger seat.

Hangers should be capable of providing lateral support to the top flange of the joist. This is usually accomplished by a hanger flange that extends the full depth of the joist. As a minimum, hanger support should extend to at least mid-height of a joist used with web stiffeners. Some connector manufacturers have developed hangers specifically for use with wood I-joists that provide full lateral support without the use of web stiffeners. Figure M7.4-8 illustrates lateral joist support requirements for hangers. **NDS Commentary** section C7.3.5 also provides additional guidance on direct attachment of sheathing to the I-joist compression flange to provide lateral support.
When top flange style hangers are used to support one I-joist from another, especially the wider flange I-joists, web stiffeners need to be installed tight to the bottom side of the support joist’s top flanges. This prevents cross grain bending and rotation of the top flange (see Figure M7.4-9).

When face nail hangers are used for joist to joist connections, nails into the support joist should extend through and beyond the web element (Figure M7.4-10). Filler blocks should also be attached sufficiently to provide support for the hanger. Again, nail diameter should be considered to avoid splitting the filler block material.

Multiple I-joists need to be adequately connected together to achieve desired performance. This requires proper selection of a nailing or bolting pattern and attention to web stiffener and blocking needs. Connections should be made through the webs of the I-joists and never through the flanges.
For a double I-joist member loaded from one side only, the minimum connection between members should be capable of transferring at least 50% of the applied load. Likewise, for a triple member loaded from one side only, the minimum connection between members must be capable of transferring at least 2/3 of the applied load. The actual connection design should consider the potential slip and differential member stiffness. Many manufacturers recommend limiting multiple members to three joists. Multiple I-joists with 3½" wide flanges may be further limited to two members.

The low torsional resistance of most wood I-joists is also a design consideration for joist to joist connections. Eccentrically applied side loads, such as a top flange hanger hung from the side of a double joist, create the potential for joist rotation. Bottom flange restraining straps, blocking, or directly applied ceiling systems may be needed on heavily loaded eccentric connections to resist rotation. Figure M7.4-10 shows additional I-joist connection considerations for use with face nail hangers.

**Figure M7.4-10 Connection Requirements for Face Nail Hangers**

**Vertical Load Transfer**

Bearing loads originating above the joists at the bearing location require blocking to transfer these loads around the wood I-joist to the supporting wall or foundation. This is typically the case in a multi-story structure where bearing walls stack and platform framing is used. Usually, the available bearing capacity of the joist is needed to support its reaction, leaving little if any excess capacity to support additional bearing wall loads from above.

The most common type of blocking uses short pieces of wood I-joist, often referred to as blocking panels, positioned directly over the lower bearing and cut to fit in between the joists. These panels also provide lateral support for the joists and an easy means to transfer lateral diaphragm shears.

The ability to transfer lateral loads (due to wind, seismic, construction loads, etc.) to shear walls or foundations below is important to the integrity of the building design. Compared with dimension lumber blocking, which usually is toe-nailed to the bearing below, wood I-joist blocking can develop higher diaphragm transfer values because of a wider member width and better nail values.

Specialty products designed specifically for rim boards are pre-cut in strips equal to the joist depth and provide support for the loads from above. This solution may also provide diaphragm boundary nailing for lateral loads.
A third method uses vertically oriented short studs, often called squash blocks or cripple blocks, on each side of the joist and cut to a length slightly longer than the depth of the joist. This method should be used in combination with some type of rim joist or blocking material when lateral stability or diaphragm transfer is required.

The use of horizontally oriented sawn lumber as a blocking material is unacceptable. Wood I-joists generally do not shrink in the vertical direction due to their panel type web, creating the potential for a mismatch in height as sawn lumber shrinks to achieve equilibrium. When conventional lumber is used in the vertical orientation, shrinkage problems are not a problem because changes in elongation due to moisture changes are minimal. Figure M7.4-11 shows a few common methods for developing vertical load transfer.

**Figure M7.4-11 Details for Vertical Load Transfer**

![Diagram of vertical load transfer methods]

**Web Holes**

Holes cut in the web area of a wood I-joist affect the member’s shear capacity. Usually, the larger the hole, the greater the reduction in shear capacity. For this reason, holes are generally located in areas where shear stresses are low. This explains why the largest holes are generally permitted near mid-span of a member. The required spacing between holes and from the end of the member is dependent upon the specific materials and processes used during manufacturing.

The allowable shear capacity of a wood I-joist at a hole location is influenced by a number of variables. These include: percentage of web removed, proximity to a vertical joint between web segments, the strength of the web to flange glue joint, the stiffness of the flange, and the shear strength of the web material. Since wood I-joists are manufactured using different processes and materials, each manufacturer should be consulted for the proper web hole design.

The methodology used to analyze application loads is important in the evaluation of web holes. All load cases that will develop the highest shear at the hole location should be considered. Usually, for members resisting simple uniform design loads, the loading condition that develops the highest shear loads in the center area of a joist span involves partial span loading.

Web holes contribute somewhat to increased deflection. The larger the hole the larger the contribution. Provided not too many holes are involved, the contribution is negligible. In most cases, if the manufacturer’s hole criteria are followed and the number of holes is limited to three or less per span, the additional deflection does not warrant consideration.
# M8: Structural Composite Lumber

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M8.1 General

Product Information

Structural composite lumber (SCL) products are well known throughout the construction industry. The advantages of SCL include environmental benefits from better wood fiber utilization along with higher strength, stiffness, and consistency from fiber orientation and manufacturing process control.

SCL is manufactured from strips or full sheets of veneer. The process typically includes alignment of stress graded fiber, application of adhesive, and pressing the material together under heat and pressure. By redistributing natural defects and through state of the art quality control procedures, the resulting material is extremely consistent and maximizes the strength and stiffness of the wood fiber.

The material is typically produced in a long length continuous or fixed press in a billet form. This is then resawn into required dimensions for use. Material is currently available in a variety of depths from 4-3/8" to 24" and thicknesses from 3/4" to 7".

SCL is available in a wide range of sizes and grades. When specifying SCL products, a customer may specify on the basis of size, stress (strength), or appearance.

SCL products are proprietary and are covered by code evaluation reports. Such reports should be consulted for current design information while manufacturer’s literature can be consulted for design information, sizing tables, and installation recommendations.

Common Uses

SCL is widely used as a framing material for housing. SCL is made in different grades and with various processes and can be utilized in numerous applications. Proper design is required to optimize performance and economics.

In addition to use in housing, SCL finds increasing use in commercial and industrial construction. Its high strength, stiffness, universal availability, and cost saving attributes make it a viable alternative in most low-rise construction projects.

SCL is used as beams, headers, joists, rafters, studs, and plates in conventional construction. In addition, SCL is used to fabricate structural glued laminated beams, trusses, prefabricated wood I-joists, and cross-laminated timber.

Availability

SCL is regarded as a premium construction material and is widely available. To efficiently specify SCL for individual projects, the customer should be aware of the species and strength availability. Sizes vary with each individual product. The best source of this information is your local lumber supplier, distribution center, or SCL manufacturer. Proper design is facilitated through the use of manufacturer’s literature, code reports, and software available from SCL manufacturers.
M8.2 Reference Design Values

General

As stated in NDS 8.2, SCL products are proprietary and each manufacturer develops design values appropriate for their products. These values are reviewed by the model building codes and published in evaluation reports and manufacturer’s literature.

Reference design values are used in conjunction with the adjustment factors in M8.3.

Shear Design

SCL is typically designed and installed as a rectangular section. Loads near supports may be reduced per NDS 3.4.3.1. However, such load must be included in bearing calculations. Shear values for SCL products often change with member orientation.

Bearing

SCL typically has high $F_c$ and $F_{c\perp}$ properties. With the higher shear and bending capacities, shorter or continuous spans are often controlled by bearing. The user is cautioned to ensure the design accounts for compression of the support material (i.e., plate) as well as the beam material. Often the plate material is of softer species and will control the design.

Bending

Published bending capacities of SCL beams are determined from testing of production specimens. Adjustment for the size of the member is also determined by test.

Field notching or drilling of holes is typically not allowed. Similarly, excessive nailing or the use of improper nail sizes can cause splitting that will also reduce capacity. The manufacturer should be contacted when evaluating a damaged beam.

Deflection Design

Deflection calculations for SCL typically are similar to provisions for other rectangular wood products (see M3.5). Values for use in deflection equations can be found in the individual manufacturer’s product literature or evaluation reports. Some manufacturers might publish “true” E values which would require additional calculations to account for shear deflection (see NDS Appendix F).
M8.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

Member design capacity is the product of reference design values, adjustment factors, and section properties. Reference design values for SCL are discussed in M8.2.

Adjustment factors are provided for applications outside the reference end-use conditions and for member configuration effects as specified in NDS 8.3. When one or more of the specific end use or member configuration conditions are beyond the range of the reference conditions, these adjustment factors shall be used to modify the appropriate property. Adjustment factors for the effects of moisture, temperature, member configuration, and size are provided in NDS 8.3. Additional adjustment factors can be found in the manufacturer’s product literature or code evaluation report. Table M8.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for SCL in a slightly different format for the designer.

Certain products may not be suitable for use in some applications or with certain treatments. Such conditions can result in structural deficiencies and may void manufacturer warranties. The manufacturer or code evaluation report should be consulted for specific information.

### Table M8.3-1 Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Structural Composite Lumber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( F_b' = F_b \frac{C_D}{C_M} C_t C_L C_V C_r )</td>
<td>( F_b' = F_b \frac{C_M}{C_t} C_L C_V C_r (2.54)(0.85) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_t' = F_t \frac{C_D}{C_M} C_t )</td>
<td>( F_t' = F_t \frac{C_M}{C_t} C_V (2.70)(0.80) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_v' = F_v \frac{C_D}{C_M} C_t )</td>
<td>( F_v' = F_v \frac{C_M}{C_t} C_L (2.88)(0.75) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_c' = F_c \frac{C_D}{C_M} C_t C_t C_p )</td>
<td>( F_c' = F_c \frac{C_M}{C_t} C_t C_p (2.40)(0.90) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_{cl}' = F_{cl} \frac{C_M}{C_t} C_t C_b )</td>
<td>( F_{cl}' = F_{cl} \frac{C_M}{C_t} C_t C_b (1.67)(0.90) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E' = E \frac{C_M}{C_t} )</td>
<td>( E' = E \frac{C_M}{C_t} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_{min}' = E_{min} \frac{C_M}{C_t} )</td>
<td>( E_{min}' = E_{min} \frac{C_M}{C_t} (1.76)(0.85) )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. See NDS 8.3.6 for information on simultaneous application of the volume factor, \( C_V \), and the beam stability factor, \( C_L \).

### Bending Member Example

For fully laterally supported members stressed in strong axis bending and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 8.3), the adjusted design values reduce to:

For ASD:

\[
\begin{align*}
F_b' &= F_b \frac{C_D}{C_M} C_V \\
F_t' &= F_t \frac{C_D}{C_M} \\
F_{cl}' &= F_{cl} \frac{C_M}{C_t} \\
E' &= E
\end{align*}
\]

For LRFD:

\[
\begin{align*}
F_b' &= F_b \frac{C_V}{C_D} \frac{C_M}{2.54}(0.85) \lambda \\
F_t' &= F_t \frac{C_D}{C_M} \frac{C_L}{2.88}(0.75) \lambda \\
F_{cl}' &= F_{cl} \frac{C_M}{C_t} \frac{C_V}{2.70}(0.90) \\
E' &= E
\end{align*}
\]

### Axially Loaded Member Example

For axially loaded members used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 8.3) designed to resist tension or compression loads, the adjusted tension or compression design values reduce to:

For ASD:

\[
\begin{align*}
F_c' &= F_c \frac{C_D}{C_M} C_p \\
F_t' &= F_t \frac{C_D}{C_M} \\
E_{min}' &= E_{min}
\end{align*}
\]

For LRFD:

\[
\begin{align*}
F_c' &= F_c \frac{C_D}{C_M} \frac{C_P}{2.40}(0.90) \lambda \\
F_t' &= F_t \frac{C_D}{C_M} \frac{C_V}{2.70}(0.80) \lambda \\
E_{min}' &= E_{min} \frac{C_M}{1.76}(0.85)
\end{align*}
\]
M8.4 Special Design Considerations

General

With proper detailing and protection, SCL can perform well in a variety of environments. One key to proper detailing is planning for the natural shrinkage and swelling of wood members as they are subjected to various drying and wetting cycles. While moisture changes have the largest impact on lumber dimensions, some designs must also check the effects of temperature. While SCL is typically produced using dry veneer, some moisture accumulation may occur during storage. If the product varies significantly from specified dimensions, the user is cautioned from using such product as it will “shrink” as it dries.

