



# Fire and Structural Analysis for Mass Timber Buildings

Jessica Scarlett, Scott Breneman, and Ricky McLain

“The Wood Products Council” is a Registered Provider with The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems (AIA/CES), Provider #G516.

Credit(s) earned on completion of this course will be reported to AIA CES for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for both AIA members and non-AIA members are available upon request.

This course is registered with AIA CES for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product.

---

Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.



# Course Description

---

Traditionally, the role of the structural engineer on building projects has focused on structure-related tasks – member sizing, connection detailing, general notes, and specifications for structural components. Design criteria such as fire-resistance ratings, acoustics, and aesthetics have primarily been the architect's domain. However, when it comes to mass timber, especially tall timber buildings, the structure often contributes to the building's passive fire resistance while functioning as an exposed finish. This combination of structure, finish, and fire resistance makes the mass timber design process a necessarily collaborative effort between architect and engineer. This webinar will discuss how these topics are interrelated and will provide examples of fire and structural designs that meet 1- and 2-hour rating requirements of mid-rise and tall mass timber buildings within the IBC.

# Learning Objectives

---

1. Explain the building code requirements for fire-resistance ratings of exposed mass timber structural elements in mid-rise and tall structures.
2. Explore the options of structural char calculations vs. furnace fire testing in order to demonstrate compliance with code-mandated hourly ratings of mass timber floor, roof and wall panels.
3. Highlight changes to the 2021 and 2024 IBC which permit taller mass timber buildings, with more exposed timber surfaces.
4. Review the options of designing fire protected connections and penetrations in an exposed mass timber building.



Glue Laminated Timber (Glulam)  
Beams & columns



Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)  
Solid sawn laminations



Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)  
SCL laminations



Photo: Freres Lumber



Photo: StructureCraft



Photo: LendLease



Photo: LEVER Architecture



Dowel-Laminated Timber (DLT)



Photo: StructureCraft

Nail-Laminated Timber (NLT)



Photo: Think Wood

Glue-Laminated Timber (GLT)  
Plank orientation



Photo: StructureCraft



Photo: StructureCraft



Photo: Ema Peter



Photo: Manasc Isaac  
Architects/Fast + Epp

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Construction Type – Primarily based on building size & occupancy

	Construction Type (All Sprinklered Values)							
	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT	III-A	III-B	V-A	V-B
Occupancies	Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)							
A, B, R	270	180	85	85	85	85	70	60
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)							
A-2, A-3, A-4	18	12	6	4	4	3	3	2
B	18	12	9	6	6	4	4	3
R-2	18	12	8	5	5	5	4	3
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet <sup>2</sup> (IBC Table 506.2)							
A-2, A-3, A-4	135,000	90,000	56,250	45,000	42,000	28,500	34,500	18,000
B	324,000	216,000	135,000	108,000	85,500	57,000	54,000	27,000
R-2	184,500	123,000	76,875	61,500	72,000	48,000	36,000	21,000

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Construction Type – Primarily based on building size & occupancy

	Construction Type (All Sprinklered Values)							
	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT	III-A	III-B	V-A	V-B
Occupancies	Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)							
A, B, R	270	180	85	85	85	85	70	60
For low- to mid-rise mass timber buildings, there may be multiple options for construction type. There are pros and cons of each, don't assume that one type is always best.								
R-2	18	12	8	5	5	5	4	3
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet <sup>2</sup> (IBC Table 506.2)							
A-2, A-3, A-4	135,000	90,000	56,250	45,000	42,000	28,500	34,500	18,000
B	324,000	216,000	135,000	108,000	85,500	57,000	54,000	27,000
R-2	184,500	123,000	76,875	61,500	72,000	48,000	36,000	21,000

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Fire-Resistance Ratings

- Driven primarily by construction type
- Rating achieved through timber alone or non-com protection required?

**TABLE 601  
FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS (HOURS)**

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a, b</sup>	2 <sup>a, b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior <sup>a, f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT <sup>g</sup>	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior					See Table 705.5							
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	See Section 2304.11.2	0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	HT	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	1½ <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	1½ <sup>b</sup>	1	1	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Fire-Resistance Ratings (FRR)

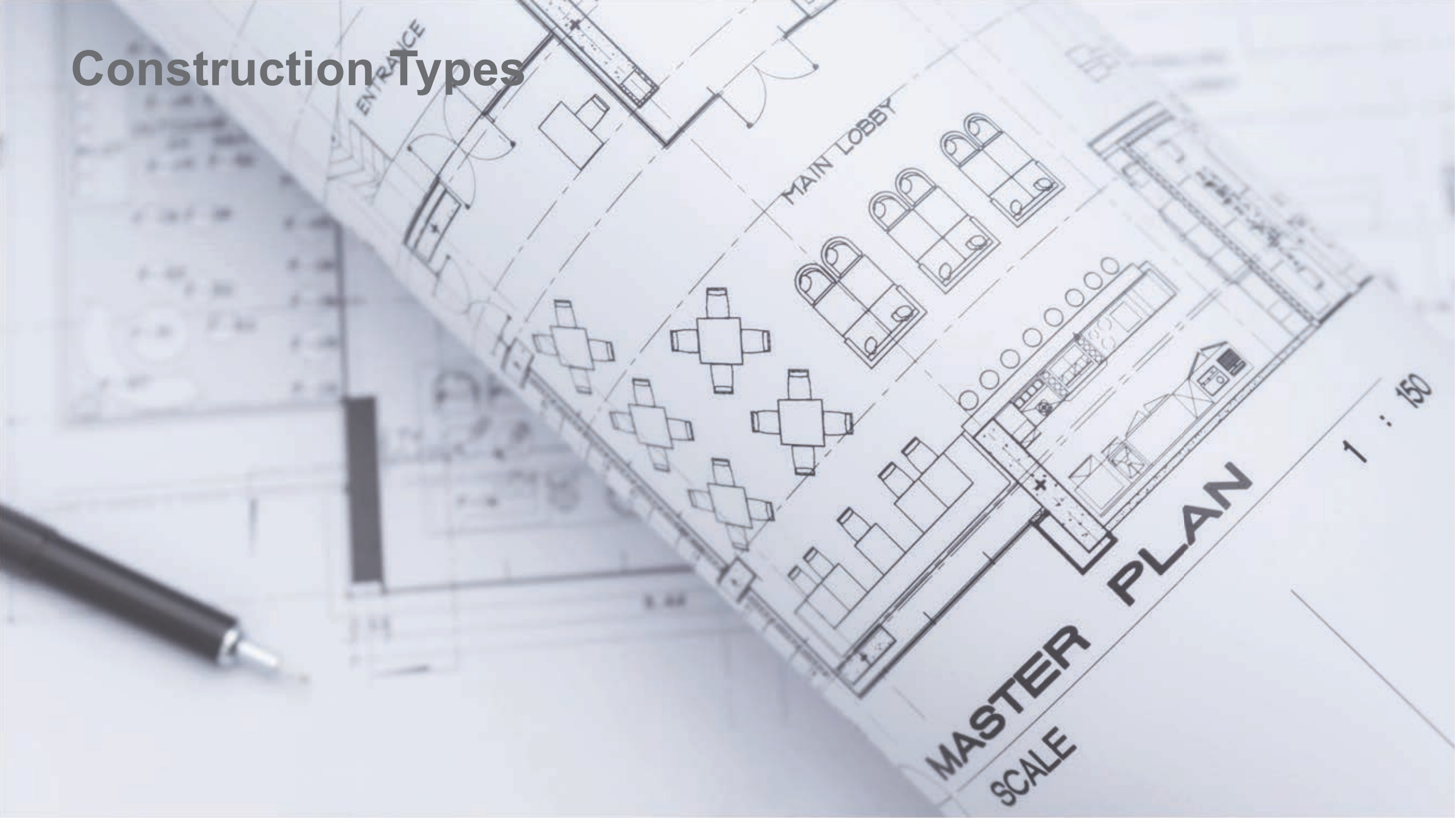
- Thinner panels (i.e. 3-ply) generally difficult to achieve a 1+ hour FRR
- 5-ply CLT / 2x6 NLT & DLT panels can usually achieve a 1- or 2-hour FRR
- Construction Type | FRR | Member Size | Grid (or re-arrange that process but follow how one impacts the others)

Panel	Example Floor Span Ranges
3-ply CLT (4-1/8" thick)	Up to 12 ft
5-ply CLT (6-7/8" thick)	14 to 17 ft
7-ply CLT (9-5/8")	17 to 21 ft
2x4 NLT	Up to 12 ft
2x6 NLT	10 to 17 ft
2x8 NLT	14 to 21 ft
5" MPP	10 to 15 ft



Credit: David Barber, ARUP

# Construction Types

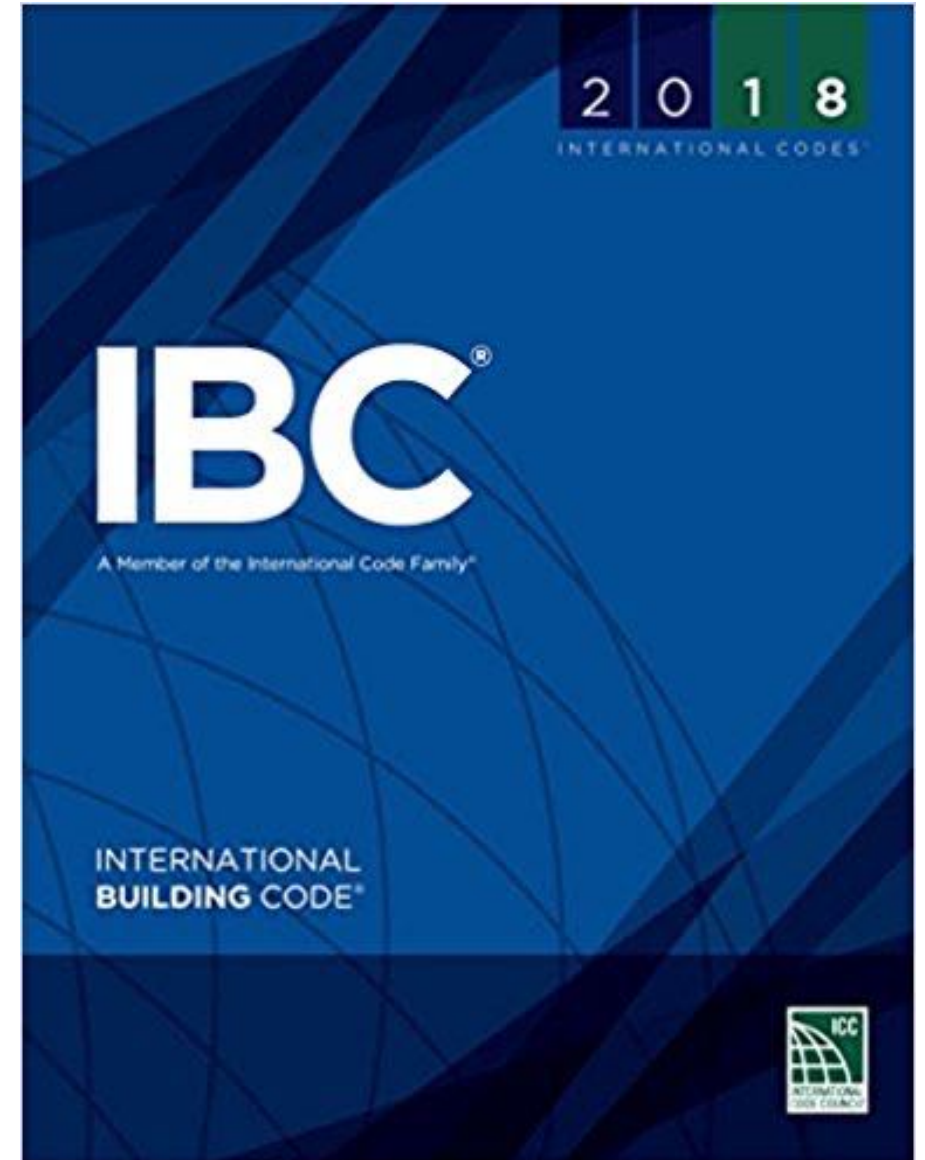


# Construction Types

**When does the code allow mass timber to be used?**

IBC defines mass timber systems in IBC Chapter 2 and notes their acceptance and manufacturing standards in IBC Chapter 23

Permitted anywhere that combustible materials and heavy timber are allowed, plus more





# Construction Types

IBC defines 5 construction types: I, II, III, IV, V  
A building must be classified as one of these

Construction Types I & II:  
All elements required to be non-combustible materials

However, there are exceptions including several for mass timber



# Construction Types

**Where does the code allow MT to be used?**

- Type IB & II: Roof Decking



Photo Credit: DeStafano & Chamberlain, Inc, Robert Benson Photography



Image: StructureCraft Builders



# Construction Types

All wood framed building options:

## **Type III**

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW)

Interior elements any allowed by code, including mass timber

## **Type V**

All building elements are any allowed by code, including mass timber

Types III and V are subdivided to A (protected) and B (unprotected)

## **Type IV (Heavy Timber)**

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW OR CLT)

Interior elements qualify as Heavy Timber (min. sizes, no concealed spaces except in 2021 IBC)

# Construction Types

**Where does the code allow MT to be used?**

- Type III: Interior elements (floors, roofs, partitions/shafts) and exterior walls if FRT

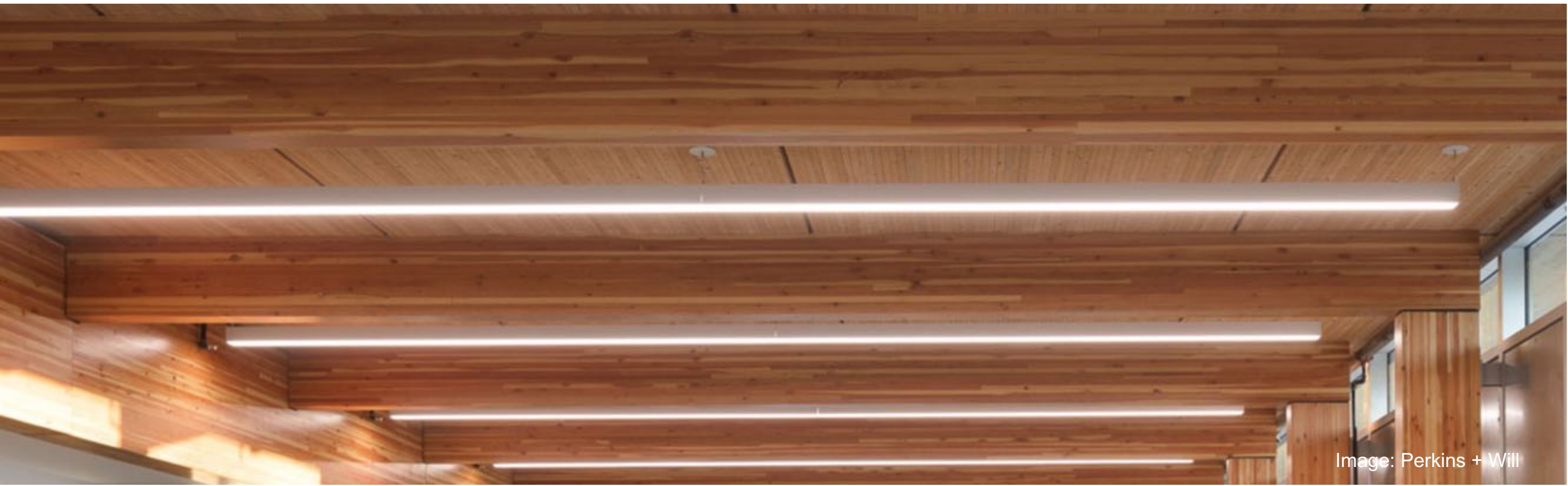




# Construction Types

## Where does the code allow MT to be used?

- Type IV: Any exposed interior elements & roofs, must meet min. sizes; exterior walls if CLT or FRT. Concealed space limitations (varies by code version)



# Construction Types

**Type IV construction permits exposed heavy/mass timber elements of min. sizes.**

Framing		Solid Sawn (nominal)	Glulam (actual)	SCL (actual)
Floor	Columns	8 x 8	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7 x 7½
	Beams	6 x 10	5 x 10½	5¼ x 9½
Roof	Columns	6 x 8	5 x 8¼	5¼ x 7½
	Beams*	4 x 6	3 X 6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	3½ X 5½