In addition to designing to accommodate dimensional changes and detailing for durability, another significant issue in the planning of wood structures is that of fire performance, which is covered in Chapter M16.

Dimensional Changes

The dimensional stability and response to temperature effects of engineered lumber is similar to that of solid sawn lumber of the same species.

Some densification of the wood fiber can occur in various manufacturing processes. SCL that is densified will result in a product that has more wood fiber in a given volume and can, therefore, hold more water than a solid sawn equivalent. When soaked these products expand and dimensional changes can occur.

Adhesive applied during certain processes tends to form a barrier to moisture penetration. Therefore, the material will typically take longer to reach equilibrium than its solid sawn counterpart.

For given temperatures and applications, different levels of relative humidity are present. This will cause the material to move toward an equilibrium moisture content (EMC). Eventually all wood products will reach their EMC for a given environment. SCL will typically equilibrate at a lower EMC (typically 3% to 4% lower) than solid sawn lumber and will take longer to reach an ambient EMC. Normal swings in humidity during the service life of the structure should not produce noticeable dimensional changes in SCL members.

More information on designing for moisture and temperature change is included in M4.4.

Durability

Designing for durability is a key part of the architectural and engineering design of the building. Wood exposed to high levels of moisture can decay over time. While there are exceptions – such as naturally durable species, preservative-treated wood, and those locations that can completely air-dry between moisture cycles – prudent design calls for a continuing awareness of the possibility of moisture accumulation. Awareness of the potential for decay is the key – many design conditions can be detailed to minimize the accumulation of moisture; for other problem conditions, preservative-treated wood or naturally durable species should be specified.

This section cannot cover the topic of designing for durability in detail. There are many excellent texts that devote entire chapters to the topic, and designers are advised to use this information to assist in designing “difficult” design areas, such as:

- structures in high moisture or humid conditions,
- where wood comes in contact with concrete or masonry,
- where wood members are supported in steel hangers or connectors in which condensation could collect,
- anywhere that wood is directly or indirectly exposed to the elements,
- where wood, if it should ever become wet, could not naturally dry out.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive – it is merely an attempt to alert designers to special conditions that may cause problems when durability is not considered in the design.

More information on detailing for durability is included in M4.4.
M9: WOOD STRUCTURAL PANELS

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M9.4 Design Considerations 57
M9.1 General

Product Description

Wood structural panels are wood-based panel products that have been rated for use in structural applications. Common applications for wood structural panels include roof sheathing, wall sheathing, subflooring, and single-layer flooring (combination subfloor-underlayment). Structural plywood is also manufactured in various sanded grades.

Wood structural panels are classified by span ratings. Panel span ratings identify the maximum recommended support spacings in inches for specific end uses. The span rating applies when the long panel dimension or strength axis is across supports, unless the strength axis is otherwise identified. Design capacities are provided on the basis of span ratings.

Sanded grades are classed according to grade and performance category and design capacities are provided on that basis.

Designers must specify wood structural panels by the span ratings, performance category, grades, and construction associated with tabulated design recommendations. Exposure durability classification must also be identified.

Wood structural panel adhesive bond classification relates to moisture resistance of the glue bond, and thus to structural integrity of the panel. Bond classification of the panel does not relate to physical (erosion, ultraviolet, etc.) or biological (mold, fungal decay, insect, etc.) resistance of the panel. Exposure 1 panels may be used for applications where construction delays may be expected prior to providing protection or where exposure to the outdoors is on the underside only. Exterior bond classification indicates the glue bond is suitable for applications subject to long-term exposure to weather or moisture.

Single-floor panels typically have tongue-and-groove edges. If square edge panels are specified for single-floor applications, the specification shall require lumber blocking between supports.

Table M9.1-1 provides descriptions and typical uses for various panel grades and types.

M9.2 Reference Design Values

General

Wood structural panel design capacities listed in Tables M9.2-1 and M9.2-2 are minimum for grade and span rating. Multipliers shown in each table provide adjustments in capacity for Structural I panel grades. To take advantage of these multipliers, the specifier must insure that the correct panel is used in construction.

The tabulated capacities and adjustment factors are based on data from tests of panels manufactured in accordance with industry standards and which bear the trademark of a qualified inspection and testing agency.

Structural panels have a strength axis direction and a cross panel direction. The direction of the strength axis is defined as the axis parallel to the orientation of OSB face strands or plywood face veneer grain and is typically the long dimension of the panel unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. This is illustrated in Figure M9.2-1.

Panel Stiffness and Strength

Panel design capacities listed in Table M9.2-1 are based on flat panel bending (Figure M9.2-2) as measured by testing according to principles of ASTM D3043 Method C (large panel testing).

Stiffness (EI)

Panel bending stiffness is the capacity to resist deflection and is represented as EI. E is the reference modulus of elasticity of the material, and I is the moment of inertia.
of the cross section. The units of EI are lbf-in.\(^2\) per foot of panel width.

**Strength (F\(_b\)S)**

Bending strength capacity is the design maximum moment, represented as F\(_b\)S. F\(_b\) is the reference extreme fiber bending stress of the material, and S is the section modulus of the cross section. The units of F\(_b\)S are lbf-in. per foot of panel width.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel Grade and Bond Classification</th>
<th>Description &amp; Use</th>
<th>Common Performance Category (in.)</th>
<th>Panel Construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheathing EXP 1</td>
<td>Unsanded sheathing grade for wall, roof, subflooring, and industrial applications such as pallets and for engineering design with proper capacities.</td>
<td>5/16, 3/8, 15/32, 1/2, 19/32, 5/8, 23/32, 3/4</td>
<td>Yes Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural I Sheathing EXP 1</td>
<td>Panel grades to use where shear and cross-panel strength properties are of maximum importance. Plywood Structural I is made from all Group 1 woods.</td>
<td>3/8, 7/16, 15/32, 1/2, 19/32, 5/8, 23/32, 3/4</td>
<td>Yes Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underlayment EXP 1 or EXT</td>
<td>For underlayment under carpet and pad. Available with exterior glue. Touch-sanded or sanded. Panels with performance category of 19/32 or greater may be available with tongue-and-groove edges.</td>
<td>1/4, 11/32, 3/8, 15/32, 1/2, 19/32, 5/8, 23/32, 3/4</td>
<td>No Yes, face C-Plugged, back D, inner D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-D-Plugged EXP 1</td>
<td>For built-ins, wall and ceiling tile backing. Not for underlayment. Touch-sanded.</td>
<td>1/2, 19/32, 5/8, 23/32, 3/4</td>
<td>No Yes, face C-Plugged, back D, inner D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanded Grades EXP 1 or EXT</td>
<td>Generally applied where a high-quality surface is required. Includes A-A, A-C, A-D, B-B, B-C, and B-D grades.</td>
<td>1/4, 11/32, 3/8, 15/32, 1/2, 19/32, 5/8, 23/32, 3/4</td>
<td>No Yes, face B or better, back D or better, inner C &amp; D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine EXT</td>
<td>Superior Exterior-type plywood made only with Douglas-fir or western larch. Special solid-core construction. Available with medium density overlay (MDO) or high density overlay (HDO) face. Ideal for boat hull construction.</td>
<td>1/4, 11/32, 3/8, 15/32, 1/2, 19/32, 5/8, 23/32, 3/4</td>
<td>No Yes, face A or face B, back A or inner B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table M9.2-1 Wood Structural Panel Bending Stiffness and Strength Capacities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span Rating</th>
<th>Plywood Stress Parallel to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
<th>OSB Stress Parallel to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
<th>Plywood Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
<th>OSB Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-ply</td>
<td>4-ply</td>
<td>5-ply</td>
<td>OSB 3-ply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/0</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>66,000</td>
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<td>60,000</td>
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<td>24/16</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32/16</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>225,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48/24</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16oc</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20oc</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>330,000</td>
<td>330,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>715,000</td>
<td>650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1,265,000</td>
<td>1,150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiplier for Structural I Panels: 1.0

### PANEL BENDING STRENGTH, \(F_{bS}\) (lbf-in/ft of panel width)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span Rating</th>
<th>Plywood Stress Parallel to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
<th>OSB Stress Parallel to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
<th>Plywood Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
<th>OSB Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis(^1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-ply</td>
<td>4-ply</td>
<td>5-ply</td>
<td>OSB 3-ply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/0</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/16</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32/16</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>445</td>
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<tr>
<td>40/20</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>415</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20oc</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>1,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>48oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiplier for Structural I Panels: 1.0

1. Strength axis is defined as the axis parallel to the face and back orientation of the flakes or the grain (veneer), which is generally the long panel direction, unless otherwise marked.

NA - Not applicable. Atypical panel construction.

### Axial Capacities

#### Axial Stiffness (\(EA\))

Panel axial stiffnesses listed in Table M9.2-2 are based on testing according to the principles of ASTM D3501 Method B. Axial stiffness is the capacity to resist axial strain and is represented as \(EA\). \(E\) is the reference axial modulus of elasticity of the material, and \(A\) is the area of the cross section. The units of \(EA\) are pounds force per foot of panel width.

#### Tension (\(F_{tA}\))

Tension capacities listed in Table M9.2-2 are based on testing according to the principles of ASTM D3500 Method B. Tension capacity is given as \(F_{tA}\). \(F_t\) is the reference axial tensile stress of the material, and \(A\) is the area of the cross section. The units of \(F_{tA}\) are pounds force per foot of panel width.
### Table M9.2-2  Wood Structural Panel Axial Stiffness, Tension, and Compression Capacities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span Rating</th>
<th>Stress Parallel to Strength Axis</th>
<th>Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plywood 3-ply</td>
<td>4-ply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/0</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>2,300</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2,600</td>
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<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>40/20</td>
<td>2,900</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>24oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiplier for Structural I Panels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span Rating</th>
<th>Stress Parallel to Strength Axis</th>
<th>Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plywood 3-ply</td>
<td>4-ply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/0</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/16</td>
<td>3,250</td>
<td>4,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3,550</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16oc</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20oc</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>6,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32oc</td>
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<tr>
<td>48oc</td>
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<td>12,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiplier for Structural I Panels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span Rating</th>
<th>Stress Parallel to Strength Axis</th>
<th>Stress Perpendicular to Strength Axis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plywood 3-ply</td>
<td>4-ply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/0</td>
<td>3,350,000</td>
<td>3,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/16</td>
<td>3,800,000</td>
<td>3,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32/16</td>
<td>4,150,000</td>
<td>4,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40/20</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48/24</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5,850,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16oc</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20oc</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5,850,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48oc</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiplier for Structural I Panels

---

1. Strength axis is defined as the axis parallel to the face and back orientation of the flakes or the grain (veneer), which is generally the long panel direction, unless otherwise marked.
2. The values shall be permitted to be increased to 2,900,000 lbf/ft for the calculation of the bending stiffness (EI_{woot}) of prefabricated wood I-joists.
3. The values shall be permitted to be increased to 4,500,000 lbf/ft for the calculation of the composite floor bending stiffness (EI_{composite}) of prefabricated wood I-joists.

NA - Not applicable. Atypical panel construction.

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Compression (F_{cA})

Compression (Figure M9.2-3) capacities listed in Table M9.2-2 are based on testing according to the principles of ASTM D3501 Method B. Compression capacity is given as F_{cA}. F_c is the reference axial compression stress of the material, and A is the area of the cross section. The units of F_{cA} are pounds force per foot of panel width.

Shear Capacities

Shear-in-the-Plane of the Panel (F_{s[Ib/Q]})

Shear-in-the-plane of the panel (innerlaminar or rolling shear) capacities listed in Table M9.2-3 are based on testing according to the principles of ASTM D2718. Shear strength in the plane of the panel is the capacity to resist horizontal shear breaking loads when loads are applied or developed on opposite faces of the panel (Figure M9.2-4), as in flat panel bending. Planar shear capacity is given as F_s[Ib/Q]. F_s is the reference material innerlaminar shear stress, and Ib/Q is the panel cross-sectional shear constant. The units of F_s[Ib/Q] are pounds force per foot of panel width.