**Minimum Width by Depth in Inches**  
**See IBC 2018 2304.11 or IBC 2015 602.4 for Details**

\*3” nominal width allowed where sprinklered

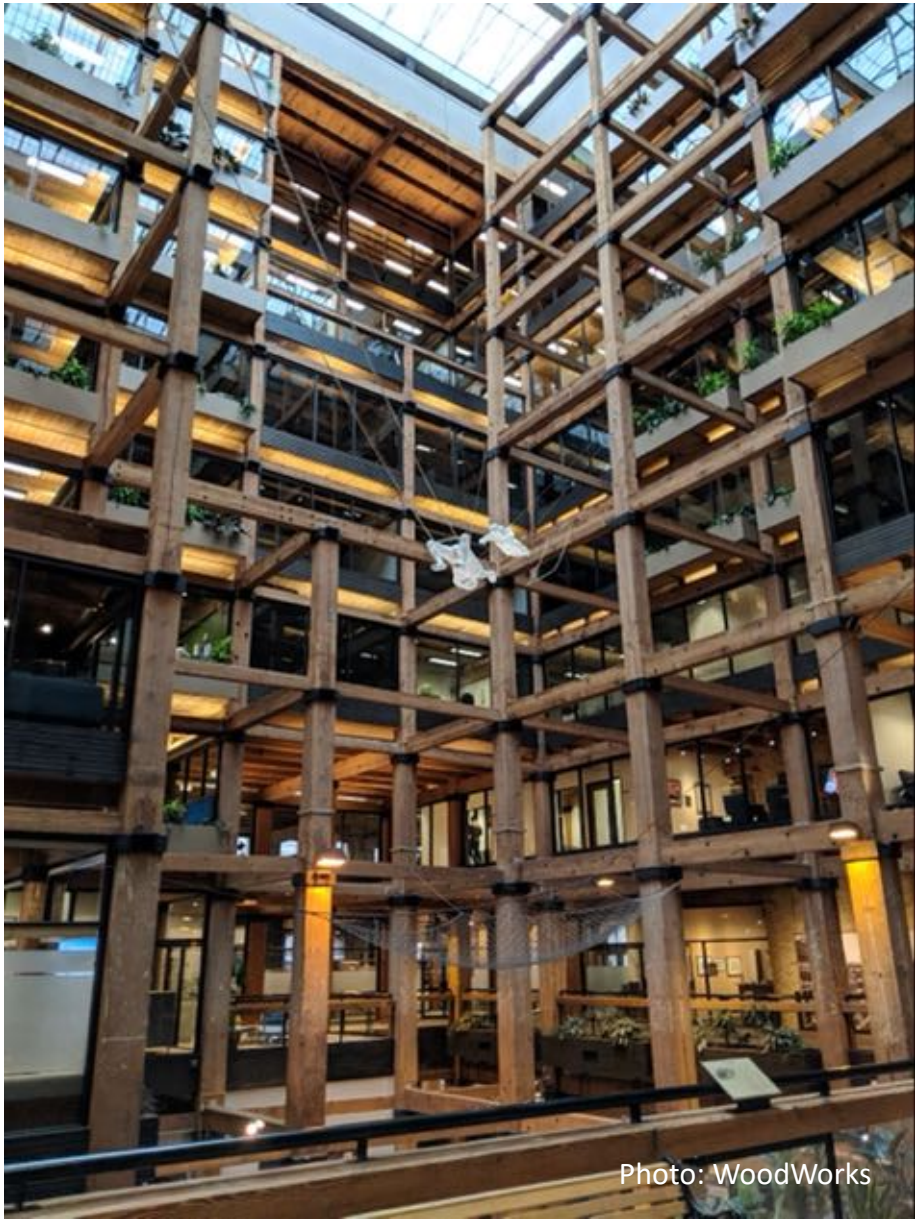


Photo: WoodWorks



# Construction Types

**Where does the code allow MT to be used?**

- Type V: All interior elements, roofs & exterior walls

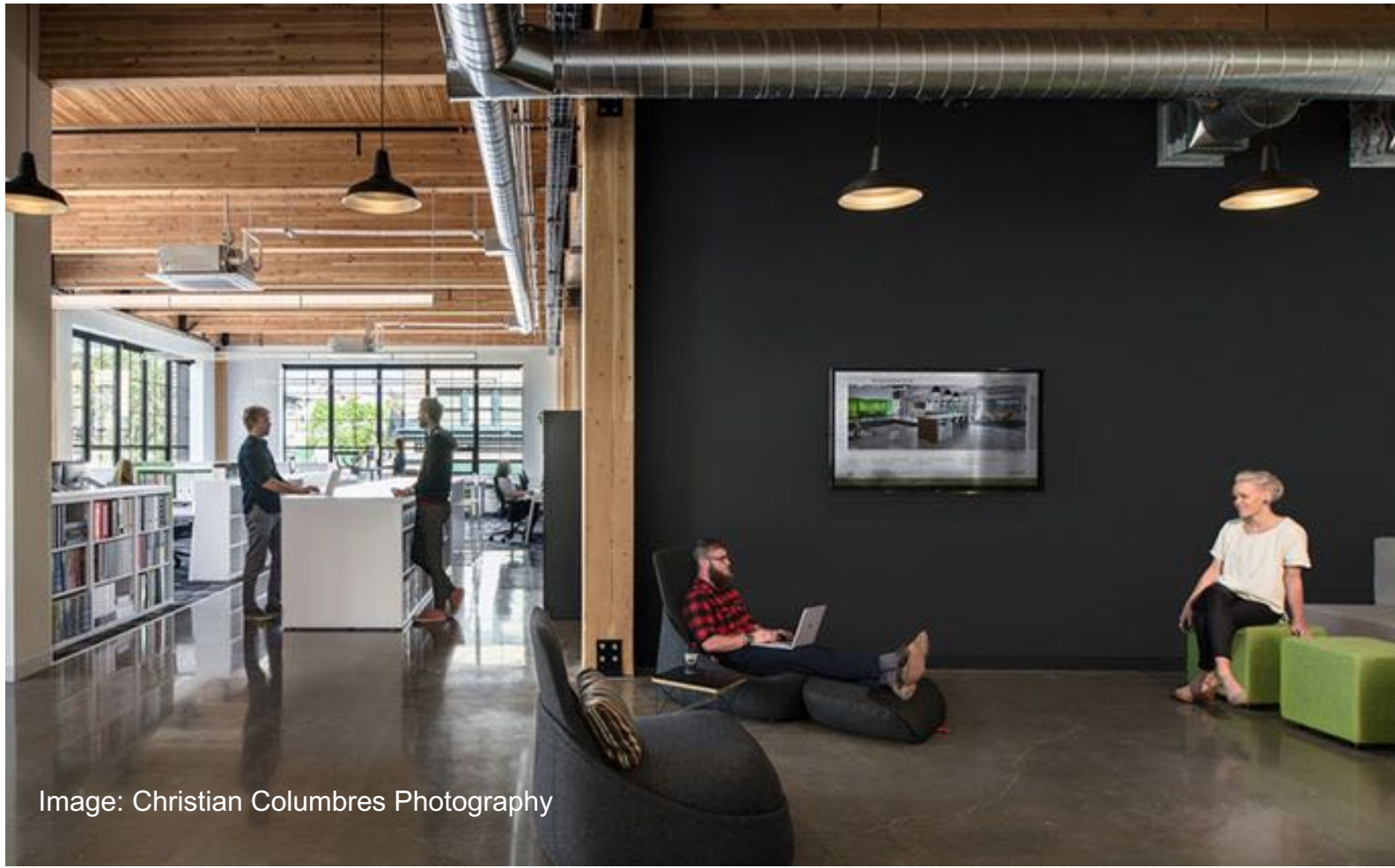


Image: Christian Columbres Photography



# Construction Types



Type III: 6 stories

Allowable mass  
timber building size  
for group B  
occupancy with  
NFPA 13 Sprinkler



Credit: Ema Peter

Type IV: 6 stories

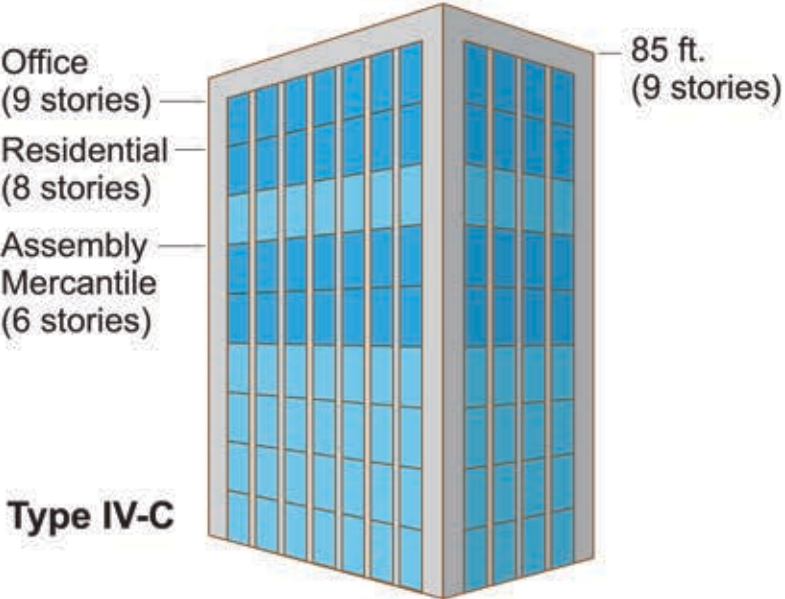
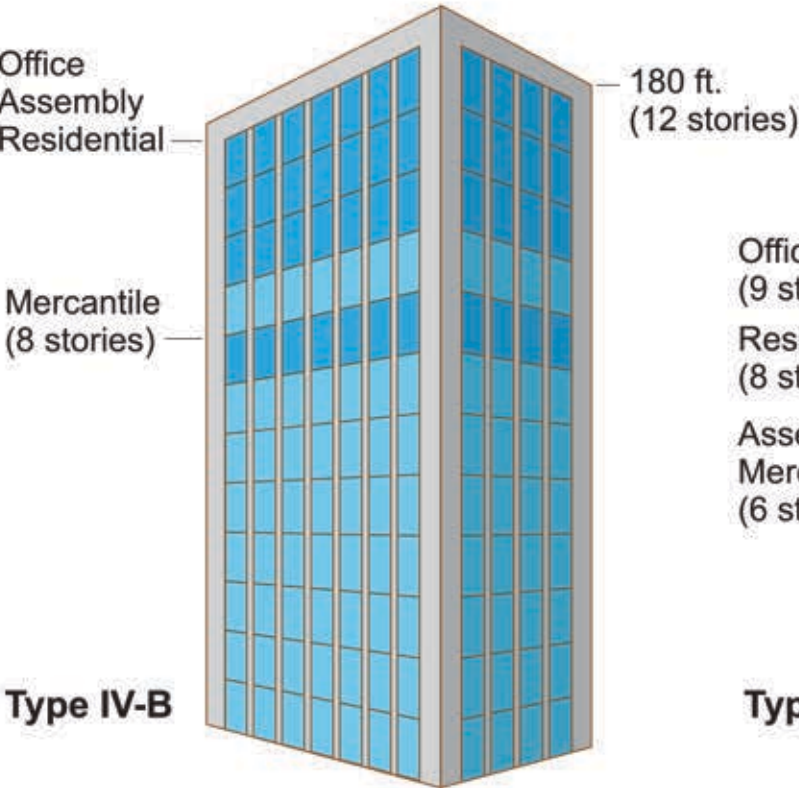
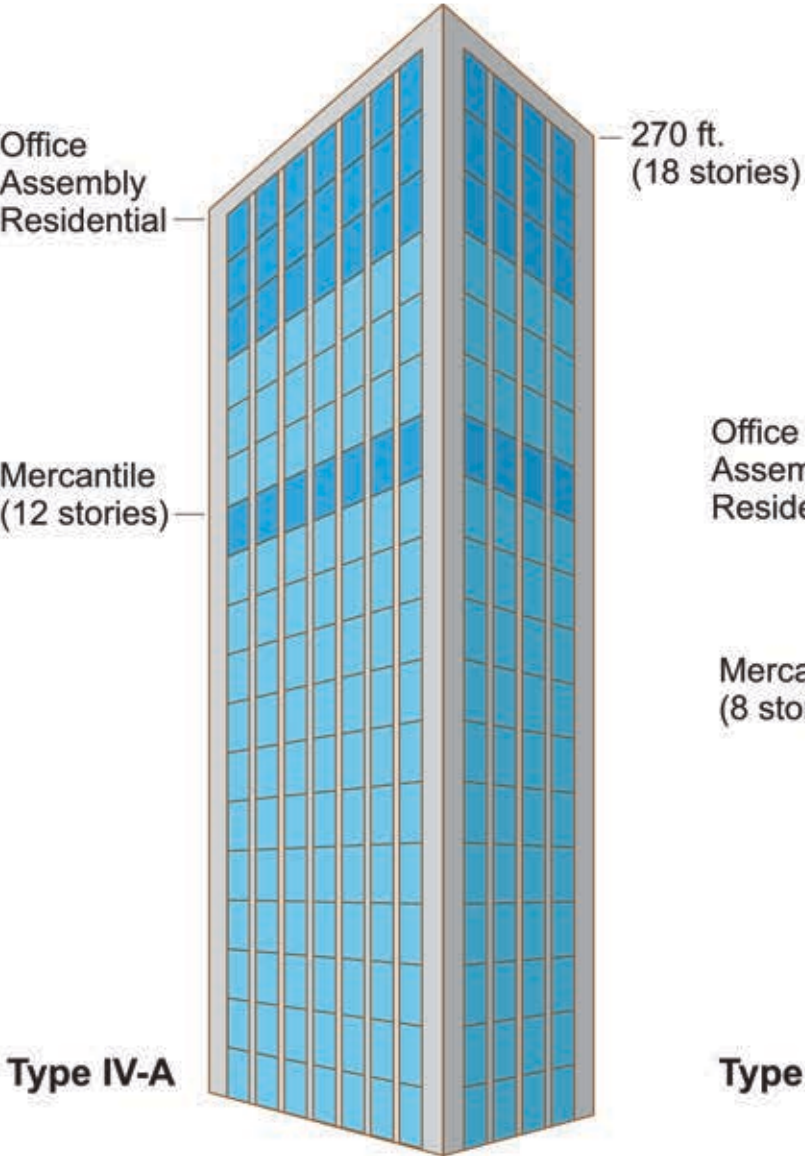


Credit: Christian Columbres Photography

Type V: 4 stories

# Construction Types

New Options in 2021 IBC  
Allowable mass timber building  
size for group B occupancy with  
NFPA 13 Sprinkler



IV-C



A photograph of a modern kitchen interior. The ceiling is made of horizontal wooden planks, and the walls are also finished with wood. A white ceiling fan is mounted on the ceiling. The kitchen features white cabinetry, a stainless steel refrigerator, a black oven, and a white countertop with a sink and faucet. A small potted plant sits on the counter. In the foreground, a white dining table and chairs are visible. A semi-transparent grey bar with text is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

**All timber surfaces may be exposed**



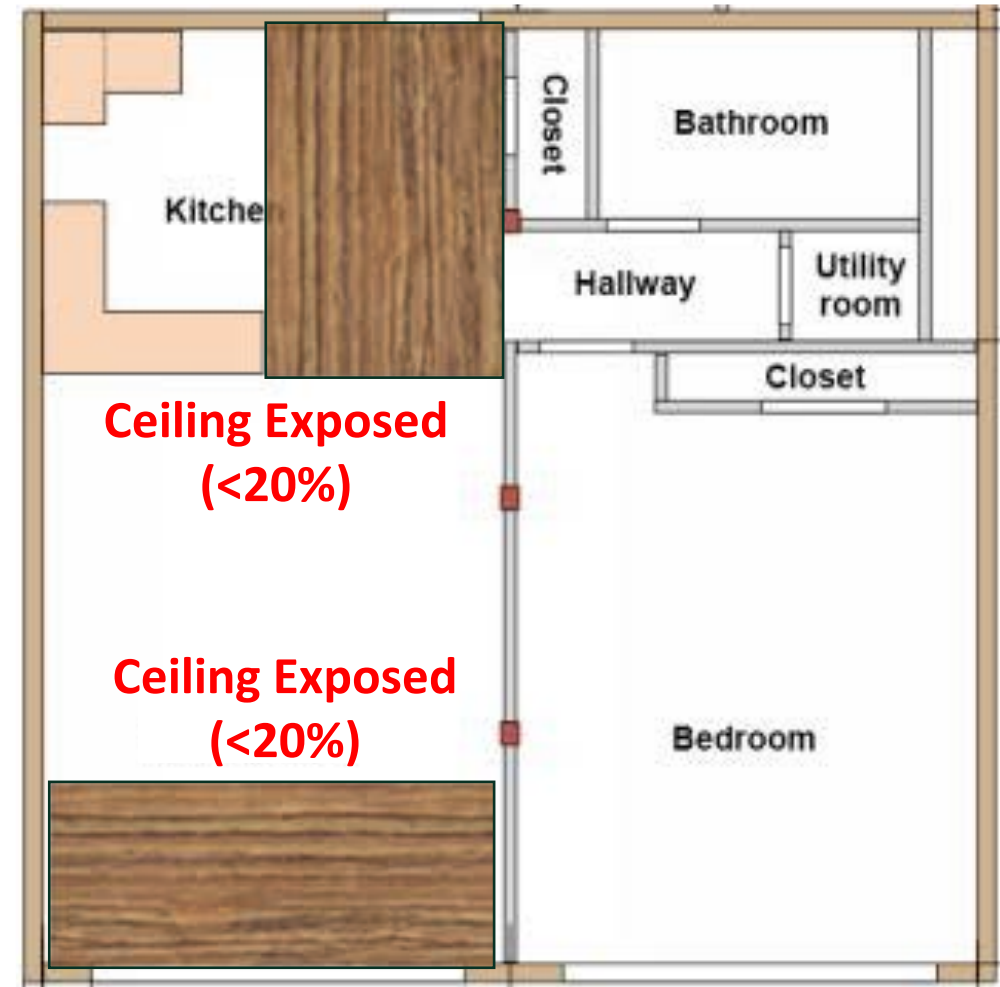
IV-B



**Some timber surfaces may be exposed**

# Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B





IV-A



**No timber surfaces may be exposed**

# Key Early Design Decisions

Construction type influences FRR

**TABLE 601  
FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS (HOURS)**

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a, b</sup>	2 <sup>a, b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior <sup>e, f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT <sup>g</sup>	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior					See Table 705.5							
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	See Section 2304.11.2	0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	HT	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	1 <sup>1/2</sup> <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	1 <sup>1/2</sup>	1	1	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0

Source: 2021 IBC

# Key Early Design Decisions

Construction type influences FRR

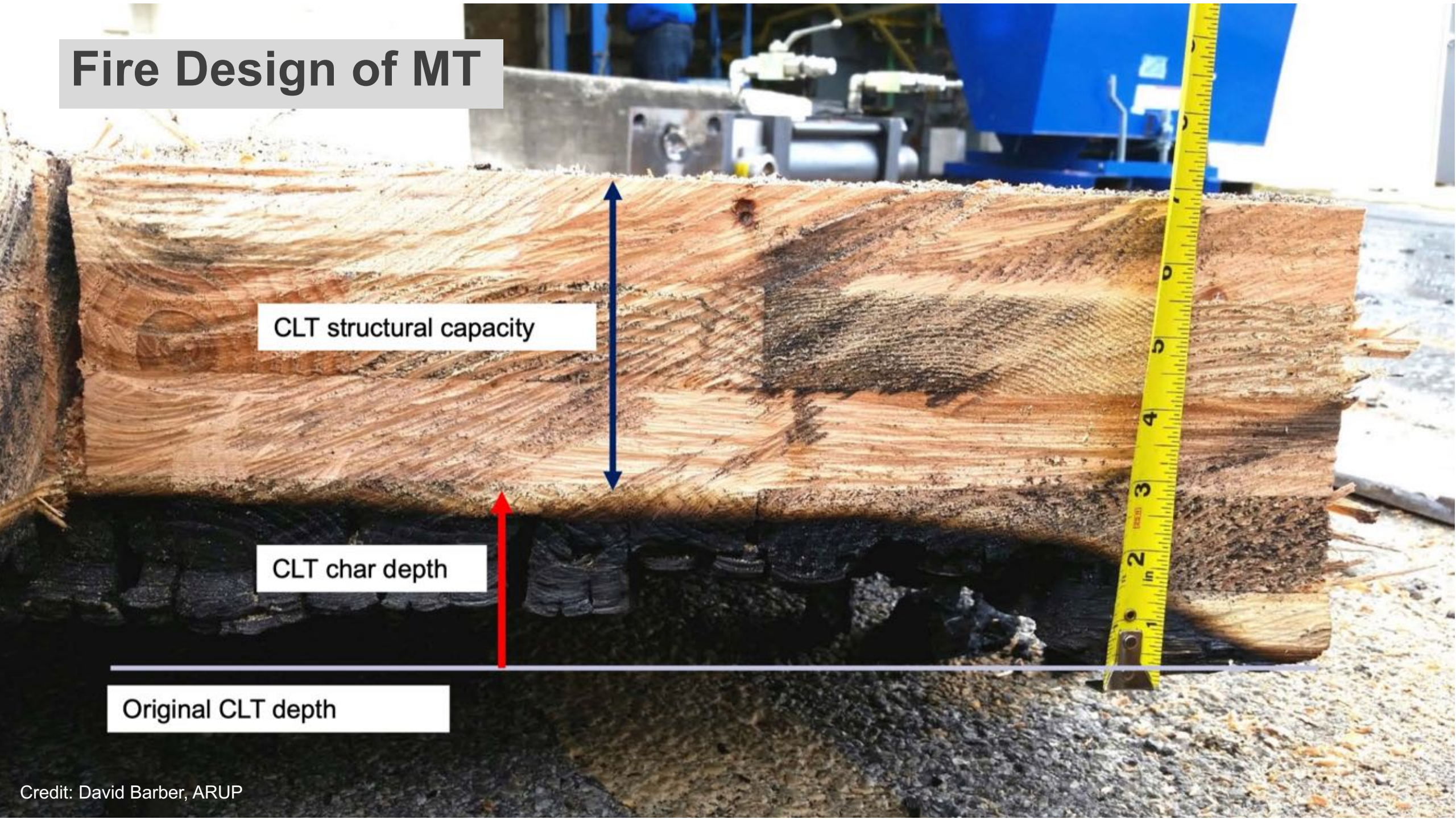
- Type IV-HT Construction (minimum sizes)
- **Other than type IV-HT**: Demonstrated fire resistance

Method of demonstrating FRR (calculations or testing)  
can impact member sizing





# Fire Design of MT



CLT structural capacity

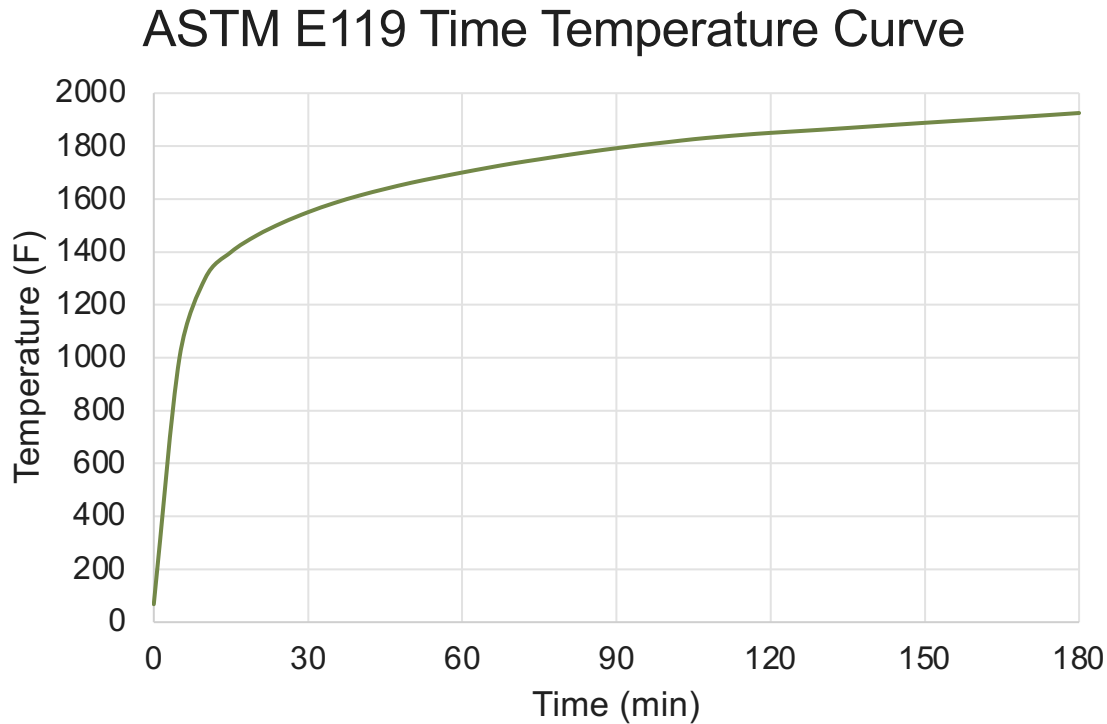
CLT char depth

Original CLT depth



# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

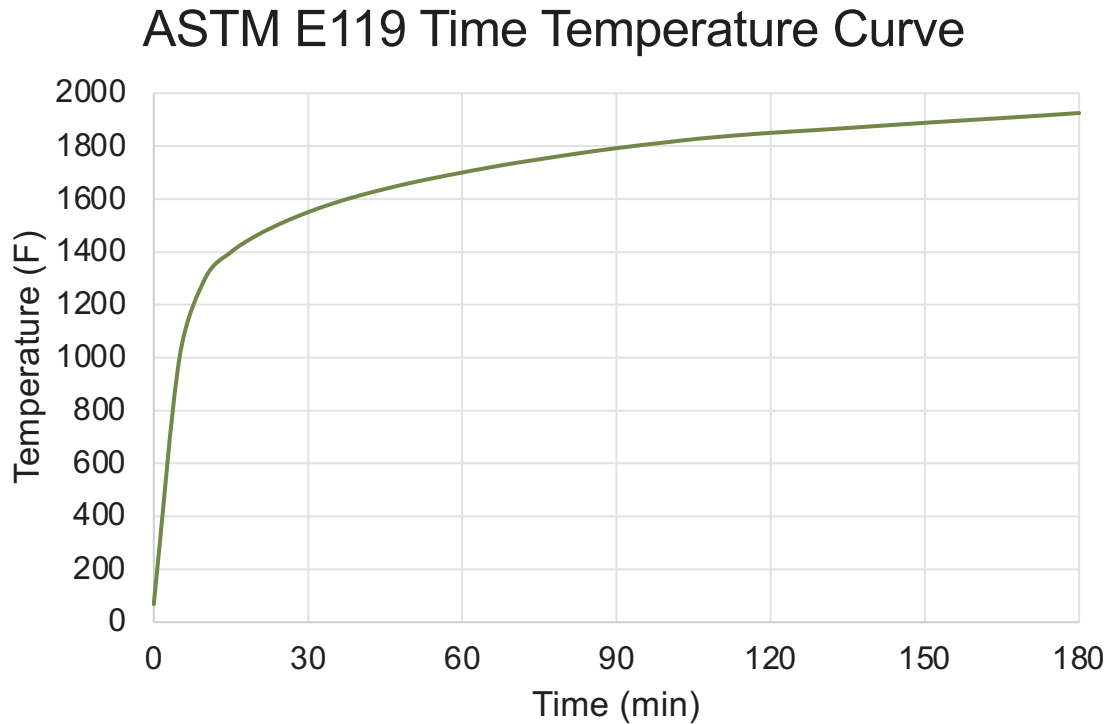
## Fire Resistance Ratings Based on ASTM E119 Testing



- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## Fire Resistance Ratings Based on ASTM E119 Testing



- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

Test reports from approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party fire test labs

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## Fire Resistance Ratings Based on ASTM E119 Testing



**WESTERN FIRE CENTER, INC.**

2204 Parrott Way, Kelso, Washington 98626  
Phone: 360-423-1400 | Fax: 360-423-5003

### Fire Resistance Testing of CLT Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

*Indicative testing conducted following the test methodology described in  
ASTM E119: Standard test methods for fire tests of building construction materials*

Conducted For:

Oregon State University  
College of Forestry – Wood Science & Engineering  
106 Richardson Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331

WFCi Report #16046a

Test Date: October 26, 28, & November 1, 2016

Report Issued: December 2, 2016



**REPORT NUMBER: 102891256SAT-001**  
ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE: February 27, 2017  
REVISED DATE: N/A

#### EVALUATION CENTER

16015 Shady Falls Road  
Elmendorf, TX 78112  
Phone: (210) 635-8100  
Fax: (210) 635-8101  
www.intertek.com

#### RENDERED TO

Structurlam Products LP  
2176 Government Street  
Penticton, BC V2A 8B5  
Canada

PRODUCT EVALUATED: CrossLam® CLT Un-restrained Load-Bearing  
Floor/Ceiling Assembly  
EVALUATION PROPERTY: Fire Resistance

Report of Testing a CrossLam® CLT Un-restrained Load-Bearing

**TEST REPORT**

### SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE®

8220 CULEBRA ROAD, 78238-5166 • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, USA • 210.684.3111 • SWRI.ORG

CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

FIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
SWRI FIRE, SWRI.ORG  
FAX: (210) 683-3577



FIRE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF AN  
UNRESTRAINED LOAD-BEARING FLOOR ASSEMBLY  
TESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM E119-20,  
STANDARD TEST METHODS FOR FIRE TESTS OF  
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS

#### FINAL REPORT

Consisting of 22 Pages

SwRI® Project No. 01.17009.01.407b  
Test Date: January 31, 2022  
Report Date: March 2, 2022

Prepared for:

Structurlam Mass Timber U.S. Inc.  
1800 Sturgis Road  
Conway, AR 72034

Submitted by:

BM  
Curtis  
Roberds

Digitally signed by  
Curtis Roberds  
Date: 2022.03.03  
10:19:03 -06'00'

Approved by:

Matthew  
S Blais

Digitally signed by  
Matthew S Blais  
Date: 2022.03.03  
10:23:55 -06'00'



# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## WoodWorks Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies



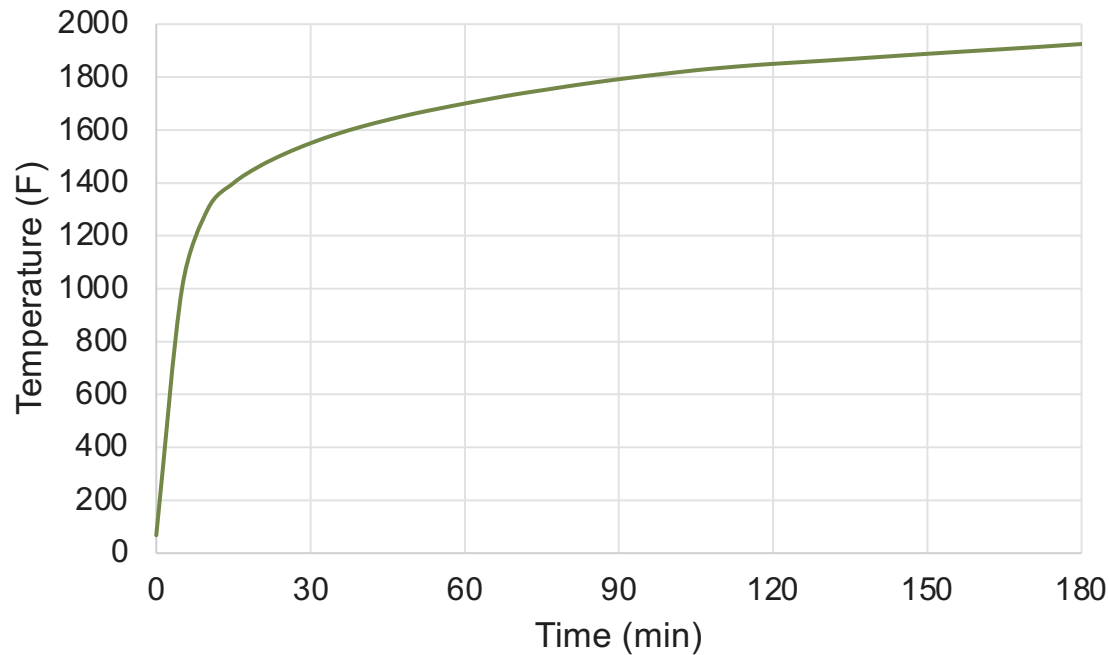
**Table 1: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Mass Timber Floor / Roof Assemblies**

Mass Timber Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Timber Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm 4.488 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5E MSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 36% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105mm 4.133 in)	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 5)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	None	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under Z- channels and furring strips with 3 5/8" fiberglass batts	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	5	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	None	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.5	3	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer 5/8" normal gypsum	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer 5/8" Type X gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 7/8" I-Joists with 3 1/2" Mineral Wool between Joists	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	E1M5 MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Grete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	SPF 1950 Fb MSR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 59% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
7-ply CLT (215mm 8.472 in)	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced	2.5	1	NRC Fire Laboratory

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## Fire Resistance Ratings Based on ASTM E119 Testing

ASTM E119 Time Temperature Curve

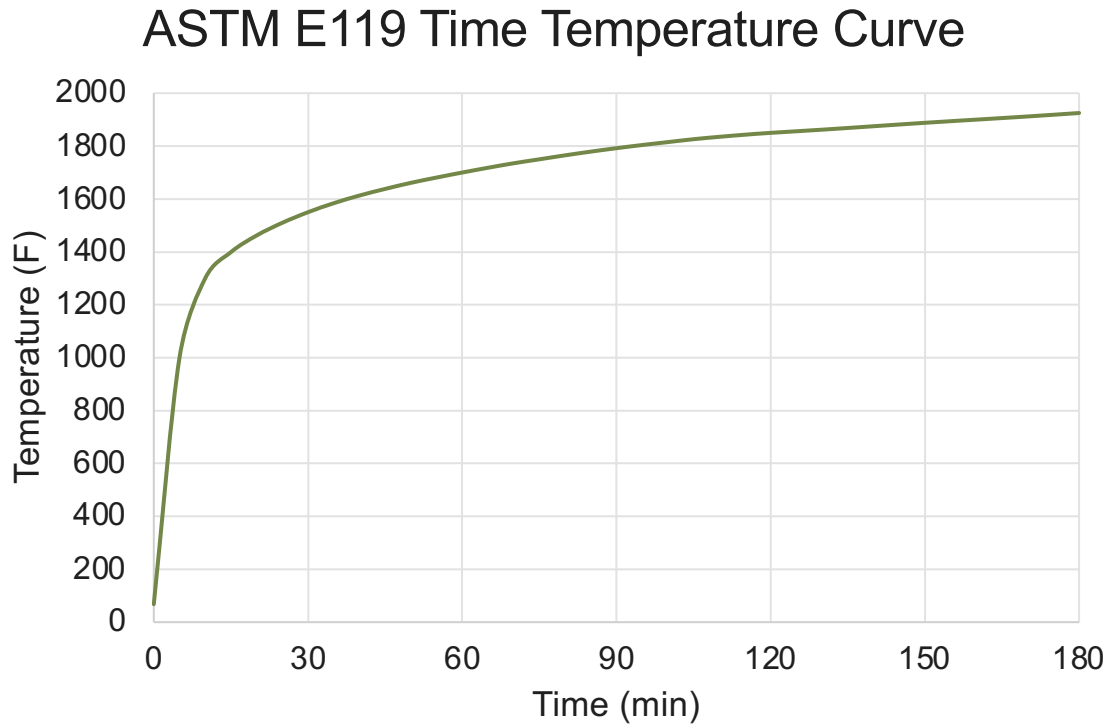


- Pass / Fail Criteria for Selected Time
- IBC 703.3 recognized routes to approval:
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

**Calculation methods per NDS**

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## Fire Resistance Ratings Based on ASTM E119 Testing



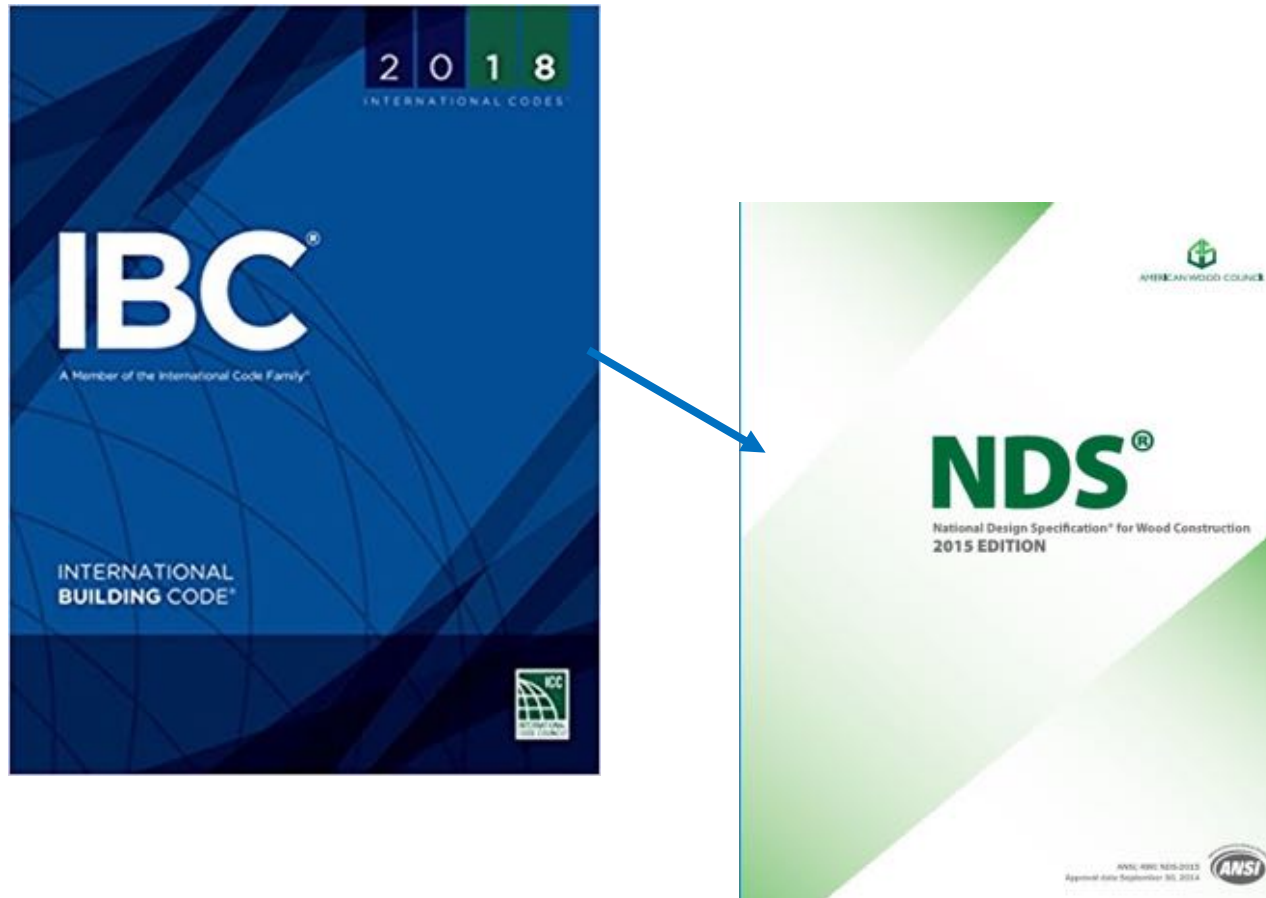
- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

Approved calculation methods per NDS



# Demonstration Fire Resistance Ratings

## Calculated FRR of Exposed Timber: IBC to NDS code compliance path



### IBC 703.3

#### Methods for determining fire resistance

- Prescriptive designs per IBC 721.1
- **Calculations in accordance with IBC 722**
- Fire-resistance designs documented in sources
- Engineering analysis based on a comparison
- Alternate protection methods as allowed by 104.11



### IBC 722

#### Calculated Fire Resistance

"The calculated *fire resistance* of exposed wood members and wood decking shall be permitted in accordance with **Chapter 16 of ANSI/AWC National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS)**



### NDS Chapter 16

#### Fire Design of Wood Members

- Limited to calculating fire resistance up to 2 hours
- Char depth varies based on exposure time (i.e., fire-resistance rating), product type and lamination thickness. Equations and tables are provided.
- TR 10 and NDS commentary are helpful in implementing permitted calculations.