Panel Rigidity Through-the-Thickness (G_{vtv})

Panel rigidities listed in Table M9.2-4 are based on testing according to the principles of ASTM D2719. Panel rigidity is the capacity to resist deformation under shear through the thickness stress (Figure M9.2-5). Rigidity is given as G_{vtv}. G_v is the reference modulus of rigidity, and tv is the effective panel thickness for shear. The units of G_{vtv} are pounds force per inch of panel depth (for vertical applications). Multiplication of G_{vtv} by panel depth gives GA, used by designers for some applications.

Panel Shear Through-the-Thickness (F_{vtv})

Through-the-thickness shear capacities listed in Table M9.2-4 are based on testing according to the principles of ASTM D2719. Allowable shear through-the-thickness is the capacity to resist horizontal shear breaking loads when loads are applied or developed on opposite edges of the panel (Figure M9.2-5), such as in an I-joist web. Where additional support is not provided to prevent buckling, design capacities in Table M9.2-4 are limited to sections 2 ft or less in depth. Deeper sections may require additional reductions. F_v is the reference shear through-the-thickness stress of the material, and tv is the effective panel thickness for shear. The units of F_{vtv} are pounds force per inch of shear resisting panel length.
### Table M9.2-3  Wood Structural Panel Shear-in-the-Plane Capacities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span</th>
<th>Plywood</th>
<th>OSB</th>
<th>Plywood</th>
<th>OSB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>3-ply</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>155</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/16</td>
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<td>265</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>48oc</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PANEL SHEAR-IN-THE-PLANE, \( F_s (lb/ft^2) \) (lbf/ft of panel width)**

**Multiplier for Structural I Panels**: 1.4 1.4 1.4 1.0 1.4 1.4 1.0 1.0

NA - Not applicable. Atypical panel construction.

### Table M9.2-4  Wood Structural Panel Rigidity and Shear Through-the-Thickness Capacities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Span</th>
<th>Plywood</th>
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<th>Plywood</th>
<th>OSB</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>5-ply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>27,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>40,500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PANEL RIGIDITY THROUGH-THE-THICKNESS, \( G_t (lbf/in. of panel depth) \)**

**Multiplier for Structural I Panels**: 1.3 1.3 1.1 1.0 1.3 1.3 1.1 1.0

**PANEL SHEAR THROUGH-THE-THICKNESS, \( F_v (lbf/in. of shear-resisting panel length) \)**

**Multiplier for Structural I Panels**: 1.3 1.3 1.1 1.0 1.3 1.3 1.1 1.0

1. 5-ply applies to plywood with five or more layers. For 5-ply plywood with three layers, use \( G_t \) values for 4-ply panels.

NA - Not applicable. Atypical panel construction.
M9.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

General

Adjusted panel design capacities are determined by multiplying reference capacities, as given in Tables M9.2-1 through M9.2-4, by the adjustment factors in *NDS 9.3*. Some adjustment factors should be obtained from the manufacturer or other approved source. In the *NDS Commentary*, C9.3 provides additional information on typical adjustment factors.

Tabulated capacities provided in this Chapter are suitable for reference end-use conditions. Reference end-use conditions are consistent with conditions typically associated with light-frame construction. For wood structural panels, these typical conditions involve the use of full-sized untreated panels in moderate temperature and moisture exposures.

Appropriate adjustment factors are provided for applications in which the conditions of use are inconsistent with reference conditions. In addition to temperature and moisture, this includes consideration of panel treatment and size effects.

*NDS* Table 9.3.1 lists applicability of adjustment factors for wood structural panels. Table M9.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for wood structural panels in a slightly different format for the designer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( F_b' = F_b S_C_D C_M C_t C_s )</td>
<td>( F_b' = F_b S_C_M C_t C_s (2.54)(0.85) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_t' = F_t S_C_D C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( F_t' = F_t A C_M C_t (2.70)(0.80) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_v' = F_v S_C_D C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( F_v' = F_v (Ib/Q) C_D C_M C_t )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_c' = F_c A C_D C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( F_c' = F_c A C_M C_t (2.40)(0.90) \lambda )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_I' = E I C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( E_I' = E I C_M C_t )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( E_A' = E A C_M C_t )</td>
<td>( E_A' = E A C_M C_t )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bending Member Example**

For non-Structural I grade wood structural panels, greater than 24" in width, loaded in bending, and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of *NDS 2.3* and 9.3), the adjusted design values reduce to:

For ASD:
\[
F_b' = F_b S C_D
\]
\[
E_I' = E I
\]
For LRFD:
\[
F_b' = F_b S (2.54)(0.85) \lambda
\]
\[
E_I' = E I
\]

**Axially Loaded Member Example**

For non-Structural I grade wood structural panels, greater than 24" in width, axially loaded, and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of *NDS 2.3* and 4.3) designed to resist tension or compression loads, the adjusted tension or compression design values reduce to:

For ASD:
\[
F_c' = F_c A C_D
\]
\[
F_t' = F_t A C_D
\]
\[
E_A' = E A
\]
For LRFD:
\[
F_c' = F_c A (2.40)(0.90) \lambda
\]
\[
F_t' = F_t A (2.70)(0.80) \lambda
\]
\[
E_A' = E A
\]
Preservative Treatment

Capacities given in Tables M9.2-1 through M9.2-4 apply, without adjustment, to plywood pressure-impregnated with preservatives and redried in accordance with American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) Standard U1. OSB panels are currently recommended only for non-pressure applications of preservative treating in accordance with AWPA Standard T1.

Fire Retardant Treatment

The information provided in this Chapter does not apply to fire retardant treated panels. All capacities and end-use conditions for fire retardant treated panels shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the company providing the treating and redrying service.

M9.4 Design Considerations

Panel Edge Support

For certain span ratings, the maximum recommended roof span for sheathing panels is dependent upon panel edge support. Edge support may be provided by lumber blocking, tongue and groove, or panel clips when edge support is required. Table M9.4-1 summarizes the relationship between panel edge support and maximum recommended spans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sheathing Span Rating</th>
<th>Maximum Recommended Span (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With Edge Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/16</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32/16</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40/20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48/24</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹. 20 in. for 3/8 and 7/16 performance category panels, 24 in. for 15/32 and 1/2 performance category panels.
². Additional edge support is recommended when panel widths are less than 24 inches. Edge support requirements should be obtained from the manufacturer.

Panel Spacing

Wood-based panel products expand and contract slightly as a natural response to changes in panel moisture content. To provide for in-plane dimensional changes, panels should be installed with a 1/8" spacing at all panel end and edge joints at the time of installation. A standard 10d box nail may be used to check panel edge and panel end spacing.

Minimum Nailing

Minimum nailing for wood structural panel applications is shown in Table M9.4-2.

Long-Term Loading

Wood structural panels under constant load will creep (deflection will increase) over time. Where total deflection under long-term loading must be limited, provisions of NDS 3.5.2 are applicable. For wood structural panels in dry-service conditions, the immediate deflection due to long term loading is increased by a factor of 2.0 to account for deformation under long-term loading. For long-term loading under high moisture and/or high temperature, appropriate adjustments should be obtained from the manufacturer or an approved source.
### Table M9.4-2 Minimum Nailing for Wood Structural Panel Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Recommended Nail Size &amp; Type</th>
<th>Nail Spacing (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Panel Edges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single Floor–Glue-nailed installation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 20, 24 oc, 3/4 performance category or less</td>
<td>6d^1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 oc, 7/8 or 1 performance category</td>
<td>8d^1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32, 48 oc, (32-in. span (c-c) application)</td>
<td>8d^1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 oc, (48-in. span (c-c) application)</td>
<td>8d^2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single Floor–Nailed-only installation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 20, 24 oc, 3/4 performance category or less</td>
<td>6d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 oc, 7/8 or 1 performance category</td>
<td>8d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32, 48 oc, (32-in. span application)</td>
<td>8d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 oc, (48-in. span application)</td>
<td>8d^2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheathing–Subflooring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16 to 1/2 thick performance category</td>
<td>6d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8 performance category or less</td>
<td>8d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thicker panels</td>
<td>10d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheathing–Wall sheathing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16 performance category or less</td>
<td>6d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 7/16 performance category</td>
<td>8d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheathing–Roof sheathing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16 to 1 performance category</td>
<td>8d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thicker panels</td>
<td>8d ring- or screw-shank</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or 10d common smooth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. 8d common nails may be substituted if ring- or screw-shank nails are not available.
2. 10d ring-shank, screw-shank, or common nails may be substituted if supports are dry in accordance with NDS.
3. Other code-approved fasteners may be used.
4. For spans 48 in. or greater, space nails 6 in. at all supports.
5. Use only adhesives conforming to ASTM D3498.
M10: CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER

M10.1 General
M10.2 Reference Design Values
M10.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values
M10.4 Design Considerations
M10.1 General

Product Description

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) is a prefabricated engineered wood product consisting of at least three layers of solid-sawn lumber or structural composite lumber where the adjacent layers are cross-oriented and bonded with structural adhesive to form a solid wood element.

M10.2 Reference Design Values

General

CLT design properties shown in Tables M10.2-1 and M10.2-2 are excerpted from ANSI/APA PRG 320 Annex A and are based on products manufactured in accordance with the ANSI standard and which bear the trademark of a qualified inspection and testing agency.

Table M10.2-1 provides allowable design properties for the parallel layers of CLT grades listed, which represent the production intended for use by the CLT manufacturers in North America and are based on the following layups:

E1: 1950f-1.7E Spruce-pine-fir MSR lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Spruce-pine-fir lumber in all perpendicular layers
E2: 1650f-1.5E Douglas fir-Larch MSR lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Douglas fir-Larch lumber in all perpendicular layers
E3: 1200f-1.2E Eastern Softwoods, Northern Species, or Western Woods MSR lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Eastern Softwoods, Northern Species, or Western Woods lumber in all perpendicular layers
E4: 1950f-1.7E Southern pine MSR lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Southern pine lumber in all perpendicular layers
V1: No. 2 Douglas fir-Larch lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Douglas fir-Larch lumber in all perpendicular layers
V2: No. 1/No. 2 Spruce-pine-fir lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Spruce-pine-fir lumber in all perpendicular layers
V3: No. 2 Southern pine lumber in all parallel layers and No. 3 Southern pine lumber in all perpendicular layers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE M10.2-1 Allowable Design Properties(a,b,c) for the Parallel Layers of PRG 320 CLT (for use in the U.S.)</th>
<th>Reprinted with permission of APA-The Engineered Wood Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLT Grades</td>
<td>Major Strength Direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{b_0}$ (psi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>1,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2</td>
<td>1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>1,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2</td>
<td>875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V3</td>
<td>975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For SI: 1 psi = 0.006895 MPa
(a) See APA PRG 320 Section 4 for symbols.
(b) Tabulated values are allowable lumber design values and not permitted to be increased for the lumber size adjustment factor in accordance with the NDS. The design values shall be used in conjunction with the section properties provided by the CLT manufacturer based on the actual layup used in manufacturing the CLT panel (see Table M10.2-2).
(c) Custom CLT grades that are not listed in this table shall be permitted in accordance with ANSI/APA PRG 320 Section 7.2.1.

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The allowable design capacities for these CLT grades with layups of 3, 5, and 7 layers are provided in Table M10.2-2. These capacities are deemed achievable using the standard laminations tabulated in the PRG 320 standard. These capacities were derived analytically using the Shear Analogy Model\(^1\) (the calculated moment capacities in the major strength direction were further multiplied by a factor of 0.85 for conservatism) and validated by testing. The laminate thicknesses are as tabulated. Allowable tensile, compressive, and shear capacities will be developed and added to future editions of the PRG 320 standard.

### TABLE M10.2-2. Allowable Bending Capacities\(^{a,b,c}\) for CLT Grades (for use in the U.S.) Reprinted with permission of APA-The Engineered Wood Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLT Grade</th>
<th>Lamination Thickness (in.) in CLT Layup</th>
<th>Major Strength Direction</th>
<th>Minor Strength Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>⊥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>4,525</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>10,400</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 5/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8</td>
<td>18,375</td>
<td>1,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>3,825</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>8,825</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>4,525</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>10,425</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 5/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8</td>
<td>18,400</td>
<td>1,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 5/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>1,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>2,030</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>4,675</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V3</td>
<td>4 1/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - - - -</td>
<td>2,270</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 7/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 - -</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 5/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8 1 3/8</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>1,027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 1 ft = 304.8 mm; 1 lbf = 4.448 N

(a) See ANSI/APA PRG 320 Section 4 for symbols.
(b) This table represents one of many possibilities that the CLT could be manufactured by varying lamination grades, thicknesses, orientations, and layer arrangements in the layup.
(c) Custom CLT grades that are not listed in this table shall be permitted in accordance with ANSI/APA PRG 320 Section 7.2.1.

---

CLT Stiffness and Strength

CLT stiffness and strength design capacities are based on flat panel bending (Figure M10.2-1) according to principles of ANSI/APA PRG 320.

**Strength, \( F_b(S_{eff}) \)**

Bending strength capacity is the design maximum moment, represented as \((F_bS_{eff})\). \( F_b \) is the reference extreme fiber bending stress, and \( S_{eff} \) is the effective section modulus of the cross section based on the layup used in the manufacturing process. The units of \( F_bS_{eff} \) are lbf-in. per foot of panel width.

**Bending Stiffness for Deflection Calculations, \((EI)_{app}\)**

CLT apparent bending stiffness is the capacity to resist deflection and is represented as \((EI)_{app}\). The apparent stiffness is based on the layup used in the manufacturing process and is calculated using published \((EI)_{eff} \) values adjusted per the NDS. The units of EI are lbf-in.\(^2\) per foot of panel width.

CLT Axial Capacities

**Tension, \( F_t(A_{parallel}) \)**

Tension capacities are based on the principles of ANSI/APA PRG 320. Tension capacity is given as \( F_t(A_{parallel}) \). \( F_t \) is the reference axial tensile stress of the material, and \( A_{parallel} \) is the area of the cross section with fibers parallel to the load direction. The units of \( F_t(A_{parallel}) \) are pounds force per foot of panel width. This property can be obtained from the CLT manufacturer or an approved source.

**Compression, \( F_c(A_{parallel}) \)**

Compression capacities (Figure M10.2-2) are based on principles of APA PRG 320. Compression capacity is given as \( F_c(A_{parallel}) \). \( F_c \) is the reference axial compression stress of the material and \( A_{parallel} \) is the area of the cross section with fibers parallel to the load direction. The units of \( F_c(A_{parallel}) \) are pounds force per foot of panel width.

**CLT Shear Capacities**

**Shear-in-the-Plane of the Panel, \( F_s(Ib/Q)_{eff} \)**

Shear-in-the-plane of the panel (planar or rolling shear) capacities are based on the principles of ANSI/APA PRG 320. Shear strength in the plane of the panel is the capacity to resist horizontal shear breaking loads when loads are applied or developed on opposite faces of the panel (Figure M10.2-3), as in flat panel bending. Planar shear capacity is given as \( F_s(Ib/Q)_{eff} \). \( F_s \) is the reference material innerlaminar shear stress, and \( (Ib/Q)_{eff} \) is the effective CLT cross-sectional shear constant. The units of \( F_s(Ib/Q)_{eff} \) are pounds force per foot of panel width.
Shear Through-the-Thickness, $F_v(t_v)$

Through-the-thickness shear capacities are based on the principles of ANSI/APA PRG 320. Allowable shear through-the-thickness is the capacity to resist horizontal shear breaking loads when loads are applied or developed on opposite edges of the panel (Figure M10.2-4).

$F_v$, is the reference shear through-the-thickness stress of the material, and $t_v$ is the panel thickness for shear. The units of $F_v(t_v)$ are pounds force per inch of shear resisting panel length. This property can be obtained from the CLT manufacturer or an approved source.

**M10.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values**

**General**

Adjusted CLT design capacities are determined by multiplying reference capacities by the adjustment factors in NDS 10.3. Some adjustment factors should be obtained from the manufacturer or other approved source. In the NDS Commentary, C10.3 provides additional information on typical adjustment factors.

Tabulated capacities provided in the manufacturer’s literature are suitable for reference end-use conditions. For CLT, these typical conditions involve the use of untreated products in moderate temperature and moisture exposures. Appropriate adjustment factors are provided for applications in which the conditions of use are inconsistent with reference conditions. In addition to temperature and moisture, this includes load duration, beam stability, column stability, and bearing area adjustments.

NDS Table 10.3.1 lists applicability of adjustment factors for cross-laminated timber. Table M10.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for cross-laminated timber in an equation format.

**Table M10.3-1 Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Cross-Laminated Timber**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$F_b(S_{eff})' = F_b(S_{eff})C_D C_M C_L$</td>
<td>$F_b(S_{eff})' = F_b(S_{eff})C_M C_L(2.54)(0.85)\lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F(A_{parallel})' = F(A_{parallel})C_D C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$F(A_{parallel})' = F(A_{parallel})C_M C_t(2.70)(0.80)\lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_v(t_v) = F_vC_D C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$F_v(t_v) = F_vC_M C_t(2.88)(0.75)\lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_{(lb/Q)<em>{eff}}' = F</em>{(lb/Q)_{eff}}C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$F_{(lb/Q)<em>{eff}}' = F</em>{(lb/Q)_{eff}}C_M C_t(2.88)(0.75)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_{(A_{parallel})'} = F_{(A_{parallel})}C_P C_M C_t C_P$</td>
<td>$F_{(A_{parallel})'} = F_{(A_{parallel})}C_M C_t C_P(2.40)(0.90)\lambda$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_{cl}(A) = F_{cl}(A)C_M C_t C_b$</td>
<td>$F_{cl}(A) = F_{cl}(A)C_M C_t C_b(1.67)(0.90)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$(EI)<em>{app} = (EI)</em>{app}C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$(EI)<em>{app} = (EI)</em>{app}C_M C_t$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$(EI)<em>{app-min} = (EI)</em>{app-min}C_M C_t$</td>
<td>$(EI)<em>{app-min} = (EI)</em>{app-min}C_M C_t(1.76)(0.85)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bending Member Example

For cross-laminated timber, loaded in bending, and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 10.3), the adjusted design values reduce to:

For ASD:
\[
F_{b}(S_{\text{eff}}) = F_{b}(S_{\text{eff}}) C_{D}
\]
\[
F_{c\perp}(A) = F_{c\perp}(A) C_{b}
\]
\[
(EI)_{\text{app}} = (EI)_{\text{app}}
\]

For LRFD:
\[
F_{b}(S_{\text{eff}}) = F_{b}(S_{\text{eff}}) (2.54)(0.85) \lambda
\]
\[
F_{c\perp}(A) = F_{c\perp}(A) C_{b} (1.67)(0.90)
\]
\[
(EI)_{\text{app}} = (EI)_{\text{app}}
\]

Axially Loaded Member Example

For cross-laminated timber, axially loaded, and used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 10.3) designed to resist tension or compression loads, the adjusted tension or compression design values reduce to:

For ASD:
\[
F_{c}(A_{\parallel}) = F_{c}(A_{\parallel}) C_{D} C_{P}
\]
\[
F_{t}(A_{\parallel}) = F_{t}(A_{\parallel}) C_{D}
\]

For LRFD:
\[
F_{c}(A_{\parallel}) = F_{c}(A_{\parallel}) C_{P} (2.40)(0.90) \lambda
\]
\[
F_{t}(A_{\parallel}) = F_{t}(A_{\parallel}) (2.70)(0.80) \lambda
\]

Preservative Treatment

The information provided in this chapter does not apply to preservative treated CLT. All capacities and end-use conditions for preservative treated CLT shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Fire Retardant Treatment

The information provided in this chapter does not apply to fire retardant treated CLT. All capacities and end-use conditions for fire retardant treated CLT shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the company providing the treating and redrying service.

### M10.4 Design Considerations

#### Connections

Connections used in cross-laminated timber shall be in accordance with applicable NDS connection chapters or manufacturers’ recommendations.

#### Long-Term Loading

Cross-laminated timber under constant load will creep (deflection will increase) over time. Where total deflection under long-term loading must be limited, provisions of NDS 3.5.2 are applicable. For CLT in dry-service conditions, the immediate deflection due to long-term loading is increased by a factor of 2.0 to account for deformation under long-term loading. For long-term loading under high moisture and/or high temperature, appropriate adjustments should be obtained from the manufacturer or an approved source.
M11: MECHANICAL CONNECTIONS

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M11.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values 67
M11.4 Typical Connection Details 68
M11.5 Pre-Engineered Metal Connectors 76
M11.1 General

This Chapter covers design of connections between wood members using metal fasteners. Several common connection types are outlined below.

Dowel-Type (Nails, Bolts, Screws, Pins)

These connectors rely on metal-to-wood bearing for transfer of lateral loads and on friction or mechanical interfaces for transfer of axial (withdrawal) loads. They are commonly available in a wide range of diameters and lengths. More information is provided in Chapter M12.

Split Rings and Shear Plates

These connectors rely on their geometry to provide larger metal-to-wood bearing areas per connector. Both are installed into precut grooves or daps in the members. More information is provided in Chapter M13.

Timber Rivets

Timber rivets are a dowel-type connection, however, because the ultimate load capacity of such connections are limited by rivet bending and localized crushing of wood at the rivets or by the tension or shear strength of the wood at the perimeter of the rivet group, a specific design procedure is required. Timber rivet design loads are based on the lower of the maximum rivet bending load and the maximum load based on wood strength. Chapter M13 contains more information on timber rivet design.

Structural Framing Connections

Structural framing connections provide a single-piece connection between two framing members. They generally consist of bent or welded steel, carrying load from the supported member (through direct bearing) into the supporting member (by hanger flange bearing, fastener shear, or a combination of the two). Structural framing connections are proprietary connectors and are discussed in more detail in M11.4.

Other Connectors

Just as the number of possible building geometries is limitless, so too is the number of possible connection geometries. In addition to providing custom fabrication of connectors to meet virtually any geometry that can be designed, metal connector manufacturers have several categories of connectors that do not fit the categories above, including:

- framing anchors
- hold down devices
- straps and ties

These connectors are also generally proprietary connectors. See the manufacturer’s literature or M11.4 for more information regarding design.

Connections are designed so that no applicable capacity is exceeded under loads. Strength criteria include lateral or withdrawal capacity of the connection, and tension or shear in the metal components. Some types of connections also include compression perpendicular to grain as a design criteria.

Users should note that design of connections may also be controlled by serviceability limitations. These limitations are product specific and are discussed in specific product chapters.

Stresses in Members at Connections

Local stresses in connections using multiple fasteners can be evaluated in accordance with NDS Appendix E.
M11.2 Reference Design Values

Reference design values for mechanical connections are provided in various sources. The NDS contains reference design values for dowel-type connections such as nails, bolts, lag screws, wood screws, split rings, shear plates, drift bolts, drift pins, and timber rivets.

Pre-engineered metal connectors are proprietary and reference design values are provided in code evaluation reports. More information on their use is provided in M11.5.

M11.3 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

To generate connection design capacities, reference design values for connections are multiplied by adjustment factors per NDS 11.3. Applicable adjustment factors for connections are defined in NDS Table 11.3.1. Table M11.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for connections in a slightly different format for the designer.

The following connection product chapters contain examples of the application of adjustment factors to reference design values:

Chapter M12 – dowel-type fasteners,
Chapter M13 – split ring and shear plate connectors,
Chapter M14 – timber rivets.

Table M11.3-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
<th>Load and Resistance Factor Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lateral Loads</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowel-Type Fasteners</td>
<td>[Z' = Z C_D C_M C_t C_g C_s C_{eg} C_{st} C_m ]</td>
<td>[Z' = Z C_M C_t C_g C_s C_{eg} C_{st} C_m (3.32)(0.65) \lambda ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Ring and Shear Plate Connectors</td>
<td>[ P' = P C_D C_M C_s C_t C_{eg} C_{st} ]</td>
<td>[ P' = P C_M C_t C_g C_s C_{eg} C_{st} (3.32)(0.65) \lambda ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ Q' = Q C_D C_M C_t C_g C_s C_{eg} C_{st} ]</td>
<td>[ Q' = Q C_M C_t C_g C_s C_{eg} C_{st} (3.32)(0.65) \lambda ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Rivets</td>
<td>[ P' = P C_D C_M C_t C_{eg} ]</td>
<td>[ P' = P C_M C_t C_{eg} (3.32)(0.65) \lambda ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ Q' = Q C_D C_M C_t C_{eg} ]</td>
<td>[ Q' = Q C_M C_t C_{eg} (3.32)(0.65) \lambda ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spike Grids</td>
<td>[ Z' = Z C_D C_M C_t C_g C_{eg} C_{st} ]</td>
<td>[ Z' = Z C_M C_t C_g C_{eg} C_{st} (3.32)(0.65) \lambda ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Withdrawal Loads** |                                            |                                               |
| Nails, Spikes, Lag Screws, Wood Screws, and Drift Pins | \[ W' = W C_D C_M C_t C_{eg} C_{st} \] | \[ Z' = Z C_M C_t C_{eg} C_{st} (3.32)(0.65) \lambda \] |

1. See NDS Table 11.3.1 footnotes for additional guidance on application of adjustment factors for mechanical connections.
M11.4 Typical Connection Details

General Concepts of Well-Designed Connections

Connections must obviously provide the structural strength necessary to transfer loads. Well-designed connections hold the wood members in such a manner that shrinkage/swelling cycles do not induce splitting across the grain. Well-designed connections also minimize regions that might collect moisture – providing adequate clearance for air movement to keep the wood dry. Finally, well-designed connections minimize the potential for tension perpendicular to grain stresses – either under design conditions or under unusual loading conditions.