# NDS Chapter 16 Calculation Method

Nominal char rate of 1.5"/hour is recognized in NDS for solid sawn, glulam, CLT, SCL and decking wood products. Effective char depth calculated to account for fire duration.



**Table 16.2.1A Char Depth and Effective Char Depth (for  $\beta_n = 1.5$  in./hr.)**

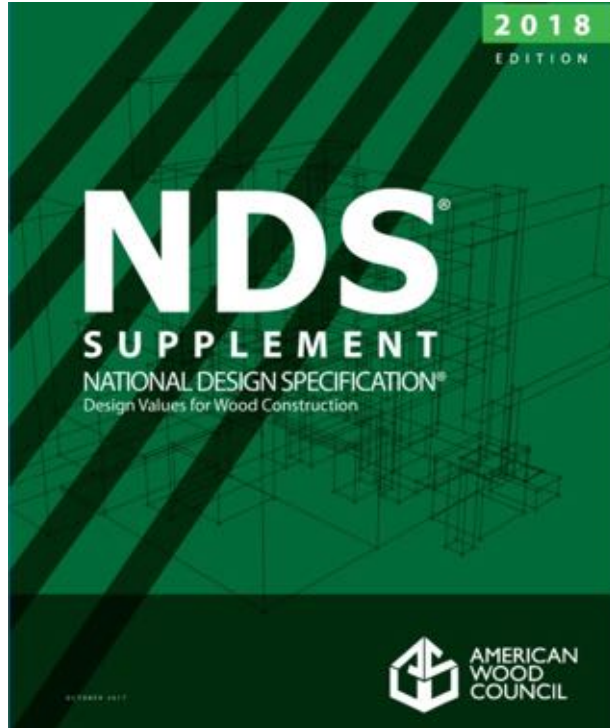
Required Fire Resistance (hr.)	Char Depth, $a_{char}$ (in.)	Effective Char Depth, $a_{eff}$ (in.)
1-Hour	1.5	1.8
1½-Hour	2.1	2.5
2-Hour	2.6	3.2

**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n=1.5$ in./hr.)**

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{char}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{lam}$ (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6



# NDS Chapter 16 Calculation Method



NDS Chapter 16 includes calculation of fire resistance of NLT, CLT, Glulam, Solid Sawn and SCL wood products

**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n=1.5\text{in./hr.}$ )**

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{\text{char}}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{\text{lam}}$ (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6

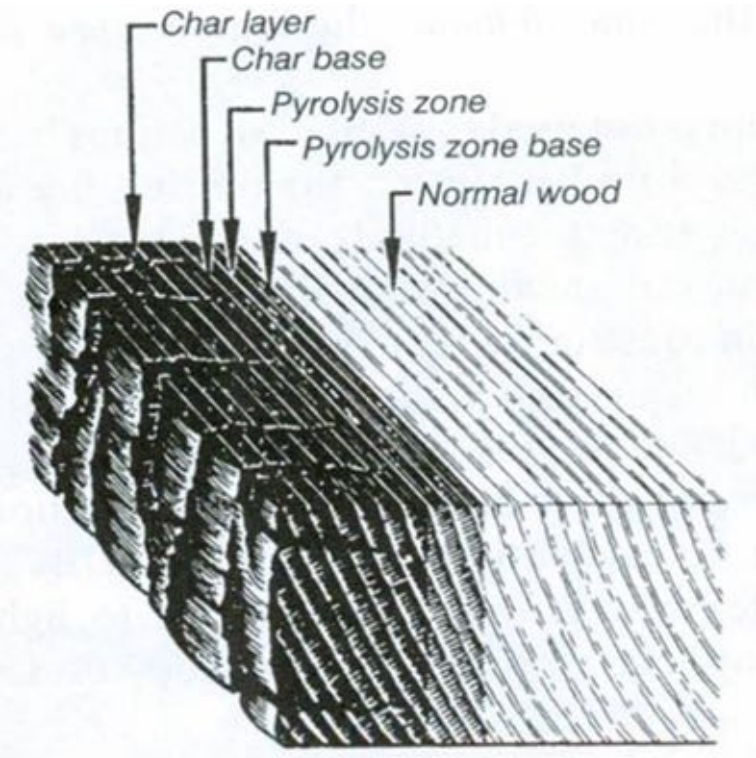


Credit: FPInnovations



# NDS Chapter 16 Calculation Method

Structural capacity check performed on remaining section, with stress increases



Credit: Forest Products Laboratory

Table 16.2.2 Adjustment Factors for Fire Design<sup>1</sup>

			ASD					
			Design Stress to Member Strength Factor	Size Factor <sup>2</sup>	Volume Factor <sup>2</sup>	Flat Use Factor <sup>2</sup>	Beam Stability Factor <sup>3</sup>	Column Stability Factor <sup>3</sup>
Bending Strength	F <sub>b</sub>	x	2.85	C <sub>F</sub>	C <sub>V</sub>	C <sub>fu</sub>	C <sub>L</sub>	-
Beam Buckling Strength	F <sub>bE</sub>	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-
Tensile Strength	F <sub>t</sub>	x	2.85	C <sub>F</sub>	-	-	-	-
Compressive Strength	F <sub>c</sub>	x	2.58	C <sub>F</sub>	-	-	-	C <sub>P</sub>
Column Buckling Strength	F <sub>cE</sub>	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-

$$a_{char} = \beta_t t^{0.813}$$

Solid Sawn, Glulam, SCL

$$a_{char} = n_{lam} h_{lam} + \beta_t \left( t - (n_{lam} t_{gl}) \right)^{0.813}$$

CLT

$$a_{eff} = 1.2a_{char}$$

Effective Char Depth

# FRR Design of MT

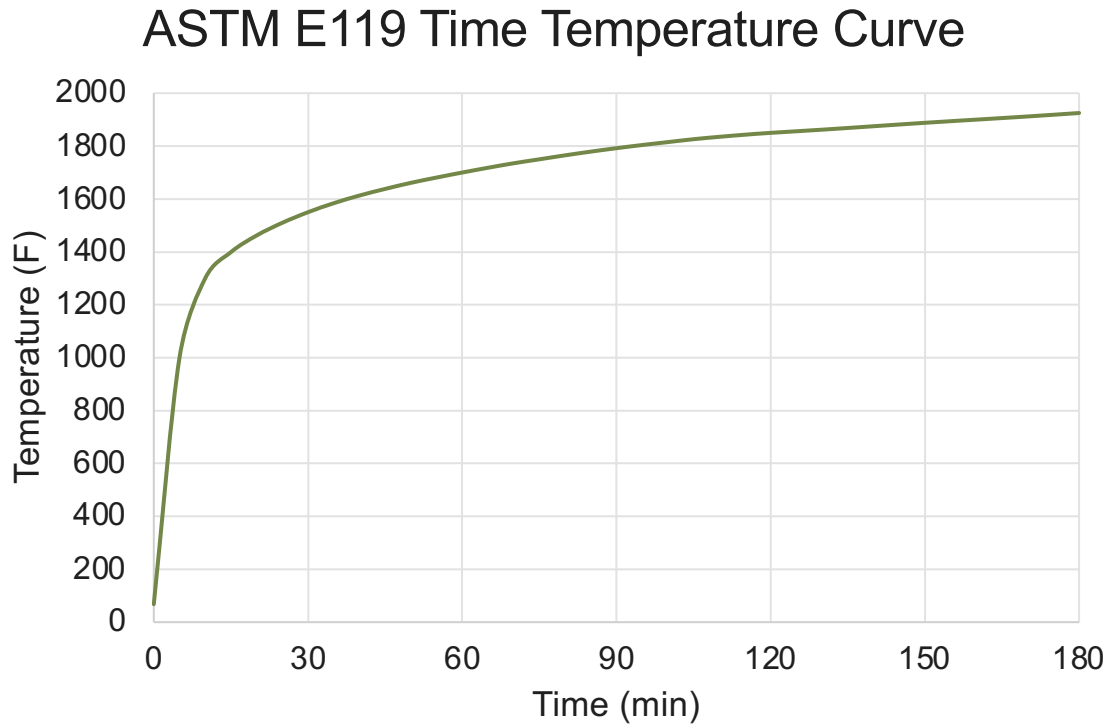
Method of demonstrating FRR (calculations or testing) can impact member sizing

Each has unique benefits:

- **Testing:**
  - Can result in higher FRR for some assemblies when compared to calculations (i.e. 2-hr FRR with 5-ply CLT panel).
  - More universally understood and accepted
- **Calculations:**
  - Can provide more design flexibility
  - Allows for project span and loading specific analysis

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## Fire Resistance Ratings Based on ASTM E119 Testing



- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

**For example, a “UL Listing”**



# 1 Hour Fire Resistance Rated Mass Timber Floor?

But what about 1 hour rating without ceiling protection?

Table 1: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Mass Timber Floor / Roof Assemblies



Mass Timber Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Timber Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm 4.488 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5E MSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 36% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105mm 4.133 in)	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 5)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	None	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under Z-channels and furring strips with 3 5/8" fiberglass batts	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	5	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	None	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.5	3	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer 5/8" normal gypsum	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer 5/8" Type X gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 7/8" I-Joists with 3 1/2" Mineral Wool between Joists	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	E1M5 MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Grete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
5-ply CLT	Nordic	SPF 1950 Fb MSR	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced	1.5	1	NRC Fire Laboratory

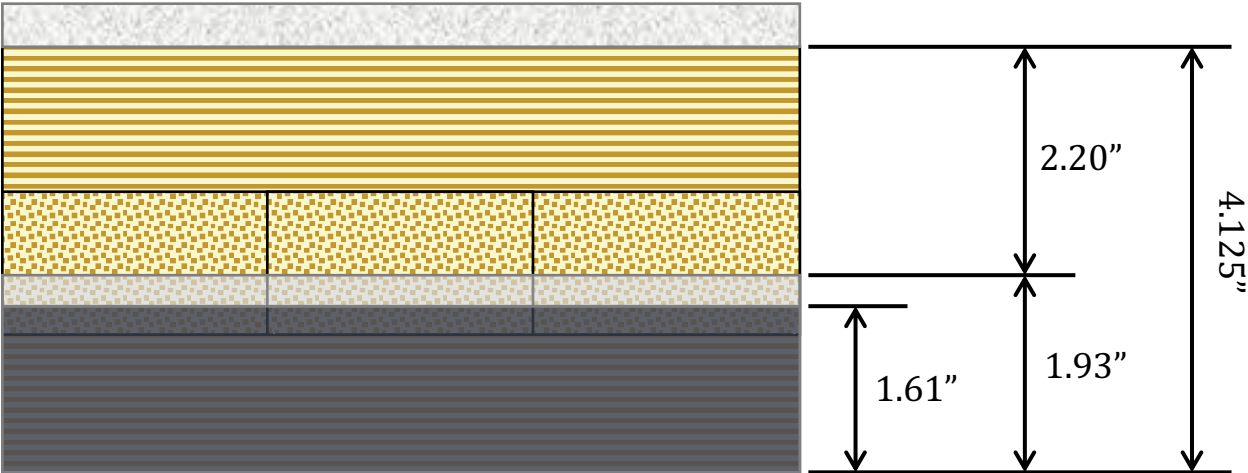
# Calculated Structural Fire Resistance Rating of CLT

NDS Ch 16 char model of 4 1/8" CLT with (3) 1-3/8" Layers with 1 Hour FRR

**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n = 1.5\text{in./hr.}$ )**

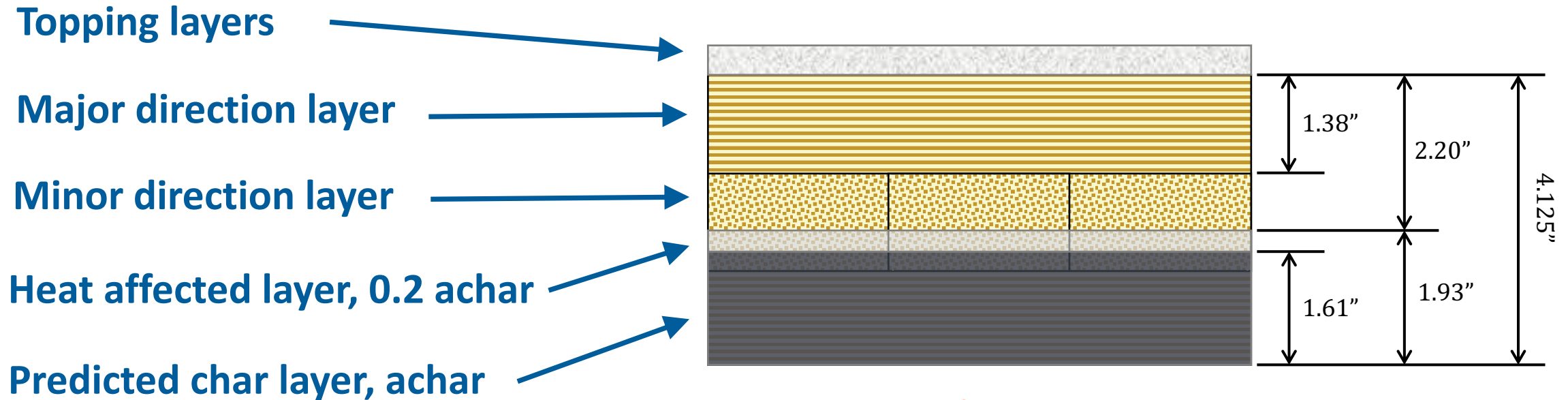
Required Fire Resistance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{\text{eff}}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{\text{lam}}$ (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6

$a_{\text{eff}} = 1.2a_{\text{char}}$   
= 1.9 in. tabulated  
= 1.93 in. calculated  
 $a_{\text{char}} = 1.61$  in. calculated



# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

NDS Ch 16 char model of 4 1/8" CLT with (3) 1-3/8" Layers with 1 Hour FRR



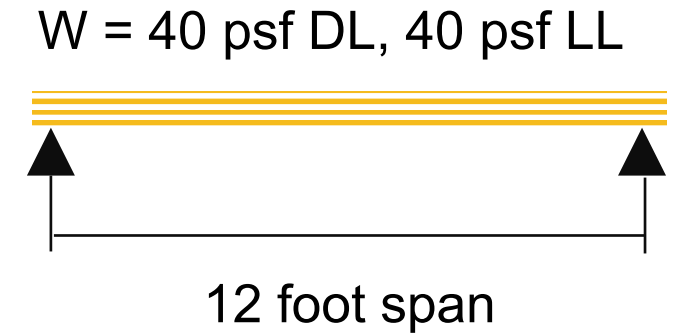
**After 1-hour standard fire expose, typical exposed 3-ply CLT is structurally 1 layer of solid lumber in plank orientation spanning in major direction**



# Flatwise Flexural Strength Design

## Given:

- 12 foot, simple span floor
- 40 psf live load, 40 psf total dead load
- Using V1 4 1/8" 3-Ply CLT



## Gravity Checks:

- ASD applied D+L moment  $M_b = wL^2/8 = (80\text{psf})(12\text{ft})^2/8 = 1440 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$
- ASD flexural strength:  $F_b S_{\text{eff}} = 2090 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$ , per PRG 320 Table A1

$$F_b S_{\text{eff}} = 2090 \text{ lb-ft/ft} > M_b = 1440 \text{ lb-ft/ft}, \text{ flexural strength OK.}$$

- Need to also look at deflections, vibrations, etc

## Strength under 1-hour fire?

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## NDS Ch 16 char model of 4 1/8" V1 CLT with (3) 1-3/8" Layers with 1 Hour FRR

$$S = 12 \text{ in/ft} (1.375 \text{ in})^2 / 6 = 3.78 \text{ in}^3/\text{ft}$$

$$F_b = 900 \text{ psi} \quad \text{PRG 320 Table A1}$$

$$F_b' = F_b 2.85 C_F C_{fu} \quad \text{NDS Table 16.2.20}$$

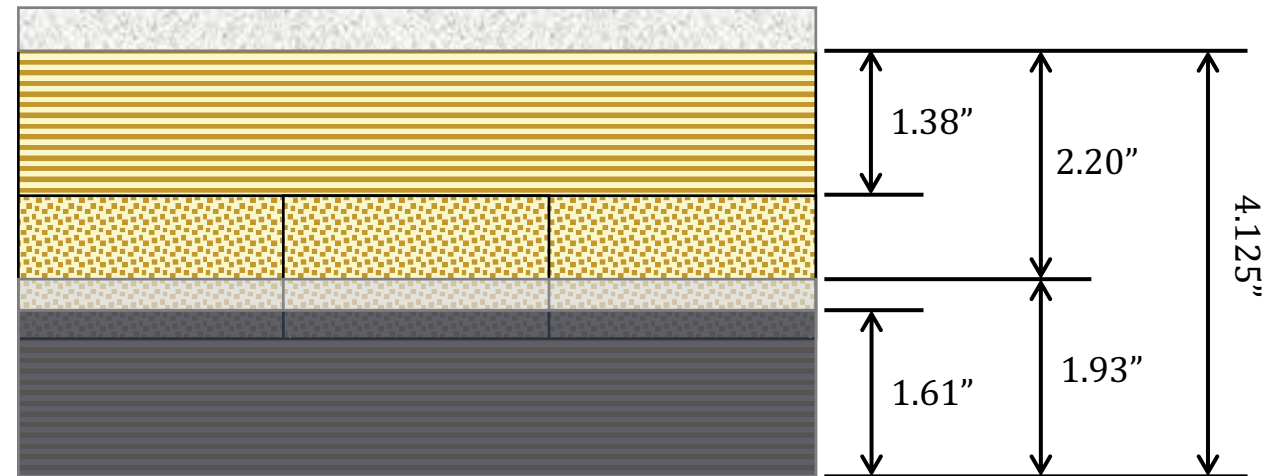
For 2x6\* DF #2 sized lamella:

$$C_F = 1.3$$

$$C_{fu} = 1.15$$

$$F_b' = 900 \text{ psi} (2.85)(1.3)(1.15) = 3845 \text{ psi}$$

$$(F_b S)' = 3845 \text{ psi} (3.78 \text{ in}^3/\text{ft}) / (12 \text{ in/ft}) = 1208 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