The following connection details (courtesy of the Canadian Wood Council) are organized into nine groups:

1. Beam to concrete or masonry wall connections
2. Beam to column connections
3. Column to base connections
4. Beam to beam connections
5. Cantilever beam connections
6. Arch peak connections
7. Arch base to support
8. Moment splice
9. Problem connections

Many of the detail groups begin with a brief discussion of the design challenges pertinent to the specific type of connection. Focusing on the key design concepts of a broad class of connections often leads to insights regarding a specific detail of interest.

Group 1. Beam to Concrete or Masonry Wall Connections

Design concepts. Concrete is porous and “wicks” moisture. Good detailing never permits wood to be in direct contact with concrete.

1. Beam on shelf in wall. The bearing plate distributes the load and keeps the beam from direct contact with the concrete. Steel angles provide uplift resistance and can also provide some lateral resistance. The end of the beam should not be in direct contact with the concrete.

2. Similar to detail 1 with a steel bearing plate only under the beam.

3. Similar to detail 1 with slotted holes to accommodate slight lateral movement of the beam under load. This detail is more commonly used when the beam is sloped, rather than flat.
Group 2. Beam to Column Connections

Design concepts. All connections in the group must hold the beam in place on top of the column. Shear transfer is reasonably easy to achieve. Some connections must also resist some beam uplift. Finally, for cases in which the beam is spliced, rather than continuous over the column, transfer of forces across the splice may be required.

4. Simple steel dowel for shear transfer.

5. Concealed connection in which a steel plate is inserted into a kerf in both the beam and the column. Transverse pins or bolts complete the connection.

6. Custom welded column caps can be designed to transfer shear, uplift, and splice forces. Note design variations to provide sufficient bearing area for each of the beams and differing plate widths to accommodate differences between the column and the beam widths.

7. Combinations of steel angles and straps, bolted and screwed, to transfer forces.

8. A very common connection – beam seat welded to the top of a steel column.
9. When both beams and columns are continuous and the connection must remain in-plane, either the beam or the column must be spliced at the connection. In this detail the column continuity is maintained. Optional shear plates may be used to transfer higher loads. Note that, unless the bolt heads are completely recessed into the back of the bracket, the beam end will likely require slotting. In a building with many bays, it may be difficult to maintain dimensions in the beam direction when using this connection.

11A. Similar to details 1 and 2.

11B. Alternate to detail 11A.

Group 3. Column to Base Connections

Design concepts. Since this is the bottom of the structure, it is conceivable that moisture from some source might run down the column. Experience has shown that base plate details in which a steel “shoe” is present can collect moisture that leads to decay in the column.

10. Similar to detail 4, with a bearing plate added.

12. Similar to detail 3.

Group 4. Beam to Beam Connections

Design concepts. Many variations of this type of connection are possible. When all members are flat and their tops are flush, the connection is fairly straightforward. Slopes and skews require special attention to fabrication dimensions – well-designed connections provide adequate clearance to insert bolts or other connectors and also provide room to grip and tighten with a wrench. Especially for sloped members, special attention is required to visualize the stresses induced as the members deflect under load – some connections will induce large perpendicular to grain stresses in this mode.
13. Bucket-style welded bracket at a “cross” junction. The top of the support beam is sometimes dapped to accommodate the thickness of the steel.

14. Face-mounted hangers are commonly used in beam to beam connections. In a “cross” junction special attention is required to fastener penetration length into the carrying beam (to avoid interference from other side).

15. Deep members may be supported by fairly shallow hangers – in this case, through-bolted with shear plates. Clip angles are used to prevent rotation of the top of the suspended beam. Note that the clip angles are not connected to the suspended beam – doing so would restrain a deep beam from its natural across-the-grain shrinking and swelling cycles and would lead to splits.

16. Concealed connections similar to detail 5. The suspended beam may be dapped on the bottom for a flush connection. The pin may be slightly narrower than the suspended beam, permitting plugging of the holes after the pin is installed. Note that the kerf in the suspended beam must accommodate not only the width of the steel plate, but also the increased width at the fillet welds.

17. Similar to detail 13, with somewhat lower load capacity.

18. Clip angle to connect crossing beam.

19. Special detail to connect the ridge purlin to sloped members or to the peak of arch members.
20A. Similar to detail 19, but with the segments of the ridge purlin set flush with the other framing.

![Image of detail 20A]

20B. Alternate to detail 20A.

![Image of detail 20B]

**Group 5. Cantilever Beam Connections**

21. Hinge connector transfers load without need to slope cut member ends. Beams are often dapped top and bottom for a flush fit.

![Image of cantilever beam connection]

**Group 7. Arch Base to Support**

*Design concepts.* Arches transmit thrust into the supporting structure. The foundation may be designed to resist this thrust or tie rods may be used. The base detail should be designed to accommodate the amount of rotation anticipated in the arch base under various loading conditions. Elastomeric bearing pads can assist somewhat in distributing stresses. As noted earlier, the connection should be designed to minimize any perpendicular to grain stresses during the deformation of the structure under load.

25. Welded shoe transmits thrust from arch to support. Note that inside edge of shoe is left open to prevent collection of moisture.

![Image of arch base to support]

**Group 6. Arch Peak Connections**

22. Steep arches connected with a rod and shear plates.

![Image of arch peak connection]
26. Arch base fastened directly to a steel tie beam in a shoe-type connection.

![Shoe-type connection](image.png)

27. Similar to detail 25. This more rigid connection is suitable for spans where arch rotation at the base is small enough to not require the rotational movement permitted in detail 25. Note that, although the shoe is “boxed” a weep slot is provided at the inside face.

![Boxed shoe connection](image.png)

28. For very long spans or other cases where large rotations must be accommodated, a true hinge connection may be required.

![True hinge connection](image.png)

29. Separate pieces of steel each provide a specific function. Top and bottom plate transfer axial force, pressure plates transfer direct thrust, and shear plates transmit shear.

![Moment splice](image.png)

**Group 8. Moment Splice**

*Design concepts.* Moment splices must transmit axial tension, axial compression, and shear. They must serve these functions in an area of the structure where structural movement may be significant – thus, they must not introduce cross-grain forces if they are to function properly.

30. Similar to detail 29. Connectors on side faces may be easier to install, but forces are higher because moment arm between steel straps is less than in detail 29.

![Side face moment splice](image.png)

**Group 9. Problem Connections**

*Hidden column base.* It is sometimes preferable architecturally to conceal the connection at the base of the column. In any case it is crucial to detail this connection to minimize decay potential.
31A. Similar to detail 11, but with floor slab poured over the top of the connection. **THIS WILL CAUSE DECAY AND IS NOT A RECOMMENDED DETAIL!**

31B. Alternate to detail 31A.

*Full-depth side plates.* It is sometimes easier to fabricate connections for deep beams from large steel plates rather than having to keep track of more pieces. Lack of attention to wood’s dimensional changes as it “breathes” may lead to splits.

32A. Full-depth side plates may appear to be a good connection option. Unfortunately, the side plates will remain fastened while the wood shrinks over the first heating season. Since it is restrained by the side plates, the beam may split. **THIS DETAIL IS NOT RECOMMENDED!**

32B. As an alternative to detail 32A, smaller plates will transmit forces, but they do not restrain the wood from its natural movements.

33A. Notching a beam at its bearing may cause splits. **THIS DETAIL IS NOT RECOMMENDED!**

33B. Alternate to detail 33A.

*Notched beam bearing.* Depth limitations sometimes cause detailing difficulties at the beam supports. A simple solution is to notch the beam at the bearing. This induces large tension perpendicular to grain stresses and leads to splitting of the beam at the root of the notch.
34A. This sloped bearing with a beam that is not fully supported may also split under load. THIS DETAIL IS NOT RECOMMENDED!

34B. Alternate to detail 34A.

35B. As an alternative to detail 35A, the plates may be extended and the connection made to the upper half of the beam.

**Hanger to side of beam.** See full-depth side plates discussion.

36A. Deep beam hangers that have fasteners installed in the side plates toward the top of the supported beam may promote splits at the fastener group should the wood member shrink and lift from the bottom of the beam hanger because of the support provided by the fastener group. THIS DETAIL IS NOT RECOMMENDED!

36B. Alternate to detail 36A.

*Hanging to underside of beam.* Sometimes it is advantageous to hang a load from the underside of a beam. This is acceptable as long as the hanger is fastened to the upper half of the beam. Fastening to the lower half of the beam may induce splits.

35A. Connecting a hanger to the lower half of a beam that pulls downward may cause splits. THIS DETAIL IS NOT RECOMMENDED!
M11.5 Pre-Engineered Metal Connectors

Product Information

Pre-engineered metal connectors for wood construction are commonly used in all types of wood construction. There are numerous reasons for their widespread use. Connectors often make wood members easier and faster to install. They increase the safety of wood construction, not only from normal loads, but also from natural disasters such as earthquakes and high winds. Connectors make wood structures easier to design by providing simpler connections of known load capacity. They also allow for the use of more cost-effective engineered wood members by providing the higher capacity connections often required by the use of such members. In certain locations, model building codes specifically require connectors or hangers.

Metal connectors are usually manufactured by stamping sheets or strips of steel, although some heavy hangers are welded together. Different thicknesses and grades of steel are used, depending on the required capacity of the connector.

Some metal connectors are produced as proprietary products which are covered by evaluation reports. Such reports should be consulted for current design information, while the manufacturer’s literature can be consulted for additional design information and detailed installation instructions.

Common Uses

Pre-engineered metal connectors for wood construction are used throughout the world. Connectors are used to resist vertical dead, live, and snow loads; uplift loads from wind; and lateral loads from ground motion or wind. Almost any type of wood member may be fastened to another using a connector. Connectors may also be used to fasten wood to other materials, such as concrete, masonry, or steel.

Availability

Connectors are manufactured in varying load capacities, sizes, and configurations to fit a wide range of applications. A variety of connectors are widely available through lumber suppliers.

Because of the wide variety of available connectors, a generic design document such as this must be limited in its scope for simplicity’s sake. Design values for specific connectors are available from the connector manufacturer.
**Types of Connectors**

There are many different types of connectors, due to the many different applications in which connectors may be used. The following sections list the most common types of connectors.

**Face Mount Joist Hangers**

Face mount joist hangers install on the face of the supporting member, and rely on the shear capacity of the nails to provide holding power. Although referred to as joist hangers, these connectors may support other horizontal members subject to vertical loads, such as beams or purlins.

* Joists shall be provided with lateral support at points of bearing to prevent rotation. Sometimes this restraint can be provided by the hangers.

**Top Flange Joist Hangers**

Top flange joist, beam, and purlin hangers rely on bearing of the top flange onto the top of the supporting member, along with the shear capacity of any fasteners that are present in the face. Although referred to as joist hangers, these connectors may support other horizontal members subject to vertical loads, such as beams or purlins.
Adjustable Style Hanger
Adjustable style joist and truss hangers have straps which can be either fastened to the face of a supporting member, similar to a face mount hanger, or wrapped over the top of a supporting member, similar to a top flange hanger.

Seismic and Hurricane Ties
Seismic and hurricane ties are typically used to connect two members that are oriented 90° from each other. These ties resist forces through the shear capacity of the nails in the members. These connectors may provide resistance in three dimensions.

Flat Straps
Flat straps rely on the shear capacity of the nails in the wood members to transfer load.

Hold Downs and Tension Ties
Hold downs and tension ties usually bolt to concrete or masonry, and connect wood members to the concrete or masonry through the shear resistance of either nails, screws, or bolts. They may also be used to connect two wood members together.
Embedded Type Anchors

Embedded anchors connect a wood member to concrete or masonry. One end of the connector embeds in the concrete or masonry, and the other end connects to the wood through the shear resistance of the nails or bolts.

- type of fasteners to be used
- corrosion resistance desired
- appearance desired

Once the listed information is known, proper selection is facilitated through the use of manufacturer’s literature, code evaluation reports, and software available from connector manufacturers.

This Manual provides guidance for specifying pre-engineered metal connectors to satisfy specific design criteria for a given application.

Connection Details

Connections, including pre-engineered metal connections, must provide the structural strength necessary to transfer loads. Well-designed connections hold wood members in such a manner that shrinkage/swelling cycles do not induce splitting across the grain. Well-designed connections also minimize collection of moisture – providing adequate clearance for air movement to keep the wood dry. Finally, well-designed connections minimize the potential for tension perpendicular to grain stresses – either under design conditions or under unusual loading conditions. Section M10.4 contains general concepts of well-designed connections, including over 40 details showing acceptable and unacceptable practice.

Other Considerations

With proper selection and installation, structural connectors will perform as they were designed. However, proper selection and installation involves a variety of items that both the designer and the installer must consider including the general topics of: the wood members being connected; the fasteners used; and the connectors themselves. These items are discussed in the following sections. This Manual does not purport to address these topics in an all-inclusive manner – it is merely an attempt to alert designers to the importance of selection and installation details for achieving the published capacity of the connector.

Wood Members

The wood members being connected have an impact on the capacity of the connection. The following are important items regarding the wood members themselves:

- The species of wood must be the same as that for which the connector was rated by the manufacturer. Manufacturers test and publish allowable design values only for certain species of wood. For other species, consult with the connector manufacturer.

Product Selection

Proper choice of connectors is required to optimize performance and economics. The selection of a connector will depend on several variables. These include the following:

- capacity required
- size and type of members being connected
- species of wood being connected
- slope and/or skew of member
- connector type preference
• The wood must not split when the fastener is installed. A fastener that splits the wood will not take the design load. If wood tends to split, consider pre-boring holes using a diameter not exceeding 3/4 of the nail diameter. Pre-boring requirements for screws and bolts are provided in the NDS.
• Wood can shrink and expand as it loses and gains moisture. Most connectors are manufactured to fit common dry lumber dimensions. Other dimensions may be available from the manufacturer.
• Where built-up lumber (multiple members) is installed in a connector, the members must be fastened together prior to installation of the connector so that the members act as a single unit.
• The dimensions of the supporting member must be sufficient to receive the specified fasteners. Most connectors are rated based on full penetration of all specified fasteners. Refer to the connector manufacturer for other situations.
• Bearing capacity of the joist or beam should also be evaluated to ensure adequate capacity.

Fasteners
Most wood connectors rely on the fasteners to transfer the load from one member to the other. Therefore, the choice and installation of the fasteners is critical to the performance of the connector.

The following are important items regarding the fasteners used in the connector:

• All fasteners specified by the manufacturer must be installed to achieve the published value.
• The size of fastener specified by the manufacturer must be installed. Most manufacturers specify common nails, unless otherwise noted.
• The fastener must have at least the same corrosion resistance as the connector.
• Bolts must generally be structural quality bolts, equal to or better than ANSI/ASME Standard B18.2.1.
• Bolt holes must be a minimum of 1/32" and a maximum of 1/16" larger than the bolt diameter.
• Fasteners must be installed prior to loading the connection.
• Power-driven fasteners may deflect and injure the operator or others. Nail tools may be used to install connectors, provided the correct quantity and type of nails are properly installed in the manufacturer’s nail holes. Nail tools with nail hole-locating mechanisms should be used. Follow the nail tool manufacturer’s instructions and use the appropriate safety equipment.

Connectors
Finally, the condition of the connector itself is critical to how it will perform. The following are important items regarding the connector itself:

• Connectors may not be modified in the field unless noted by the manufacturer. Bending steel in the field may cause fractures at the bend line, and fractured steel will not carry the rated load.
• Modified connectors may be available from the manufacturer. Not all modifications are tested by all manufacturers. Contact the manufacturer to verify loads on modified connectors.
• In general, all holes in connectors should be filled with the nails specified by the manufacturer. Contact the manufacturer regarding optional nail holes and optional loads.
• Different environments can cause corrosion of steel connectors. Always evaluate the environment where the connector will be installed. Connectors are available with differing corrosion resistances. Contact the manufacturer for availability. Fasteners must be at least the same corrosion resistance as that chosen for the connector.
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M12: DOWEL-TYPE FASTENERS

AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL

M12.1 General

This Chapter covers design of connections between wood members using metal dowel-type (nails, bolts, lag screws, wood screws, drift pins) fasteners. These connectors rely on metal-to-wood bearing for transfer of lateral loads and on friction or mechanical interfaces for transfer of axial (withdrawal) loads. They are commonly available in a wide range of diameters and lengths.

M12.2 Reference Withdrawal Design Values

The basic design equation for dowel-type fasteners under withdrawal loads is:

\[ W'p \geq Rw \]

where:
- \( W' \) = adjusted withdrawal design value
- \( Rw \) = axial (withdrawal) force
- \( p \) = depth of fastener penetration into wood member

Reference withdrawal design values are tabulated in NDS Chapter 12.

M12.3 Reference Lateral Design Values

The basic equation for design of dowel-type fasteners under lateral load is:

\[ Z' \geq R_z \]

where:
- \( Z' \) = adjusted lateral design value
- \( R_z \) = lateral force

Reference lateral design values are tabulated in NDS Chapter 12.

M12.4 Combined Lateral and Withdrawal Loads

Lag screws, wood screws, nails, and spikes resisting combined lateral and withdrawal loads shall be designed in accordance with NDS 12.4.
M12.5 Adjustment of Reference Design Values

Dowel-type connections must be designed by applying all applicable adjustment factors to the reference withdrawal design value or reference lateral design value for the connection. NDS Table 11.3-1 lists all applicable adjustment factors for dowel-type connectors. Table M12.3-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for dowel-type fasteners in a slightly different format for the designer.

Table M12.3-1 Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Dowel-Type Fasteners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Stress Design</th>
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<td>Dowel-Type Fasteners</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal Loads</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nails, Spikes, Lag Screws, Wood Screws, and Drift Pins</td>
<td>$W' = W C_D C_M C_1 C_{eg} C_{in}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. See NDS Table 11.3.1 footnotes for additional guidance on application of adjustment factors for dowel-type fasteners.

Example of a Dowel-Type Fastener Loaded Laterally

For a single dowel-type fastener installed in side grain perpendicular to the length of the wood member, meeting the end and edge distance and spacing requirements of NDS 12.5.1, used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 11.3), and not a nail or spike in diaphragm construction, the general equation for $Z'$ reduces to:

for ASD:

$$Z' = Z C_D$$

for LRFD:

$$Z' = Z (3.32)(0.65) \lambda$$

Example of a Dowel-Type Fastener Loaded in Withdrawal

For a single dowel-type fastener installed in side grain perpendicular to the length of the wood member, used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of NDS 2.3 and 11.3), the general equation for $W'$ reduces to:

for ASD:

$$W' = W C_D$$

for LRFD:

$$W' = W (3.32)(0.65) \lambda$$

Installation Requirements

To achieve stated design values, connectors must comply with installation requirements such as spacing of connectors, minimum edge and end distances, proper drilling of lead holes, and minimum fastener penetration.

M12.6 Multiple Fasteners

Local stresses in connections using multiple fasteners can be evaluated in accordance with NDS Appendix E.
M13: SPLIT RING AND SHEAR PLATE CONNECTORS

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**M13.1 General**

This Chapter covers design for split rings and shear plates. These connectors rely on their geometry to provide larger metal-to-wood bearing areas per connector. Both are installed into precut grooves or daps in the members.

**M13.2 Reference Design Values**

Reference lateral design values \((P, Q)\) are tabulated in the split ring and shear plate tables in *NDS* 13.2.

**Design Adjustment Factors**

Split ring and shear plate connections must be designed by applying all applicable adjustment factors to the reference lateral design value for the connection. *NDS* Table 11.3.1 provides all applicable adjustment factors for split ring and shear plate connectors. Table M13.2-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for dowel-type fasteners in a slightly different format for the designer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table M13.2-1 Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Split Ring and Shear Plate Connectors¹</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Ring and Shear Plate Connectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹. See *NDS* Table 11.3.1 footnotes for additional guidance on application of adjustment factors for split ring and shear plate connectors.

For a single split ring or shear plate connection installed in side grain perpendicular to the length of the wood members, meeting the end and edge distance and spacing requirements of *NDS* 13.3, used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of *NDS* 2.3 and 11.3), and meeting the penetration requirements of *NDS* 13.2.3, the general equations for \(P'\) and \(Q'\) reduce to:

**for ASD:**

\[ P' = P C_D \]
\[ Q' = Q C_D \]

**for LRFD:**

\[ P' = P (3.32)(0.65)\lambda \]
\[ Q' = Q (3.32)(0.65)\lambda \]

**M13.3 Placement of Split Ring and Shear Plate Connectors**

**Installation Requirements**

To achieve stated design values, connectors must comply with installation requirements such as spacing of connectors, minimum edge and end distances, proper dapping and grooving, drilling of lead holes, and minimum fastener penetration as specified in *NDS* 13.3.
M14: TIMBER RIVETS

M14.1 General 88
M14.2 Reference Design Values 88
M14.3 Placement of Timber Rivets 88
**M14.1 General**

This Chapter covers design for timber rivets. Timber rivets are hardened steel nails that are driven through pre-drilled holes in steel side plates (typically 1/4" thickness) to form an integrated connection where the plate and rivets work together to transfer load to the wood member.

**M14.2 Reference Design Values**

Reference wood capacity design values parallel to grain, $P_w$, are tabulated in the timber rivet Tables 14.2.1A through 14.2.1F in the *NDS*.

Reference design values perpendicular to grain are calculated per *NDS* 14.2.2.

**Design Adjustment Factors**

Connections must be designed by applying all applicable adjustment factors to the reference lateral design value for the connection. *NDS* Table 11.3-1 lists all applicable adjustment factors for timber rivets. Table M14.2-1 shows the applicability of adjustment factors for timber rivets in a slightly different format for the designer.

| Table M14.2-1  Applicability of Adjustment Factors for Timber Rivets¹ |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Allowable Stress Design | Load and Resistance Factor Design |
| $P' = P \ C_D \ C_M \ C_t \ C_{st}$ | $P' = P \ C_M \ C_t \ C_{st} \ (3.32)(0.65) \ \lambda$ |
| $Q' = Q \ C_D \ C_M \ C_t \ C_A \ C_{st}$ | $Q' = Q \ C_M \ C_t \ C_A \ C_{st} \ (3.32)(0.65) \ \lambda$ |

¹. See *NDS* Table 11.3.1 footnotes for additional guidance on application of adjustment factors for timber rivets.

For a timber rivet connection installed in side grain perpendicular to the length of the wood members, with metal side plates 1/4" or greater, used in a normal building environment (meeting the reference conditions of *NDS* 2.3 and 11.3), and where wood capacity perpendicular to grain, $Q_w$, does not control, the general equations for $P'$ and $Q'$ reduce to:

for ASD:

\[
P' = P \ C_D \\
Q' = Q \ C_D
\]

for LRFD:

\[
P' = P (3.32)(0.65) \ \lambda \\
Q' = Q (3.32)(0.65) \ \lambda
\]

**M14.3 Placement of Timber Rivets**

**Installation Requirements**

To achieve stated design values, connectors must comply with installation requirements such as spacing of connectors, minimum edge and end distances per *NDS* 14.3; and drilling of lead holes, minimum fastener penetration, and other fabrication requirements per *NDS* 14.1.2.
M15: SPECIAL LOADING CONDITIONS

M15.1 Lateral Distribution of Concentrated Loads

M15.1.1 Lateral Distribution of a Concentrated Load for Moment

M15.1.2 Lateral Distribution of a Concentrated Load for Shear

M15.2 Spaced Columns

M15.3 Built-Up Columns

M15.4 Wood Columns with Side Loads and Eccentricity
M15.1 Lateral Distribution of Concentrated Loads

M15.1.1 Lateral Distribution of a Concentrated Load for Moment

The lateral distribution factors for moment in NDS Table 15.1.1 are keyed to the nominal thickness of the flooring or decking involved (2” to 6” thick). Spacing of the stringers or beams is based on recommendations of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Lateral distribution factors determined in accordance with NDS Table 15.1.1 can be used for any type of fixed or moving concentrated load.