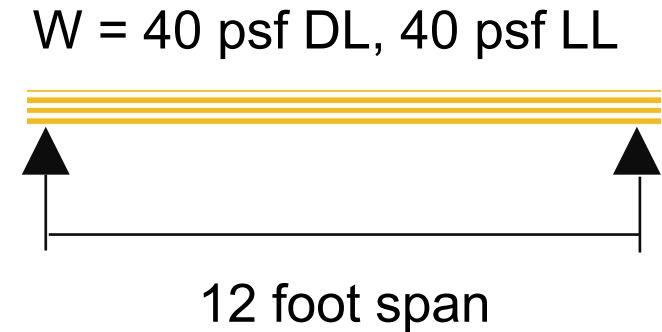


Common lamella are based on 2x6 and 2x4 sizes lumber... Consult with the selected manufacturer or specify acceptable sizes

# Flatwise Flexural Strength Design

## Given:

- 40 psf live load, 40 psf total dead load
- Using V1 4 1/8" 3-Ply CLT
- ASD flexural strength @ 1 hr FRR:  $(F_b S)' = 1208 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$



## Strength under 1-hour fire, 12-foot span

- ASD applied D+L moment  $M_b = wL^2/8 = (80\text{psf}) (12\text{ft})^2/8 = 1440 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$

Capacity  $(F_b S)' = 1208 \text{ lb-ft/ft} < M_b = 1440 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$ , **flexural strength NOT OK.**

## Strength under 1-hour fire, 8-foot span

- ASD applied D+L moment  $M_b = wL^2/8 = (80\text{psf}) (9\text{ft})^2/8 = 810 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$

Capacity  $(F_b S)' = 1208 \text{ lb-ft/ft} > M_b = 810 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$ , **flexural strength OK.**

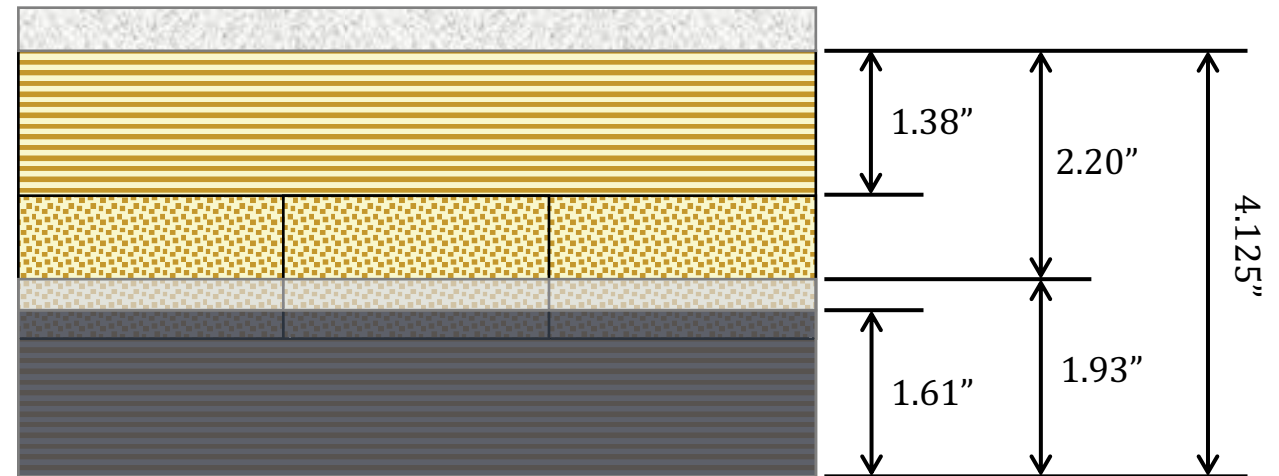


# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

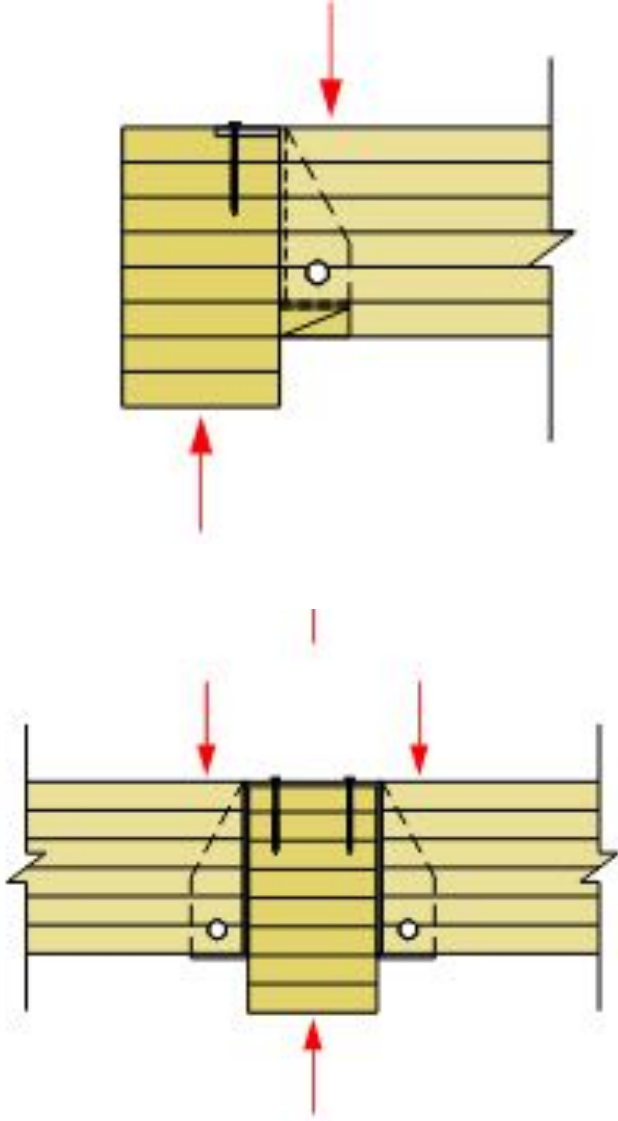
## Considerations when using 1-layer of CLT as lumber in plank orientation

A: Common solid-sawn lumber lamella in CLT are planed 2x6 and 2x4 sizes lumber. If using size or flat-use increase factors per NDS, consult with the selected manufacturer as to what is used or specify acceptable sizes.

B: ASTM E119 for Fire Resistance Ratings does not have a deflection limit. However, designers should consider impact of deflections on *structural stability*. E.g. a 10-inch deflection in a 10-foot span may be deemed as not acceptable by the engineer.



# Fire Resistance of Connections



All Photos by WoodWorks



# Fire Resistance of Connections – Protection Strategies

Right-sized  
bearing areas

Concealed  
connectors

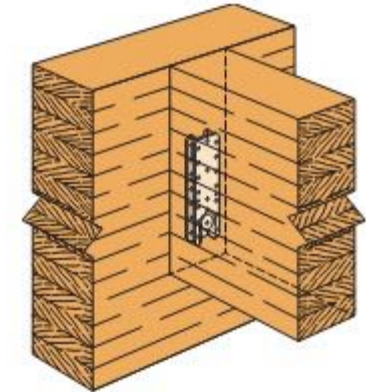
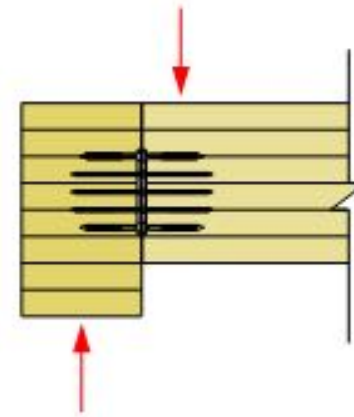
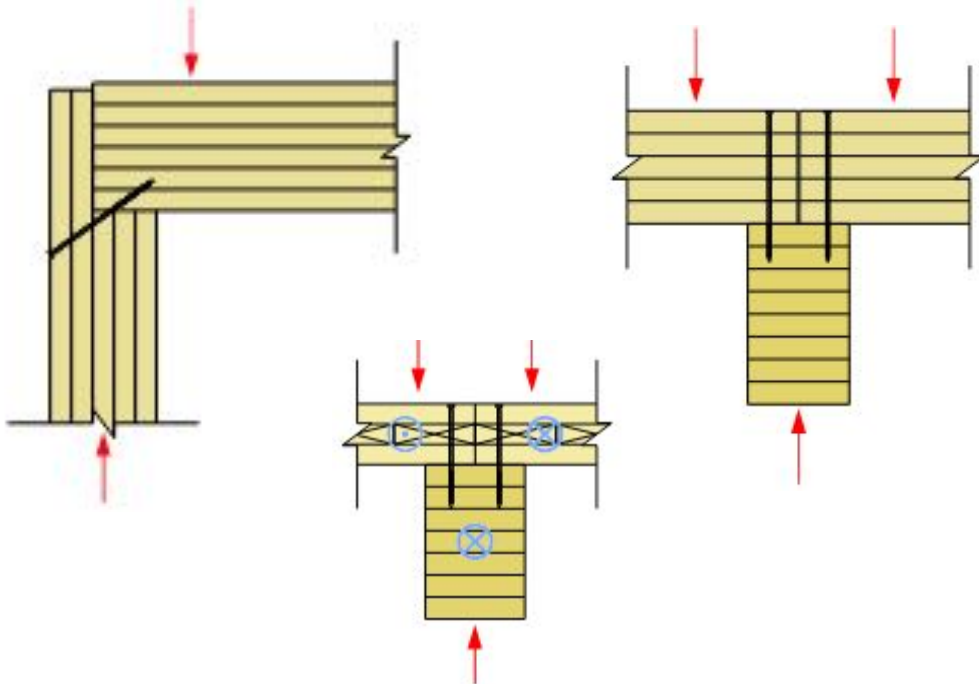
Wood  
protection

Gypsum  
protection



# Fire Resistance of Connections – Protection Strategies

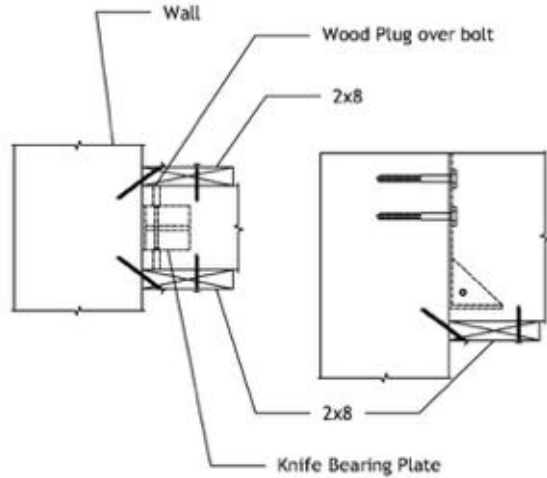
Right-sized  
bearing areas



Typical CBH2.37x7.5  
Installation at Girder

Concealed  
connectors

# Fire Resistance of Connections – Protection Strategies



Example in AWC TR-10



Photo WoodWorks

Gypsum  
protection

Discussion in AWC TR-10

Wood  
protection

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

## Fire Resistance Ratings of Connections

- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

### WoodWorks Inventory

Table 4: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Connections

Connection Type	Connection Style	Assembly Description	Connection Details	L
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 8.75"x18" Glulam Beam with concealed connector to 16.5" x 14.25" Glulam Column	Ricon S VS 290x80 (Steel)	
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 10.75"x24" Glulam Beam with concealed connector to 16.5" x 14.25" Glulam Column	Double Ricon S VS 200x80 (Steel)	
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 10.75"x24" Glulam Beam with concealed connector to 16.5" x 14.25" Glulam Column	Megant 430 x 150 (Aluminum)	
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 9.78" x 18" Glulam Beam with 1 concealed connector to 16" x 16" Glulam Column	Single Simpson Strong-Tie CBH2.37x9.97	
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 14.25" x 27" Glulam Beam with 4 concealed connectors to 16" x 16" Glulam Column	Four Simpson Strong-Tie CBH2.37x9.97	
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 6.75" x 14.25" Glulam Beam with 1 concealed connector to 16" x 16" Glulam Column	Single Simpson Strong-Tie CBH2.37x9.97	
Beam to Column	Concealed	CLT Floor over 12.75" x 27" Glulam Beam with 4 concealed connectors to 16" x 16" Glulam Column	Four Simpson Strong-Tie CBH2.37x9.97	

\* ASTM E119 does not explicitly include provisions for testing of connections, however the standard time temperature curves were used

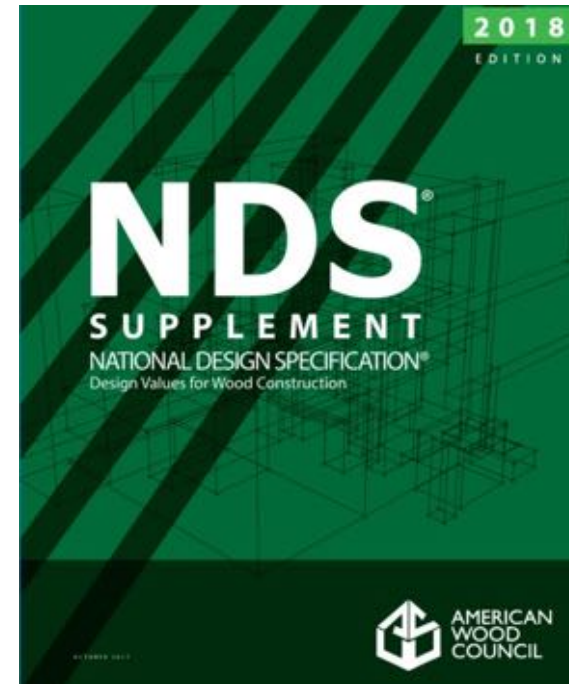


# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

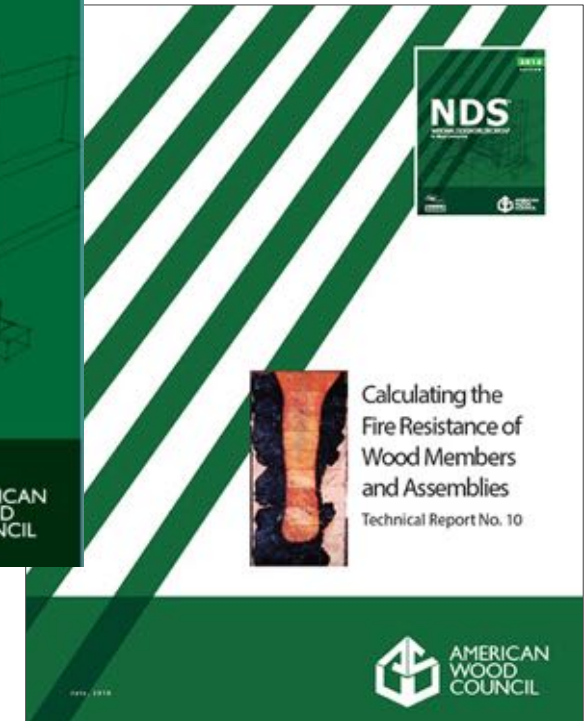
## Fire Resistance Ratings of Connections

- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

### AWC Publications



**NDS  
Wood Cover**



**TR-10  
Wood & Gypsum Cover**

# Demonstrating Fire Resistance Ratings

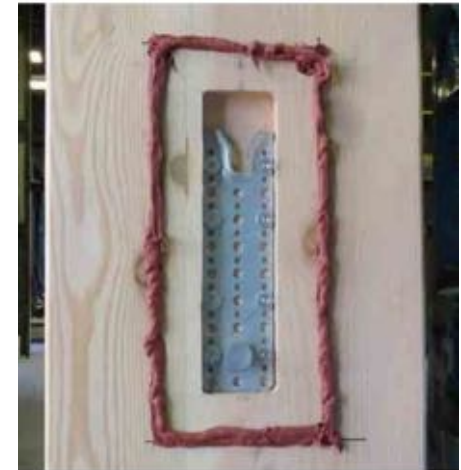
## Fire Resistance Ratings of Connections

- Tested Assemblies (IBC 703.2)
- Analytical Methods (IBC 703.3):
  1. Fire-resistance designs in “approved sources”
  2. Prescriptive assemblies in IBC 721
  3. Calculations per IBC 722
  4. Engineering analysis based on tested assemblies
  5. Alternative methods per IBC 104.11
  6. Fire-resistance design certified by approved agency