M15.1.2 Lateral Distribution of a Concentrated Load for Shear

The lateral distribution factors for shear in NDS Table 15.1.2 relate the lateral distribution of concentrated load at the center of the beam or stringer span as determined under NDS 15.1.1, or by other means, to the distribution of load at the quarter points of the span. The quarter points are considered to be near the points of maximum shear in the stringers for timber bridge design.

M15.2 Spaced Columns

As used in the NDS, spaced columns refer to two or more individual members oriented with their longitudinal axis parallel, separated at the ends and in the middle portion of their length by blocking and joined at the ends by split ring or shear plate connectors capable of developing required shear resistance.

The end fixity developed by the connectors and end blocks increases the load-carrying capacity in compression parallel to grain of the individual members only in the direction perpendicular to their wide faces.

AWC’s Wood Structural Design Data (WSDD) provides load tables for spaced columns.

M15.3 Built-Up Columns

As with spaced columns, built-up columns obtain their efficiency by increasing the buckling resistance of individual laminations. The closer the laminations of a mechanically fastened built-up column deform together (the smaller the amount of slip occurring between laminations) under compressive load, the greater the relative capacity of that column compared to a simple solid column of the same slenderness ratio made with the same quality of material.

M15.4 Wood Columns with Side Loads and Eccentricity

The eccentric load design provisions of NDS 15.4.1 are not generally applied to columns supporting beam loads where the end of the beam bears on the entire cross section of the column. It is standard practice to consider such loads to be concentrically applied to the supporting column. This practice reflects the fact that the end fixity provided by the end of the column is ignored when the usual pinned end condition is assumed in column design.

In applications where the end of the beam does not bear on the full cross section of the supporting column, or in special critical loading cases, use of the eccentric column loading provisions of NDS 15.4.1 may be considered appropriate by the designer.
M16: FIRE DESIGN

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   Structural Glued Laminated Timber 94
   Poles and Piles 95
   Structural Composite Lumber 95
   Wood I-Joists 96
   Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses 96
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M16.2 Design Procedures for Exposed Wood Members 100

M16.3 Wood Connections 101
M16.1 General

This Chapter outlines fire considerations including design requirements and fire-rated assemblies for various wood products. Lumber, glued laminated timber, poles and piles, wood I-joists, structural composite lumber, metal plate connected wood trusses, and cross-laminated timber are discussed.

Planning

As a first step, the authority having jurisdiction where a proposed building is to be constructed must be consulted for the requirements of the specific design project. This normally concerns the type of construction desired as well as allowable building areas and heights for each construction type.

Wood building construction is generally classified into types such as wood frame (Type V), noncombustible or fire-retardant-treated wood wall-wood joist (Type III), and heavy timber (Type IV). Type V construction is defined as having exterior walls, bearing walls, partitions, floors and roofs of wood stud and joist framing of 2" nominal dimension. These are divided into two subclasses that are either protected or unprotected.

Type III construction has exterior walls of noncombustible materials and roofs, floors, and interior partitions of wood frame. As in Type V construction, these are divided into two subclasses that are either protected or unprotected.

Type IV construction includes exterior walls of noncombustible materials or fire-retardant-treated wood and columns, floors, roofs, and interior partitions of wood of a minimum size, as shown in Tables M16.1-1 and M16.1-2.

In addition to having protected and unprotected subclasses for each building type, increases in floor area and height of the building are allowed when active fire protection, such as sprinkler protection systems, are included. For example, protected wood-frame business occupancies can be increased from three to four stories in height because of the presence of sprinklers. Also, the floor area may be further increased under some conditions. Additional information is available at www.awc.org.

Table M16.1-1 Heavy Timber Size Equalivalencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Nominal Solid Sawn Size</th>
<th>Minimum Glued Laminated Timber Net Size</th>
<th>Minimum Structural Composite Lumber Net Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Width, inch</td>
<td>Depth, inch</td>
<td>Width, inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6-3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth, inch</td>
<td>Width, inch</td>
<td>Depth, inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6-1/4</td>
<td>10-1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10-1/2</td>
<td>8-1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8-1/4</td>
<td>8-1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6-7/8</td>
<td>3-1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Width, inch</td>
<td>Depth, inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7-1/2</td>
<td>9-1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>7-1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-1/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table M16.1-2 Minimum Sizes to Qualify as Heavy Timber Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Minimum Size (all sizes nominal unless noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roof Decking</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sawn or glued laminated lumber planks, splined or T&amp;G</td>
<td>2 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Structural-use panels</td>
<td>1-1/8 in. thickness(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Planks set on edge close together</td>
<td>3 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cross-laminated timber</td>
<td>3 in. thickness (actual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Floor Decking</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sawn or glued laminated lumber planks, splined or T&amp;G, and topped with</td>
<td>3 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tongue-and-groove flooring, or</td>
<td>1 in. thickness(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wood Structural panel, or</td>
<td>15/32 in. thickness(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Particleboard</td>
<td>1/2 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Planks set on edge close together, and topped with</td>
<td>4 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Flooring, or</td>
<td>1 in. thickness(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wood Structural panel, or</td>
<td>15/32 in. thickness(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Particleboard</td>
<td>1/2 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cross-laminated timber</td>
<td>4 in. thickness (actual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roof Framing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wood-frame or glued laminated arches from the floor line or grade not supporting floors</td>
<td>6 in. width by 8 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lower half of the height</td>
<td>6 in. width by 6 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Upper half of the height</td>
<td>4 in. width by 6 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wood-frame or glued laminated arches from the top of walls, not supporting floors</td>
<td>4 in. width by 6 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Framed timber trusses and other roof framing</td>
<td>3 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spaced members shall be permitted to be composed of two or more pieces where</td>
<td>2 in, thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Blocked solidly throughout the intervening spaces</td>
<td>2 in, thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Spaces are tightly closed by a continuous wood cover plate secured to the underside of the members</td>
<td>3 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Splice plates</td>
<td>3 in. width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Roof framing members protected by approved automatic sprinklers under the roof deck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Floor Framing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sawn or glued-laminated beams and girders</td>
<td>6 in. width by 10 in. depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wood-frame or glulam arches from the floor line or grade supporting floors</td>
<td>8 in. width by 8 in. depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Framed timber trusses</td>
<td>8 in. width by 8 in. depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Columns</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sawn or glued-laminated beams and girders</td>
<td>8 in. width by 8 in. depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Supporting floor loads</td>
<td>6 in. width by 8 in. depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Supporting only roof and ceiling loads</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exterior Walls</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cross-laminated timber with fire-resistance rating up to 2 hours and covered with</td>
<td>6 in. total wall thickness (actual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fire-retardant-treated wood sheathing, or</td>
<td>15/32 in. thickness(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Gypsum board</td>
<td>1/2 in. thickness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Performance Category value for wood structural panels produced in accordance with PS 1 or PS 2.
Lumber

Building Code Requirements

For occupancies such as stores, apartments, offices, and other commercial and industrial uses, building codes commonly require floor/ceiling and wall assemblies to be fire-resistance rated in accordance with standard fire tests.

Depending on the application, wall assemblies may need to be rated either from one side or both sides. For specific exterior wall applications, the International Building Code (IBC) allows wood-frame, wood-sided walls to be tested for exposure to fire from the inside only. Rating for both interior and exterior exposure is only required when the wall has a fire separation distance of less than 5 feet. Code recognition of 1- and 2-hour wood-frame wall systems is also predicated on successful fire and hose stream testing in accordance with ASTM E119, Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction Materials.

Fire Tested Assemblies

Fire-rated wood-frame assemblies can be found in a number of sources including the IBC, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Fire Resistance Directory, Intertek Testing Services’ Directory of Listed Products, and the Gypsum Association’s Fire Resistance Design Manual. The American Wood Council (AWC) and its members have tested a number of wood-frame fire-rated assemblies. Descriptions of these successfully tested assemblies are available in AWC’s Design for Code Acceptance (DCA) No. 3, Fire Rated Wood Floor and Wall Assemblies which is available at www.awc.org.

Structural Glued Laminated Timber

Fires do not normally start in structural framing, but rather in the building’s contents. These fires generally reach temperatures of between 1,290°F and 1,650°F. Glued laminated timber members perform very well under these conditions. Unprotected steel members typically suffer severe buckling and twisting during fires, often collapsing catastrophically.

Wood ignites at about 480°F, but charring may begin as low as 300°F. Wood typically chars at 1/40 in. per minute. Thus, after 30 minutes of fire exposure, only the outer 3/4 in. of the structural glued laminated timber will be damaged. Char insulates a wood member and hence raises the temperature it can withstand. Most of the cross section will remain intact, and the member will continue supporting loads during a typical building fire.

It is important to note that neither building materials alone, nor building features alone, nor detection and fire extinguishing equipment alone can provide adequate safety from fire in buildings. To ensure a safe structure in the event of fire, authorities base fire and building code requirements on research and testing, as well as fire histories. The model building codes classify heavy timber as a specific type of construction and give minimum sizes for roof and floor beams.

The requirements set out for heavy timber construction in model building codes do not constitute 1-hour fire resistance. However, procedures are available to calculate the structural glued laminated timber size required for projects in which 1-hour fire resistance is required (see NDS 16.2 and AWC’s Technical Report 10 available at www.awc.org).

To achieve a 1-hour fire rating for beams whose dimensions qualify them for this rating, the basic layup must be modified—one core lamination must be removed from the center and the tension face augmented with the addition of a tension lamination. For more information concerning the effects of fire on structural glued laminated timber, refer to APA EWS Technical Note Y245 or AITC Technical Note 7. For determining fire resistance other than 1 hour, see NDS 16.2 and AWC’s Technical Report 10 available at www.awc.org.
Poles and Piles

Very few elements of modern structures can be called “fire proof.” Even in buildings where the major structural members are noncombustible, most of the furnishings are flammable. It is for this reason that much of the attention in modern building codes addresses issues related to containing and limiting fires, rather than simply calling materials combustible and noncombustible.

While this topic is fairly complex for other types of products, fire performance is relatively straightforward for poles and piles. Poles are generally used in cross-sectional sizes that qualify as heavy timber construction in the model building codes. On this basis, timber poles compare favorably with other construction materials in their performance under fire conditions. Piles are generally not exposed to fire conditions unless they extend substantially above the groundline.

Structural Composite Lumber

Engineered wood products have fire resistive characteristics very similar to conventional wood frame members. Since many engineered wood products are proprietary, they are usually recognized in a code evaluation report published by an evaluation service. Each evaluation report usually contains fire resistance information.

Very few elements of modern structures can be called “fire proof.” Even in buildings where the major structural members are noncombustible, most of the furnishings are flammable. It is for this reason that much of the attention in model building codes addresses issues related to containing and limiting fires, rather than simply calling materials combustible and noncombustible. The primary intent of the building codes is to ensure structural stability to allow exiting, evacuation, and fire fighting.

As with the previous topic of durability, this Manual cannot cover the topic of designing for optimal structural performance in fire conditions in detail. There are many excellent texts on the topic, and designers are advised to use this information early in the design process. To assist the designer in understanding several ways in which fire performance can be addressed, the following overview is provided.

Fire sprinklers are probably the most effective method to enhance fire resistance of engineered wood systems (as well as other systems). They are designed to control the fire while protecting the occupants and the building until the fire department arrives. They are the ultimate way to improve fire safety.

Heavy timber construction has proven to be acceptable in many areas where fire safety is of utmost concern. These applications have proven to be not only reliable, but economical in certain structures – many wider width SCL products can be used in heavy timber construction. Consult manufacturer’s literature or code evaluation reports for specific information.

The fire performance of wood structures can be enhanced in the same ways as that of structures of steel, concrete, or masonry:

- Fire sprinkler systems have proven to be effective in a variety of structures, both large and small
- Protection of the structural members with materials such as properly attached gypsum sheathing can provide greatly improved fire performance. Fire ratings, as established from test procedures specified in ASTM E-119, of up to 2 hours can be achieved through the use of gypsum sheathing
- Where surface burning characteristics are critical, fire-retardant treatments can be used to reduce the flamespread for some products

To reiterate, this Manual does not purport to address this topic in an all-inclusive manner – it is merely an attempt to alert designers to the need to address fire performance issues in the design of the structure.
Wood I-Joists

The wood I-joist industry has actively supported the following projects to establish fire performance of systems using wood I-joist products:

• ASTM E-119 fire tests have been conducted by the wood I-joist industry to establish fire resistance ratings for generic I-joist systems. Detailed descriptions of these systems are shown in AWC’s Design for Code Acceptance (DCA) No. 3, Fire Rated Wood Floor and Wall Assemblies available at www.awc.org.
• ASTM E-119 fire tests have been conducted by wood I-joist manufacturers to establish fire resistance ratings for proprietary I-joist systems. Detailed descriptions of these systems are available from the individual I-joist manufacturer.
• A video, I-JOISTS: FACTS ABOUT PROGRESS, has been produced by the Wood I-Joist Manufacturer’s Association (WIJMA). This video describes some basic facts about changes taking place within the construction industry and the fire service. Along with this video is a document that provides greater details on fire performance issues.
• Industry research in fire endurance modeling for I-joist systems.

Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses

Generally, a fire endurance rating of 1 hour is mandated by code for many of the applications where trusses could be used. All testing on these assemblies is performed in accordance with the ASTM’s Standard Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials (ASTM E119).

The two primary source documents for fire endurance assembly results are the Fire Resistance Design Manual, published by the Gypsum Association (GA), and the Fire Resistance Directory, published by Underwriters’ Laboratories, Inc. (UL). Warnock Hersey (WH) assemblies are now listed in the ITS Directory of Listed Products. These tested assemblies are available for specification by architects or building designers, and for use by all truss manufacturers where a rated assembly is required, and can generally be applied to both floor and roof assembly applications.

According to the UL Directory’s Design Information Section: “Ratings shown on individual designs apply to equal or greater height or thickness of the assembly, and to larger structural members, when both size and weight are equal or larger than specified, and when the thickness of the flanges, web or diameter of chords is equal or greater.” Thus, larger and deeper trusses can be used under the auspices of the same design number. This approach has often been used in roof truss applications since roof trusses are usually much deeper than the tested assemblies.

Thermal and/or acoustical considerations at times may require the installation of insulation in a floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assembly that has been tested without insulation. As a general ‘rule,’ experience indicates that it is allowable to add insulation to an assembly, provided that the depth of the truss is increased by the depth of the insulation. And as a general ‘rule,’ assemblies that were tested with insulation may have the insulation removed.

To make a rational assessment of any modification to a tested assembly, one must look at the properties of the insulation and the impact that its placement inside the assembly will have on the fire endurance performance of the assembly. Insulation retards the transfer of heat, is used to retain heat in warm places, and reduces the flow of heat into colder areas. As a result, its addition to a fire endurance assembly will affect the flow of heat through and within an assembly. One potential effect of insulation placed directly on the gypsum board is to retard the dissipation of heat through the assembly, concentrating heat in the protective gypsum board.

In some cases specific branded products are listed in the test specifications. Modifications or substitutions to fire endurance assemblies should be reviewed with the building designer and code official, preferably with the assistance of a professional engineer. This review is required because the final performance of the assembly is a result of the composite of the materials used in the construction of the assembly.

The Structural Building Components Association provides summaries of wood truss fire endurance assemblies and sound transmission ratings. For more information, visit
www.sbcindustry.com. Also, several truss plate manufacturers have developed proprietary fire resistant assemblies. These results apply only to the specific manufacturer’s truss plates and referenced fire endurance assembly system. For more detailed information on these assemblies, the individual truss plate manufacturer should be contacted. Complete specifications on the UL, GA, and WH assemblies are available on their respective websites.

**Area Separation Assemblies**

It is of great concern when fire-rated assemblies are designed and specified without consideration of sound structural principles. Should a fire develop, these structural inadequacies could cause the assemblies to fail unexpectedly, increasing the risk of loss of life. There are a number of ways to provide sound structural and fire endurance details that maintain 1-hour rated area separation assemblies.

Figure M16.1-1 shows several possible assemblies that can be used to make up the 1-hour rated system for separation between occupancies for a) floor trusses parallel to the wall assembly; and b) perpendicular to the wall assembly. A 2x4 firestop is used between the walls next to the wall top plates. This effectively prevents the spread of fire inside the wall cavity. A minimum 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard attached to one side of the floor truss system, and located between the floor trusses, also provides a draftstop and fire protection barrier between occupancy spaces if a fire starts in the floor truss concealed space, which is a rare occurrence. The tenant separation in the roof is maintained through the use of a 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard draftstop attached to the ends of one side of the monopitch trusses and provided for the full truss height. Figure M16.1-1 effectively provides 1-hour compartmentation for all the occupied spaces using listed 1-hour rated assemblies and the appropriate draftstops for the concealed spaces as prescribed by the model building codes.

If a fire-resistive assembly, rather than draftstopping, is required within concealed attic spaces, UL U338, U339, and U377, provide approved 1-hour and 2-hour rated assemblies that may be used within the roof cavity and that may be constructed with gable end frames.

The critical aspects for fire endurance assemblies include:

- Ensuring that the wall and ceiling assemblies of the room use 1-hour rated assemblies. These are independent assemblies. The wall assembly does not have to be continuous from the floor to the roof to meet the intent of the code or the fire endurance performance of the structure. The intent of the code is that the building be broken into compartments to contain a fire to a given area. Fire resistance assemblies are tested to provide code-complying fire endurance to meet the intent of the code. The foregoing details meet the intent of the code.
- Properly fastening the gypsum wallboard to the wall studs and trusses. This is critical for achieving the desired fire performance from a UL or GA assembly.
- Ensuring that the detail being used is structurally sound, particularly the bearing details. All connection details are critical to assembly performance. When a fire begins, if the structural detail is poor, the system will fail at the poor connection detail earlier than expected.
- Accommodating both sound structural details with appropriate fire endurance details. Since all conceivable field conditions have not been and cannot be tested, rational engineering judgment needs to be used.

The foregoing principles could also be applied to structures requiring 2-hour rated area separation assemblies. In this case, acceptable 2-hour wall assemblies would be used in conjunction with the 2-hour floor-ceiling and roof-ceiling fire endurance assemblies.

**Through-Penetration Fire Stops**

Because walls and floors are penetrated for a variety of plumbing, ventilation, electrical, and communication purposes, ASTM E814 Standard Method of Fire Tests of Through-Penetration Fire Stops uses fire-resistive assemblies (rated per ASTM E119) and penetrates them with cables, pipes, and ducts, etc., before subjecting the assembly to ASTM E119’s fire endurance tests.

Despite the penetrations, firestop assemblies tested according to ASTM E814 must not significantly lose their fire containment properties in order to be considered acceptable. Properties are measured according to the passage of any heat, flame, hot gases, or combustion through the fire stop to the test assembly’s unexposed surface.

Upon successful completion of fire endurance tests, fire stop systems are given F&T ratings. These ratings are expressed in hourly terms, in much the same fashion as fire-resistive barriers.

To obtain an F-Rating, a fire stop must remain in the opening during the fire and hose stream test, withstanding the fire test for a prescribed rating period without permitting the passage of flame on any element of its unexposed side. During the hose stream test, a fire stop must not develop any opening that would permit a projection of water from the stream beyond the unexposed side.

To obtain a T-Rating, a fire stop must meet the requirements of the F-Rating. In addition, the fire stop must prevent the transmission of heat during the prescribed rating period which would increase the temperature of any...
Figure M16.1-1  Cross Sections of Possible One-Hour Area Separations

1/2" GYP. BD. DRAFT STOP IN LINE WITH TENANT SEPARATION WALL

APPROVED 1-HR ROOF CEILING ASSEMBLY

2x4 FIRESTOPPING

APPROVED 1-HR FLOOR CEILING ASSEMBLY

MINIMUM 1/2" GYP. BD. DRAFTSTOP (TYP.)

2x4 FIRESTOPPING

1 1/2" AIRSPACE

2x4 FIRESTOPPING

MINIMUM 1/2" GYP. BD. DRAFTSTOP (TYP.)

APPROVED 1-HR WALL ASSEMBLY
thermocouple on its unexposed surface, or any penetrating items, by more than 325°F.

The UL Fire Resistance Directory lists literally thousands of tested systems. They have organized the systems with an alpha-alpha-numeric identification number. The first alpha is either a F, W, or C. These letters signify the type of assembly being penetrated: F signifies a floor, W signifies a wall, and C signifies a ceiling. The second alpha signifies a limiting description, for example: C signifies a framed floor, and L signifies a framed wall. The numeric portion is also significant: 0000-0999 signifies no penetrating items, 1000-1999 signifies metallic pipe, 2000-2999 signifies nonmetallic pipe, 3000-3999 signifies electrical cable, 4000-4999 signifies cable trays, 5000-5999 signifies insulated pipes, 6000-6999 signifies miscellaneous electrical penetrants, 7000-7999 signifies miscellaneous mechanical penetrants, and 8000-8999 signifies a combination of penetrants.

### Transitory Floor Vibration and Sound Transmission

#### Sound Transmission

Sound transmission ratings are closely aligned with fire endurance ratings for assemblies. This is due to the fact that flame and sound penetrations follow similar paths of least resistance.

Sound striking a wall or ceiling surface is transmitted through the air in the wall or ceiling cavity. It then strikes the opposite wall surface, causing it to vibrate and transmit the sound into the adjoining room. Sound also is transmitted through any openings into the room, such as air ducts, electrical outlets, window openings, and doors. This is airborne sound transmission. The Sound Transmission Class (STC) method of rating airborne sounds evaluates the comfort ability of a particular living space. The higher the STC, the better the airborne noise control performance of the structure. An STC of 50 or above is generally considered a good airborne noise control.

Table M16.1-3 describes the privacy afforded according to the STC rating.

Impact Sound Transmission is produced when a structural element is set into vibration by direct impact—someone walking, for example. The vibrating surface generates sound waves on both sides of the element. The Impact Insulation Class (IIC) is a method of rating the impact sound transmission performance of an assembly. The higher the IIC, the better the impact noise control of the element. An IIC of 55 is generally considered a good impact noise control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STC Rating</th>
<th>Privacy Afforded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Normal speech easily understood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Normal speech audible, but not intelligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Loud speech audible and fairly understandable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Loud speech barely audible, but not intelligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Loud speech barely audible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Shouting barely audible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Shouting inaudible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table M16.1-3 Privacy Afforded According to STC Rating
M16.2 Design Procedures for Exposed Wood Members

For members stressed in one principle direction, simplifications can be made which allow the tabulation of load factor tables for fire design. These load factor tables can be used to determine the structural design load ratio, $R_s$, at which the member has sufficient capacity for a given fire endurance time. AWC’s Technical Report 10 Calculating the Fire Resistance of Exposed Wood Members provides derivation of load ratios and load ratio tables for bending, compression, and tension members. TR10 is available at www.awc.org.
M16.3 Wood Connections

Where 1-hour fire endurance is required, connectors and fasteners must be protected from fire exposure by 1.5" of wood, fire-rated gypsum board, or any coating approved for a 1-hour rating. Typical details for commonly used fasteners and connectors in timber framing are shown in Figure M16.3-1 through Figure M16.3-5.

Figure M16.3-1 Beam to Column Connection - Connection Not Exposed to Fire

Provide lateral support for end of beam
Exposed portion of beam
2x backup nailer to box-in around beam
Gypsum board layer(s) having finish rating ≥ the required fire-resistance rating

Figure M16.3-2 Beam to Column Connection - Connection Exposed to Fire Where Appearance is a Factor

Provide lateral support for end of beam
Wood beam
Steel connection welded to steel plate cast-in top of concrete column
Apply approved fire protective coating rated for required fire-resistance rating over steel
Concrete column

Figure M16.3-3 Beam to Column Connection - Connection Exposed to Fire Where Appearance is Not a Factor

Provide lateral support for end of beam
Wood beam
Steel connection welded to steel plate cast-in top of concrete column
Apply approved fire protective coating rated for required fire-resistance rating over steel
Concrete column
Figure M16.3-4  Column Connections Covered

- Provide lateral support for end of beams
- Wood beam
- Wood column
- Standard steel connections – box-in using wood members with thickness $\geq a_{chp}/1.2$ to protect steel
- Floor

Figure M16.3-5  Beam to Girder - Concealed Connection

- Wood plug over bolt, having depth $\geq a_{chp}/1.2$
- Wood cover $\geq a_{chp}/1.2$ on bottom and sides
- Top surfaces of beam and girder protected by floor/roof (not shown)
American Wood Council

AWC Mission Statement
To increase the use of wood by assuring the broad regulatory acceptance of wood products, developing design tools and guidelines for wood construction, and influencing the development of public policies affecting the use and manufacture of wood products.