## Tapes, Caulks and Sealants

Primarily for smoke, draft, and flame block in gaps and intersections

Credit 3M



Credit Arup

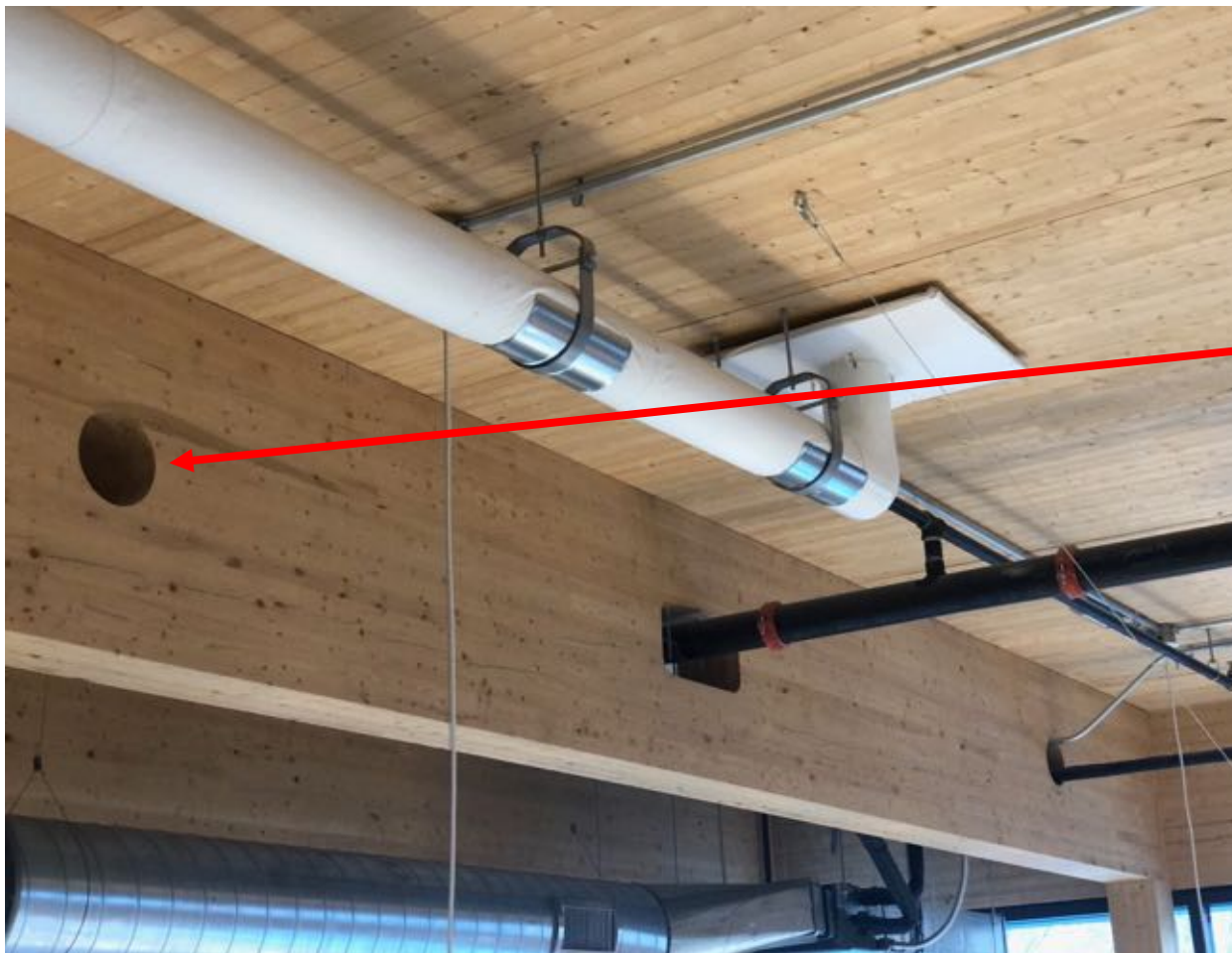


Credit Hilti

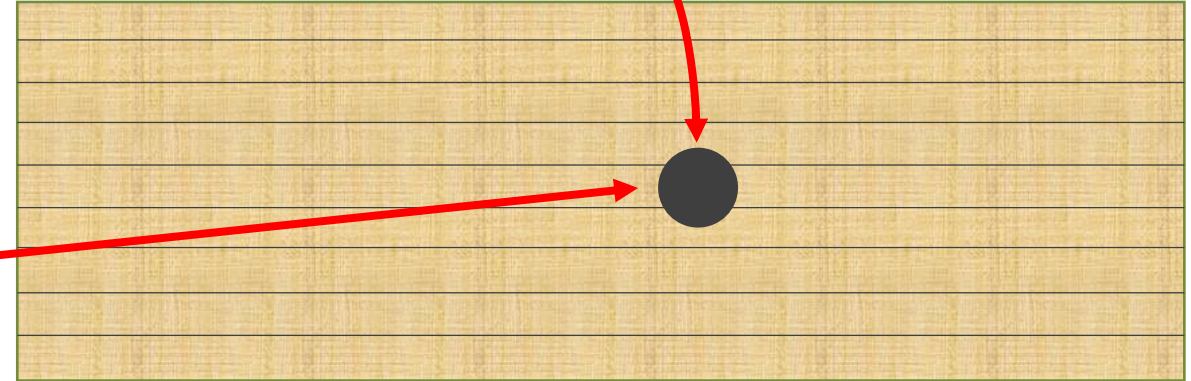
# Penetrations & Firestopping

Beam penetrations:

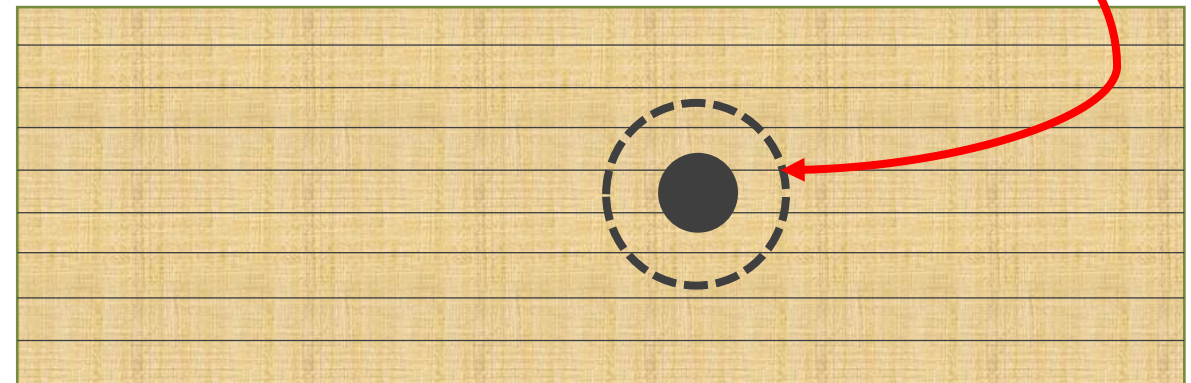
- If FRR = 0-hr, analyze structural impact of hole diameter only
- If FRR > 0-hr, account for charred hole diameter or firestop penetration



Hole diameter



Hole diameter after 1-hr char



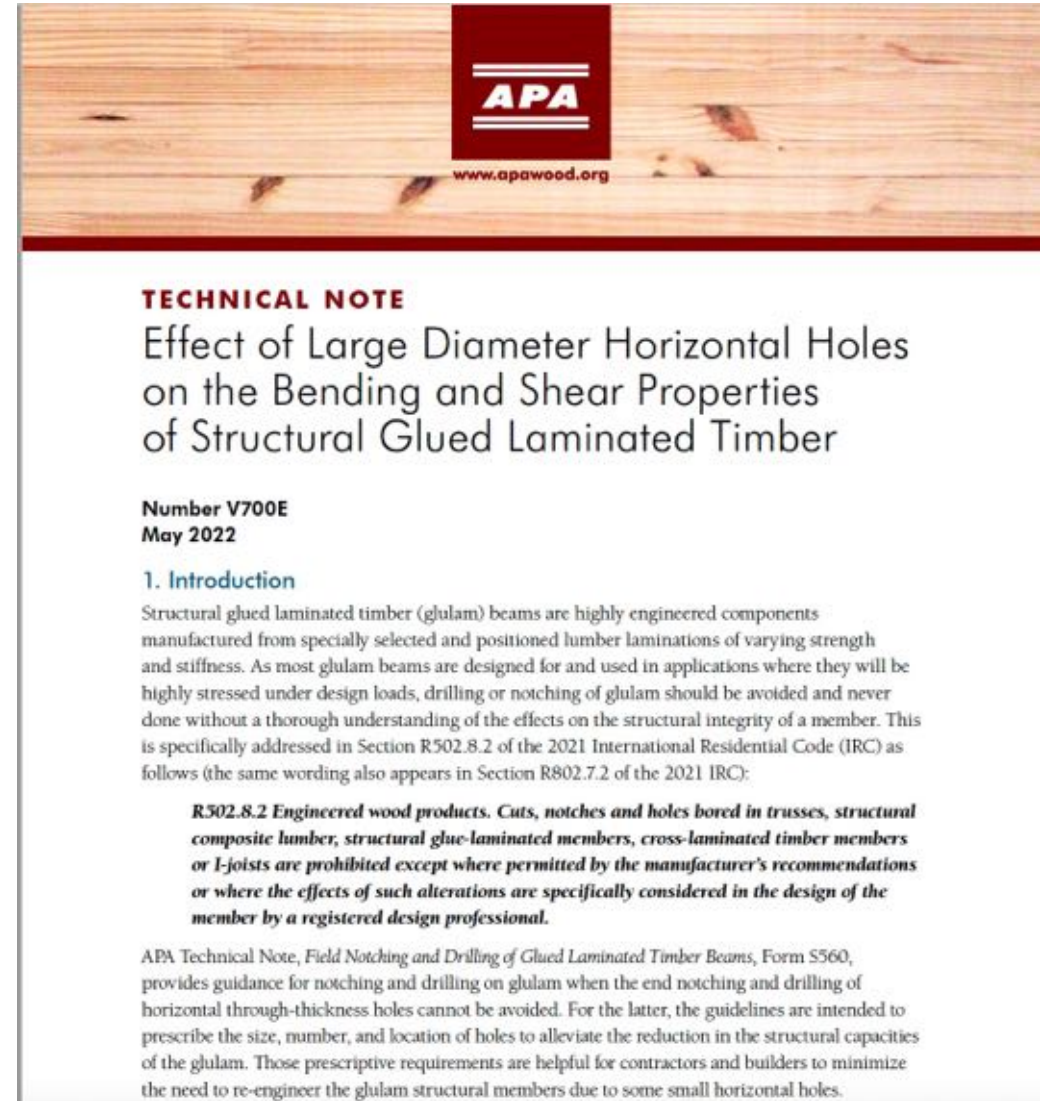


# Penetrations & Firestopping

Document provides a method of calculating the bending moment capacity, bending stiffness, and shear capacity of a glulam beam with large horizontal holes.

Based on a maximum hole diameter of:

- $2d/3$  for glulam members up to 24" deep
- 16" for glulam members deeper than 24"



# Penetrations & Firestopping

**Table 3: North American Fire Tests of Penetrations and Fire Stops in CLT Assemblies**



CLT Panel	Exposed Side Protection	Penetrating Item	Penetrant Centered or Offset in Hole	Firestopping System Description	F Rating	T Rating	Test Protocol	Source	Testing Lab
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	2" nominal electrical metal tubing (EMT)	0.5" offset from center	4.21 in diameter hole. The void between the CLT and pipe at the top was filled with Roxul Safe mineral wool leaving a 1/2 in deep void at the top of the assembly. Hilti FS-One Max Intumescent Firestop Sealant was applied to a depth of 1/2 in on the top of the assembly between the CLT and pipe. Pipe insulated with Roxul ProRox for 24" beyond non-exposed face.	1.5 hours	1.5 hours	ASTM E814	25	QAI Laboratories January 24, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	3" PVC pipe	Not noted in test report	4.5 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-2228.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	4" Aquatherm Green Pipe (SDR7.4)	Not noted in test report	6 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-1551.	1 hour	1 hour	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	4" cast iron pipe	Not noted in test report	5.375 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-1427.	2 hours	0.5 hour	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	4" Aquatherm Green Pipe (SDR7.4)	Not noted in test report	3.5 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-2228.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	1-3/4" threaded steel rod (A722 GR 150)	Not noted in test report	3.125 in diameter hole. Threaded rod inserted into 2.5 in diameter steel sleeve (Sch. 40). Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-1551.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	3" PVC pipe	Not noted in test report	4.5 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-2228.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	4" Aquatherm Green Pipe (SDR7.4)	Not noted in test report	6 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-1551.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	4" cast iron pipe	Not noted in test report	5.375 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-1427.	2 hours	1 hour	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	4" Aquatherm Green Pipe (SDR7.4)	Not noted in test report	3.5 in diameter hole. Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-2228.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	1-3/4" threaded steel rod (A722 GR 150)	Not noted in test report	3.125 in diameter hole. Threaded rod inserted into 2.5 in diameter steel sleeve (Sch. 40). Firestopping installation and products based on UL System C-AJ-1551.	2 hours	1.5 hours	ASTM E814	37	WFCi September 6-8, 2017
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	Metallic pipe with insulation or cable	May be centered or offset. Offset may range from 1/2 in to 2-9/16 in	Max 6 in diameter hole. Fill annular space with min. 5 in thick layer of mineral wool insulation. For wall applications, apply 3/4 in thick layer of Hilti FS-ONE MAX firestop intumescent sealant on both sides of the wall assembly. For floor applications, apply 3/4 in thick layer of Hilti FS-ONE MAX firestop intumescent sealant on the top side of the floor/ceiling assembly.	2 hours	0.25 hours	ASTM E814	38	Intertek October 26, 2021
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	Max. 4 in diameter cable bundle with nominal 44% visual fill of cables within opening	May be centered or offset. Offset may range from 1/2 in to 1 in	Max 6 in diameter hole. Fill annular space with min. 5 in thick layer of mineral wool insulation. For wall applications, apply 3/4 in thick layer of Hilti FS-ONE MAX firestop intumescent sealant on both sides of the wall assembly. For floor applications, apply 3/4 in thick layer of Hilti FS-ONE MAX firestop intumescent sealant on the top side of the floor/ceiling assembly.	2 hours	0.25 hours	ASTM E814	39	Intertek October 26, 2021

# FRR Design of MT



## Fire-Resistive Design of Mass Timber Members

### Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks  
Scott Beneman, PhD, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks

For many years, exposed heavy timber framing elements have been permitted in U.S. buildings due to their inherent fire-resistance properties. The predictability of wood's char rate has been well-established for decades and has long been recognized in building codes and standards.

Today, one of the exciting trends in building design is the growing use of mass timber—i.e., large solid wood panel products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and nail-laminated timber (NLT)—for floor, wall and roof construction. Like heavy timber, mass timber products have inherent fire resistance that allows them to be left exposed and still achieve a fire-resistance rating. Because of their strength and dimensional stability, these products also offer a low-carbon alternative to steel, concrete, and masonry for many applications. It is this combination of exposed structure and strength that developers and designers across the country

are leveraging to create innovative designs with a warm yet modern aesthetic, often for projects that go beyond traditional norms of wood design.

This paper has been written to support architects and engineers exploring the use of mass timber for commercial and multi-family construction. It focuses on how to meet fire-resistance requirements in the International Building Code (IBC), including calculation and testing-based methods. Unless otherwise noted, references refer to the 2018 IBC.

#### Mass Timber & Construction Type

Before demonstrating fire-resistance ratings of exposed mass timber elements, it's important to understand under what circumstances the code currently allows the use of mass timber in commercial and multi-family construction.

A building's assigned construction type is the main indicator of where and when all wood systems can be used. IBC Section 602 defines five main options (Type I through V) with all but Type IV having subcategories A and B. Types III and V permit the use of wood framing throughout much of the structure and both are used extensively for modern mass timber buildings.

**Type III** (IBC 602.3) – Timber elements can be used in floors, roofs and interior walls. Fire-retardant-treated wood (FRTW) framing is permitted in exterior walls with a fire-resistance rating of 2 hours or less.

**Type V** (IBC 602.5) – Timber elements can be used throughout the structure, including floors, roofs and both interior and exterior walls.

**Type IV** (IBC 602.4) – Commonly referred to as 'Heavy Timber' construction, this option



Carbon12 | Portland, Oregon  
Kaiser Group | Path Architecture  
Munzing Structural Engineering

## Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

- Code compliance options for demonstrating FRR
- Free download at [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)



# TALL WOOD

- = 20 in-design tall wood projects
- = tall wood project in construction or completed



**INTRO  
Cleveland**  
Cleveland, OH  
9 stories –  
8 mass timber



**Heartwood**  
Seattle, WA  
8 stories mass timber



**Carbon 12**  
Portland, OR  
8 stories mass timber



**Ascent**  
Milwaukee, WI  
25 stories –  
19 mass timber



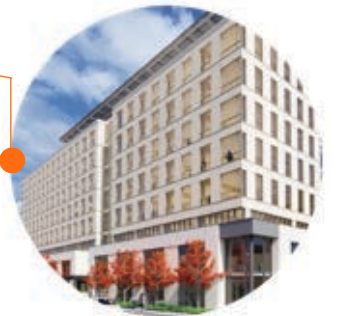
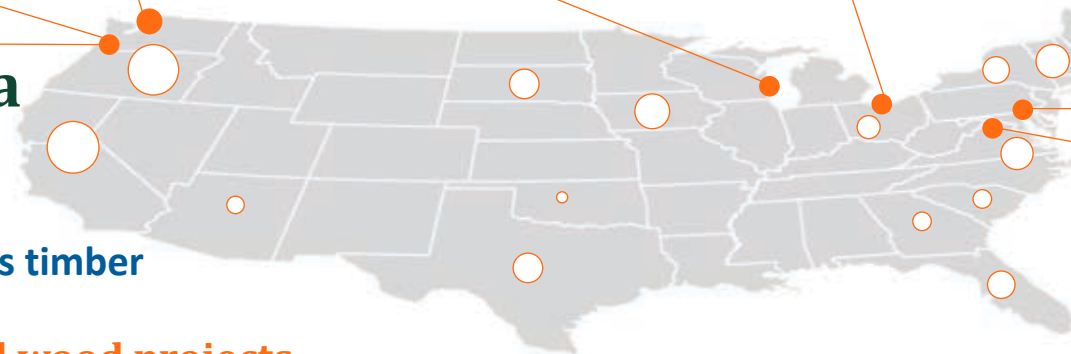
**11 E Lenox**  
Boston, MA  
7 stories mass timber



**80 M Street**  
Washington DC  
10 stories – 3-story  
mass timber  
vertical addition



**Minnesota  
Places**  
Portland, OR  
8 stories - 7 mass timber



**Apex Plaza**  
Charlottesville, VA  
8 stories –  
6 mass timber

## WoodWorks is supporting 189 tall wood projects

Minnesota Places, rendering Wright Architecture; Carbon 12, Kaiser+Path, photo Andrew Pogue; Heartwood, rendering Atelier Jones; INTRO Cleveland, Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, HPA Architecture; Ascent, Korb + Associates Architects, Thornton Tomasetti; 11 E Lenox, rendering Monte French Design Studio; 80 M Street, Hickok Cole Architects, Columbia Property Trust; Apex Plaza, rendering William McDonough + Partners



Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture



# INTRO, CLEVELAND

Type IV-B  
Variance to expose ~50% ceilings

Photo: Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, Image Fiction | Architect: Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture

9 Stories | 115 ft  
8 Timber Over 1 Podium





# APEX PLAZA

## CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

8 STORIES  
6 TIMBER OVER 2 PODIUM, 100 FT



Photo: William McDonough + Partners | Architect: William McDonough + Partners

**PRIMARY OFFICE SPACE**



# 11 E LENOX, BOSTON, MA



Credit: H + O Structural Engineering



# ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

## Tallest Mass Timber Building in the World



Photo: CD Smith Construction |  
Architect: Korb & Associates Architects



# 80 M ST, WASHINGTON, DC

A large brick building under construction in an urban setting. The building features a 7-story existing brick structure with a 3-story vertical addition on top. The addition is made of light-colored concrete or wood framing. A large construction crane is positioned on the roof of the existing building, extending over the new addition. The surrounding area includes other modern buildings, a clear blue sky, and a street with cars and construction barriers in the foreground.

## 3 STORY VERTICAL ADDITION 7 STORY EXISTING BUILDING



# HEARTWOOD, SEATTLE



Photo: Atelier Jones |  
Architect: Atelier Jones

## 8 STORIES

### Workforce Housing



**Type IV-C    66,000 SF**



# MINNESOTA PLACES, PORTLAND

## 8 STORIES

Affordable Housing

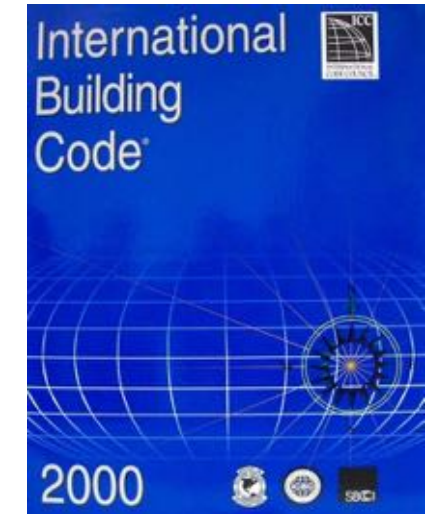
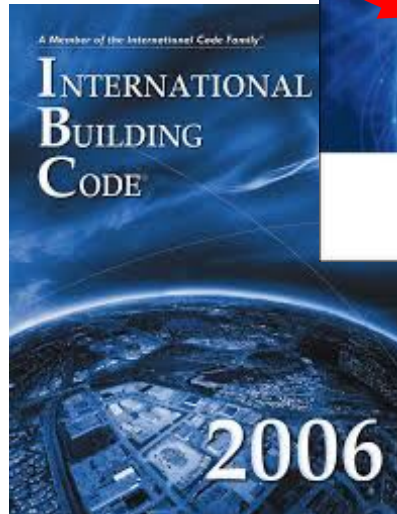


Photo: Wright Architecture |  
Architect: Wright Architecture

**Type IV-C    72 Units    7 Stories of Timber over Podium**



## 3 YEAR CODE CYCLE





# Fire Safe Implementation of Mass Timber In Tall Buildings

**Research of the fire performance of CLT and Glued Laminated Timber buildings, with visible wood surfaces.**

The main aim of this research project was to identify safe limits of exposed mass timber surface areas that correspond with performance criteria used for previous U.S. Building Code Changes.



# WHY ANOTHER ROUND OF COMPARTMENT FIRE TESTING?

**Conservatism: ATF lab tests based on older generation CLT adhesives**

2018 ATF tests were initiated before the 2018 version of ANSI/APA PRG 320 was published and the tested CLT was not compliant with the new product standard.

Source: RISE, USDA FS FPL & AWC



United States Department of Agriculture

## Compartment Fire Testing of a Two-Story Mass Timber Building

Samuel L. Zelinka  
Laura E. Hasburgh  
Keith J. Bourne  
David R. Tucholski  
Jason P. Ouellette



Forest  
Service

Forest Products  
Laboratory

General Technical Report  
FPL-GTR-247

May  
2018

# CLT Fire Performance – Fire Re-Growth

**In tall buildings, preventing fire re-growth is key.**

**Fire re-growth is a phenomenon in which the heat-release rate of a fire intensifies following a decay phase. Fire re-growth can be initiated when delamination occurs, as this exposes un-charred wood surfaces, thereby resulting in an influx of fuel available for consumption by the fire.**



Photo: Urban One

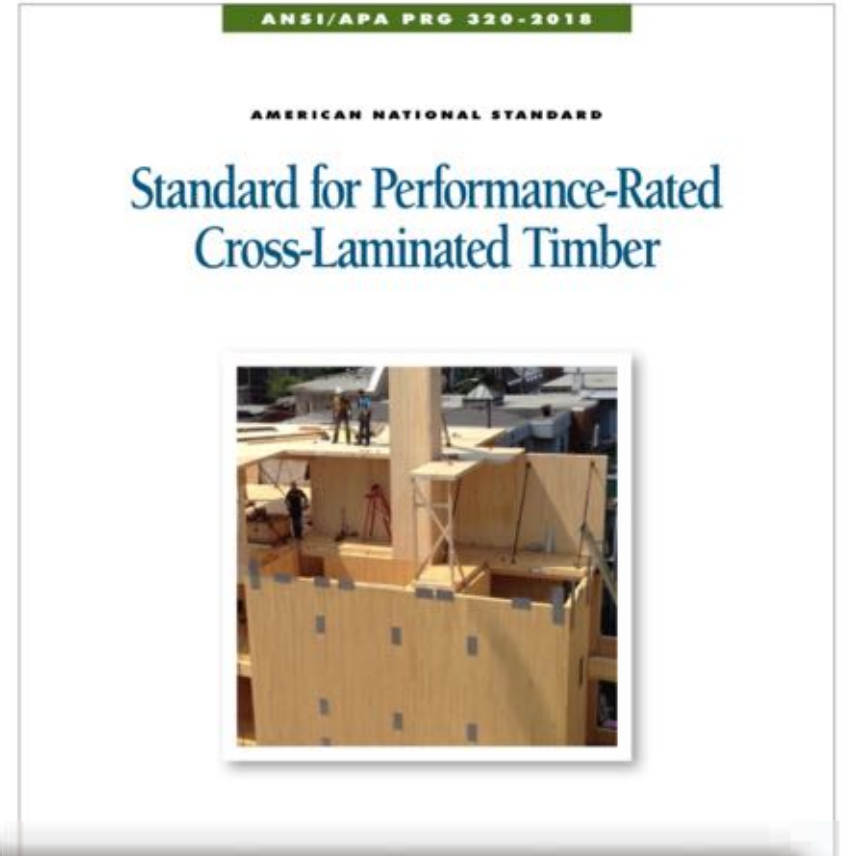


Photo: ARUP

# CLT Fire Performance – PRG 320

PRG 320 is manufacturing & performance standard for CLT

2018 edition (referenced in 2021 IBC) added new elevated temperature adhesive performance requirements validated by full-scale and medium-scale qualification testing to ensure CLT does not exhibit fire re-growth



**ANNEX B. PRACTICE FOR EVALUATING ELEVATED TEMPERATURE PERFORMANCE OF ADHESIVES USED IN CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER (MANDATORY)**





RISE Tests, 2020  
Photo: RISE

# G147-21

IBC: 602.4.2.2.2, 602.4.2.2.4

## Change to 2024 IBC: IV-B Ceiling Exposure

**Proponents:** Susan Jones, atelierjones, llc, representing atelierjones, llc (susan@atelierjones.com); Stephen DiGiovanni, representing Self (sdigiovanni@clarkcountynv.gov); Carl Baldassarra, Wiss Janney Elstner Associates, representing Self (cbaldassarra@wje.com)

### 2021 International Building Code

**602.4.2.2 Interior protection.** Interior faces of all *mass timber* elements, including the inside face of exterior *mass timber* walls and *mass timber* roofs, shall be protected, as required by this section, with materials complying with Section 703.3.

**602.4.2.2.1 Protection time.** *Noncombustible protection* shall contribute a time equal to or greater than times assigned in Table 722.7.1(1), but not less than 80 minutes. The use of materials and their respective protection contributions specified in Table 722.7.1(2) shall be permitted to be used for compliance with Section 722.7.1.

#### Revise as follows:

**602.4.2.2.2 Protected area.** Interior faces of *mass timber* elements, including the inside face of exterior *mass timber walls* and *mass timber roofs*, shall be protected in accordance with Section 602.4.2.2.1.

**Exceptions:** Unprotected portions of *mass timber* ceilings and walls complying with Section 602.4.2.2.4 and the following:

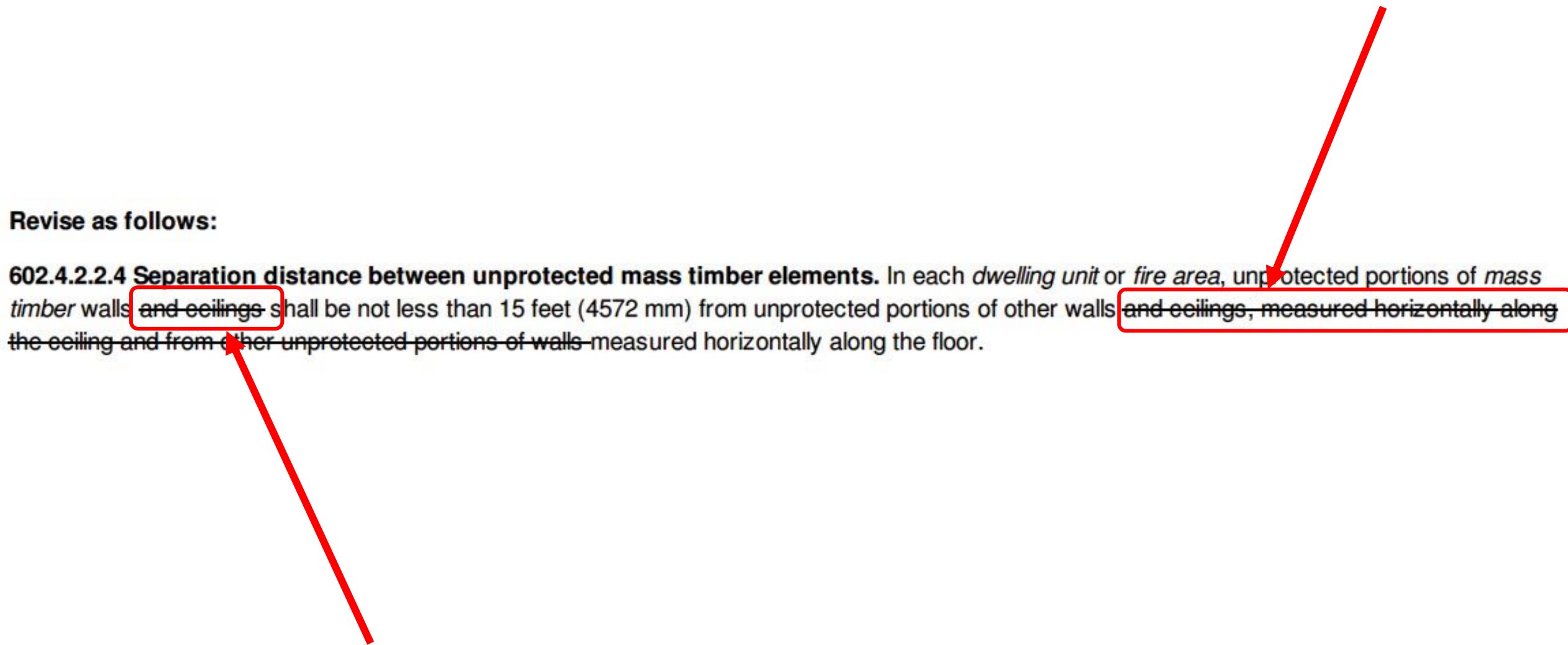
1. Unprotected portions of mass timber ceilings and walls complying with one of the following:
  - 1.1. Unprotected portions of *mass timber* ceilings, including attached beams, shall be permitted and shall be limited to an area less than or equal to 20-100 percent of the floor area in any *dwelling unit* or *fire area*.
  - 1.2. Unprotected portions of *mass timber* walls, including attached columns, shall be permitted and shall be limited to an area less than or equal to 40 percent of the floor area in any *dwelling unit* or *fire area*.
  - 1.3. Unprotected portions of both walls and ceilings of *mass timber*, including attached columns and beams, in any *dwelling unit* or *fire area* shall be permitted in accordance with Section 602.4.2.2.3.
2. *Mass timber* columns and beams that are not an integral portion of walls or ceilings, respectively, shall be permitted to be unprotected without restriction of either aggregate area or separation from one another.



# Change to 2024 IBC: IV-B Exposure Separation

Revise as follows:

**602.4.2.2.4 Separation distance between unprotected mass timber elements.** In each *dwelling unit* or *fire area*, unprotected portions of *mass timber walls and ceilings* shall be not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from unprotected portions of other walls *and ceilings, measured horizontally along the ceiling and from other unprotected portions of walls measured horizontally along the floor.*

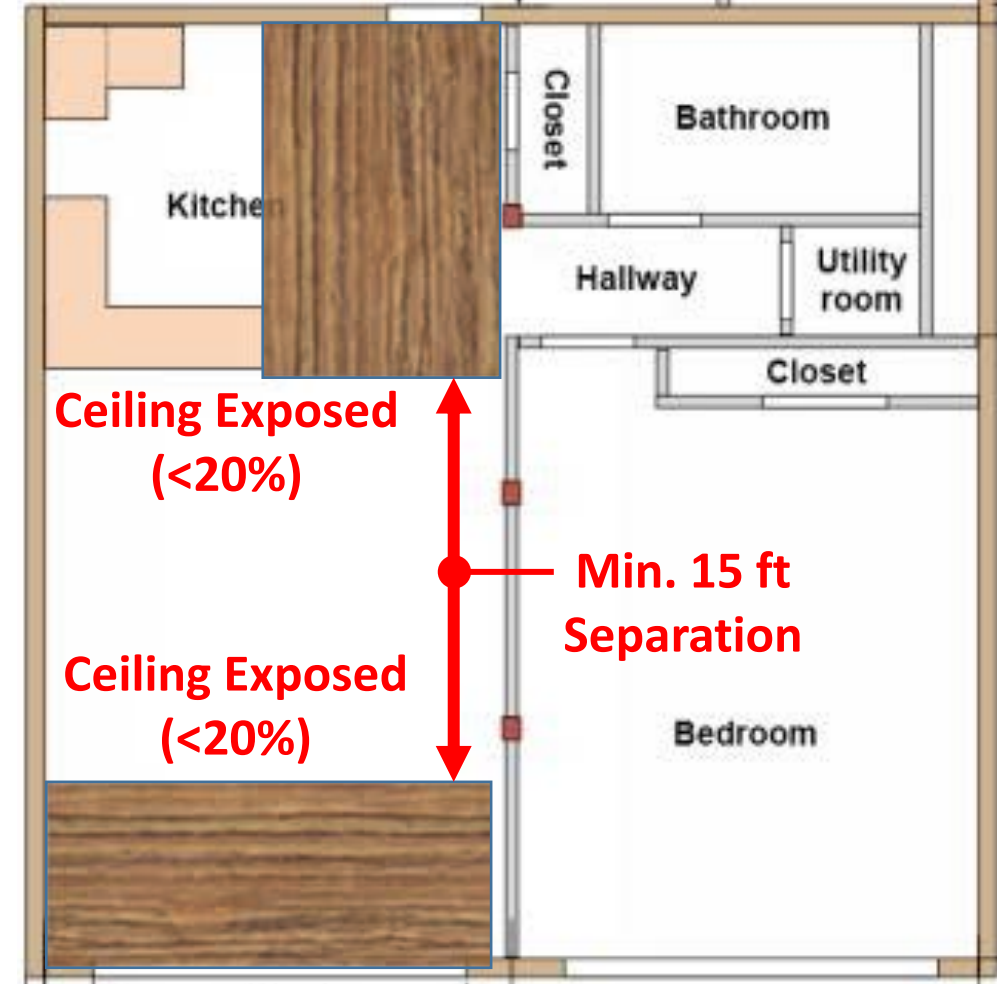
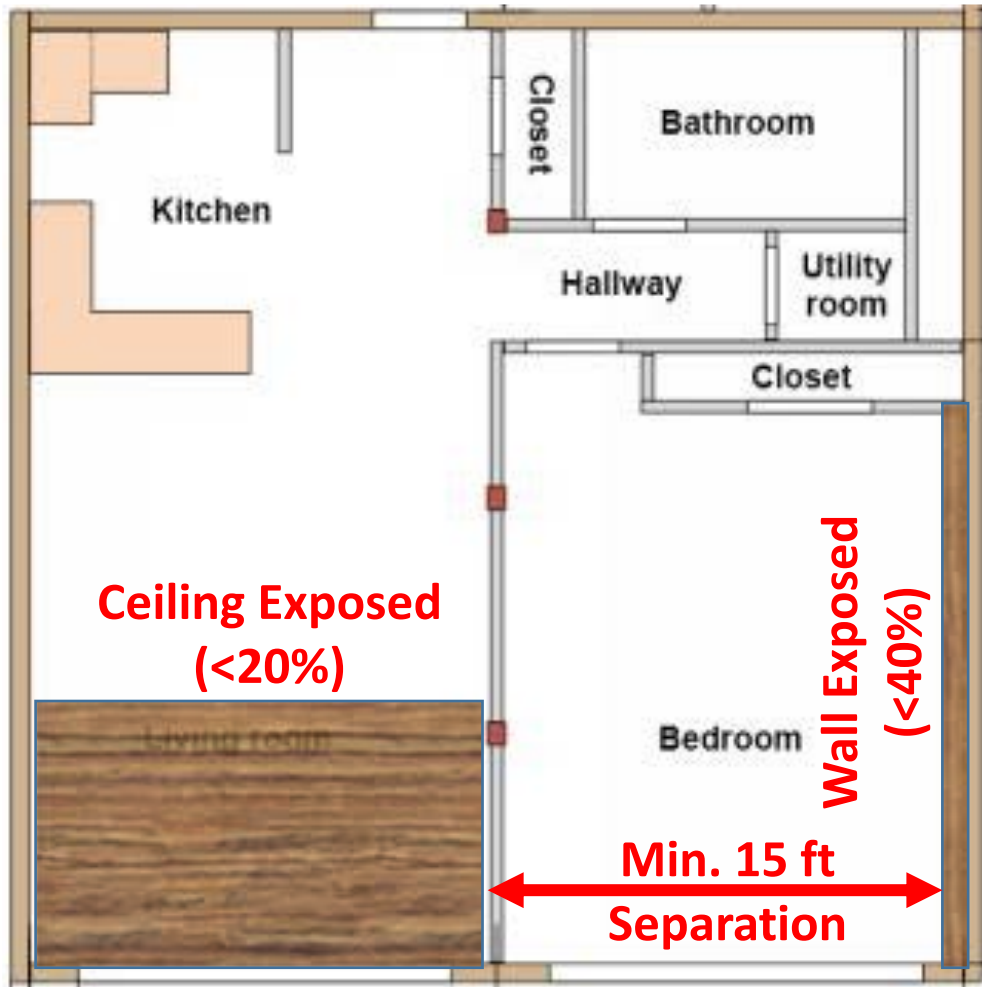




# Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

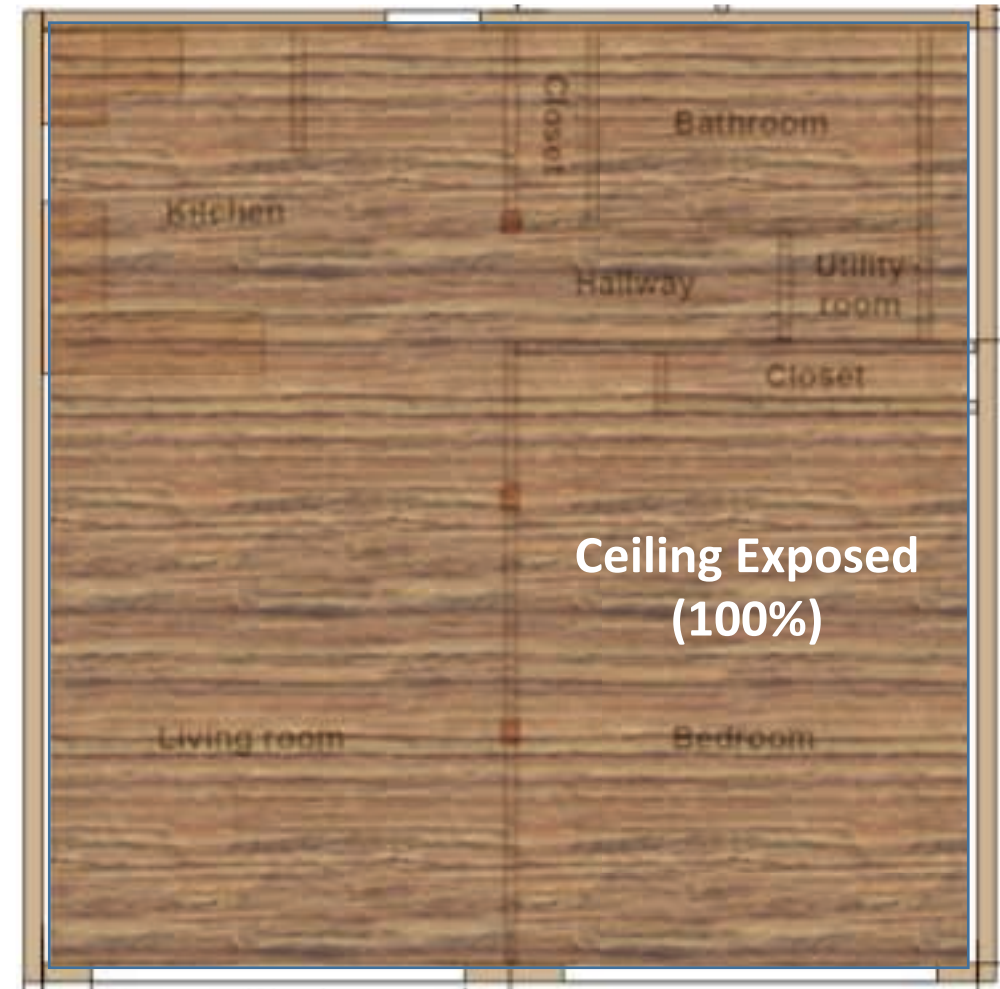
## 2021 IBC Allowances



# Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

## 2024 IBC Allowances



No separation req'd between wall & ceiling

# Floor Surface Protection



**Min. 1" thick NC protection required  
on mass timber floors in IV-A and IV-B.  
Not required in IV-C**





# Floor Surface Protection

## F174-21

IFC: 3303.5

**Proponents:** David Tyree, representing AWC (dtyree@awc.org); Raymond O'Brocki, AWC, representing AWC (robrocki@awc.org)

### 2021 International Fire Code

Revise as follows:

**3303.5 Fire safety requirements for buildings of Types IV-A, IV-B and IV-C construction.** Buildings of Types IV-A, IV-B and IV-C construction designed to be greater than six stories above *grade plane* shall comply with the following requirements during construction unless otherwise approved by the *fire code official*.

1. Standpipes shall be provided in accordance with Section 3313.
2. A water supply for fire department operations, as *approved by the fire code official and the fire chief*.
3. Where building construction exceeds six stories above *grade plane* and noncombustible protection is required by Section 602.4 of the *International Building Code*, at least one layer of noncombustible protection shall be installed on all building elements on floor levels, including mezzanines, more than four levels below active mass timber construction before additional floor levels can be erected.

#### **Exception- Exceptions:**

1. Shafts and vertical exit enclosures shall not be considered part of the active mass timber construction.
2. Noncombustible material on the top of mass timber floor assemblies shall not be required before erecting additional floor levels.
4. Where building construction exceeds six stories above *grade plane*, required exterior wall coverings shall be installed on floor levels, including mezzanines, more than four levels below active mass timber construction before additional floor levels can be erected.

**Exception:** Shafts and vertical exit enclosures shall not be considered part of the active mass timber construction.

# Tall Mass Timber Code Adoptions

[Learn](#)[Tools](#)[Events](#)[Award Gallery](#)[Why Wood?](#)[About](#)

## Status as of July 2022

The 2021 International Building Code (IBC) has been published and is available for purchase through the International Code Council. This version of the code includes three new construction types—IV-A, IV-B and IV-C—that allow the use of mass timber or noncombustible materials in buildings up to 18, 12 and nine stories (respectively). Additionally, Group A changes to be incorporated in the 2024 IBC have been voted on and results ratified by ICC. One significant change relative to construction type IV-B is the allowance for exposure of mass timber ceilings and integral beams. The 2021 IBC permitted these areas to have 20% exposure while the 2024 IBC will permit 100% exposure. See the full code change language, which was approved as submitted, [here](#).

The following jurisdictions have adopted the tall mass timber provisions in the 2021 and/or 2024 IBC, either whole or with local amendments.



- Oregon – [Appendix P Tall Wood Buildings](#) within the 2019 Oregon Structural Specialty Code
- Washington – [Washington State Building Code](#)
- City of Denver, Colorado – [Appendix U Tall Wood Buildings](#) (page 187) within the 2019 Denver Building Code
- Utah – [Chapter 2a: Tall Wood Buildings of Mass Timber Construction](#), incorporated as part of the State Construction Code
- California – [Supplement](#) to the 2019 California Building Code
- Virginia – [Supplement 2021 IBC Mass Timber Provisions](#) within the 2018 state building code
- Maine – [Emergency Rule 3](#), amendments to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (Section 5, item 25)
- Georgia – [Appendix P](#) to the 2018 IBC
- Idaho – [Amendments to the Idaho Building Code](#)
- Howard County, Maryland – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)
- Texas Jurisdictions:
  - City of Dallas – [Ordinance 32198](#) which incorporates some 2021 and 2024 IBC allowances for tall mass timber
  - City of Austin – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)
  - City of Bryan – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)
  - City of Carrollton – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)
  - City of Plano – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)
  - City of Grand Prairie – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)
  - City of Fort Worth – [adoption of the 2021 IBC](#)



# MASS TIMBER FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN



Credit: FPInnovations



# 2 Hour FRR for Mass Timber

FRR Requirements for Tall Mass Timber Structures (hours)

Building Element	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C
Primary Frame	3	2	2
Exterior Bearing Walls	3	2	2
Interior Bearing Walls	3	2	2
Roof Construction	1.5	1	1
Primary Frame at Roof	2	1	1
Floor Construction	2	2	2

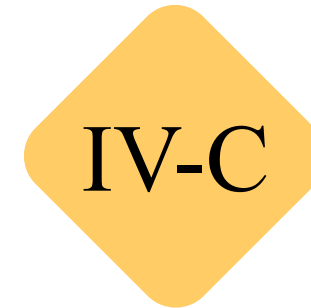
Source: 2021 IBC Table 601

Floor panels for all, primary frame for most, bearing walls for most

# Noncombustible Protection



Noncombustible Protection Required



Roof below Mass Timber

Primary Frame @ Roof

Primary Frame

Below Mass Timber Floor

Above Mass Timber Floor

60 min	40 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
80 min	40 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
120 min	80 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
80 min	80 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
1" Min NC Material	1" Min NC Material	Not Req.	Not Req.

Requirements Per new 602.4. \* Some MT permitted to be exposed.

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



## IBC 722.7

The fire resistance rating of the mass timber elements shall consist of the fire resistance of the unprotected element (MT) added to the protection time of the noncombustible (NC) protection.



**= FRR**



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



However, FRR Doesn't always need to be from a combination of MT + NC. In some cases, just NC can be used, in other cases, just MT can be used:

## IBC 602.4

Mass timber elements shall meet the fire resistance rating requirements of this section based on either the fire resistance rating of the noncombustible protection, the mass timber, or a combination of both.

**MT**



**NC**



Credit: Urban One

# Type IV-A Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-A

## Primary Frame (3-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr):

Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

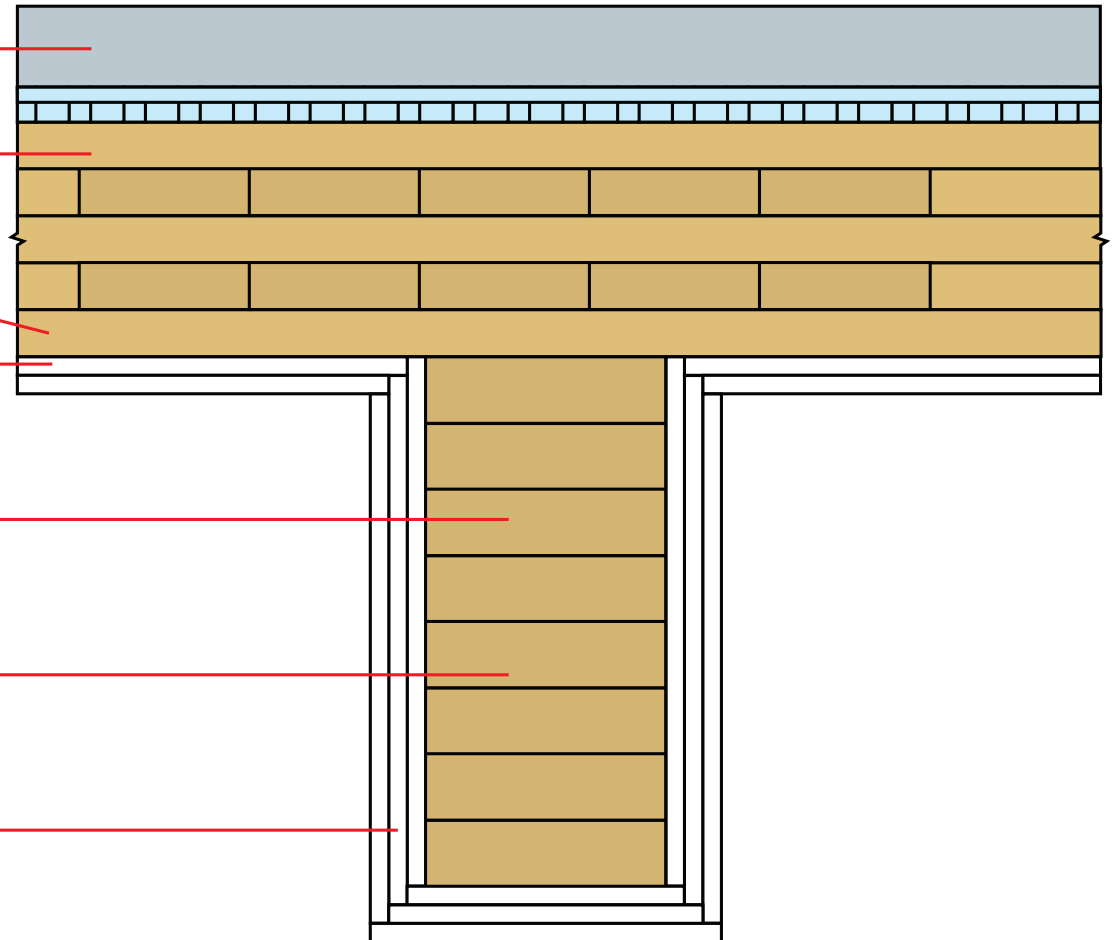
40 minutes of MT FRR

Two layers 5/8" Type X gypsum

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

60 minutes of MT FRR

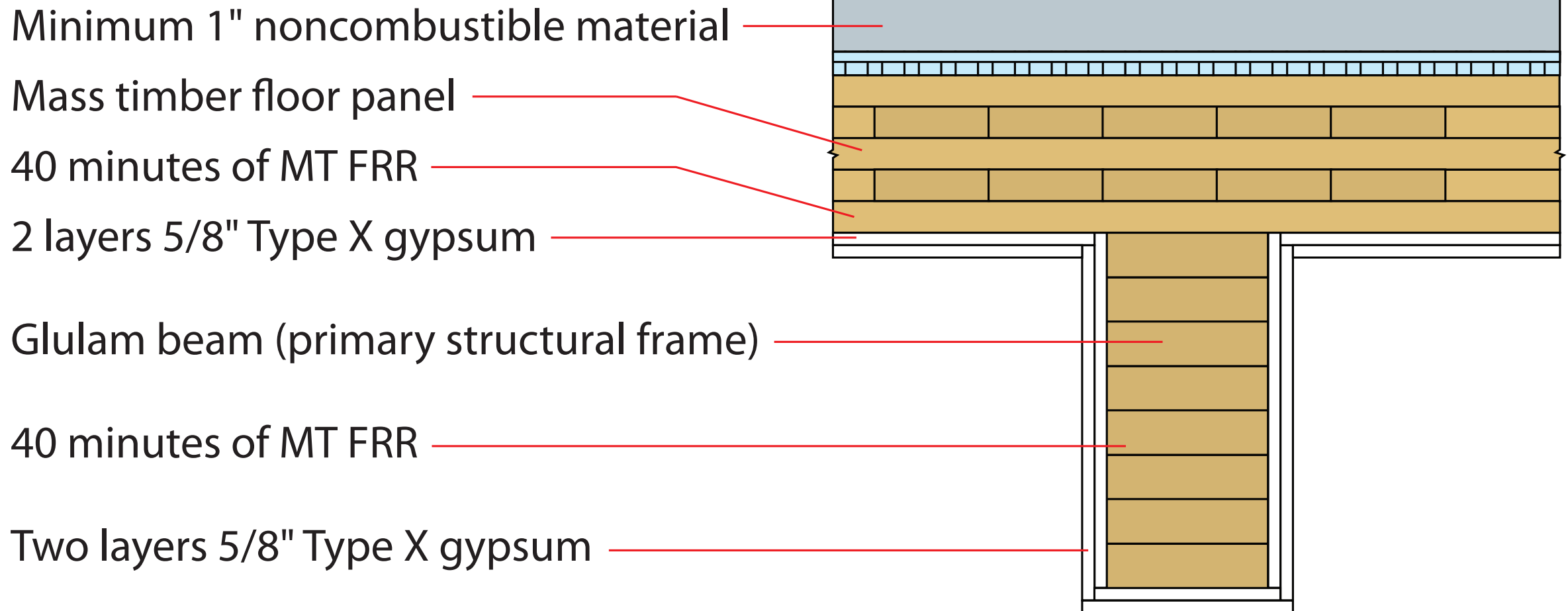
Three layers 5/8" Type X gypsum



# Type IV-B Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

## Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel (2-hr)





# Type IV-B Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

## Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr)

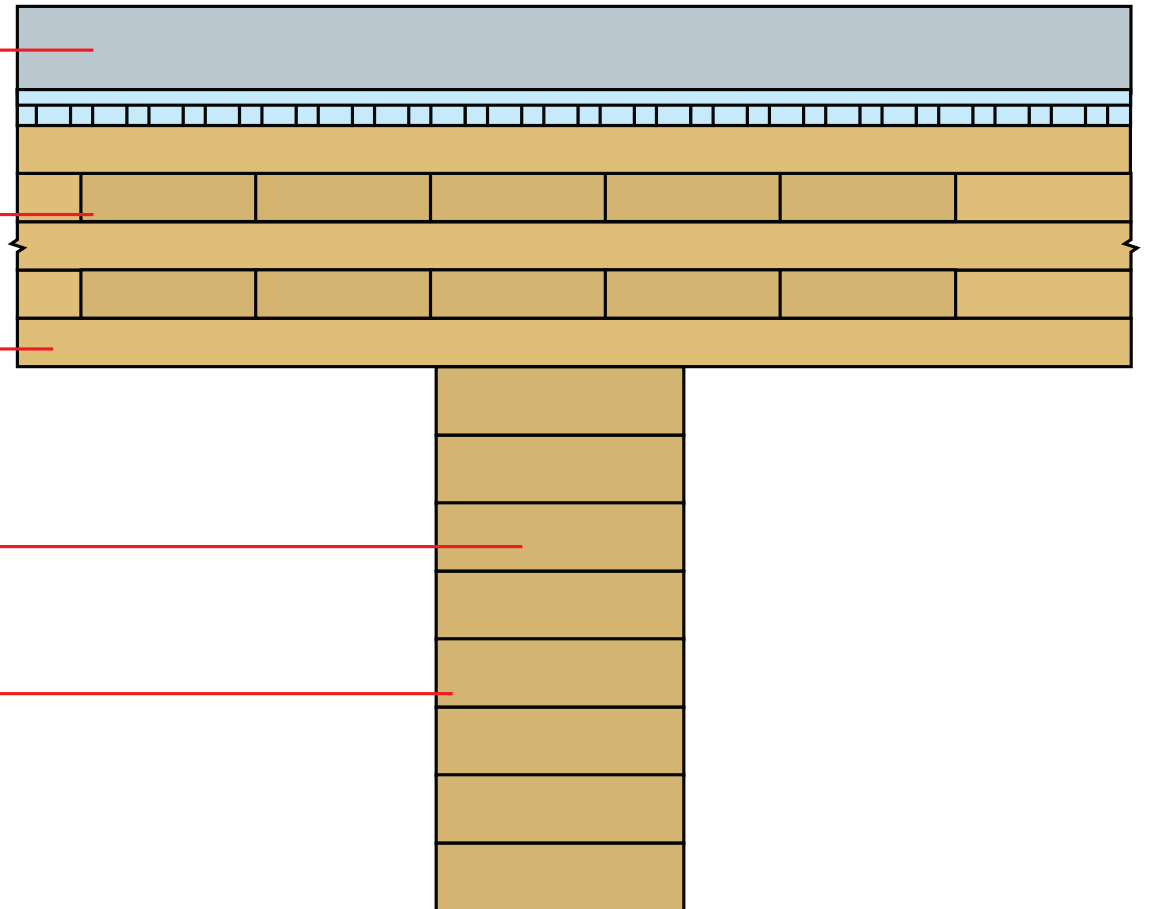
Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

2-hr of MT FRR;  
noncombustible material not required

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

2-hr of MT FRR;  
Noncombustible material not required



# Type IV-C Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

## Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr)

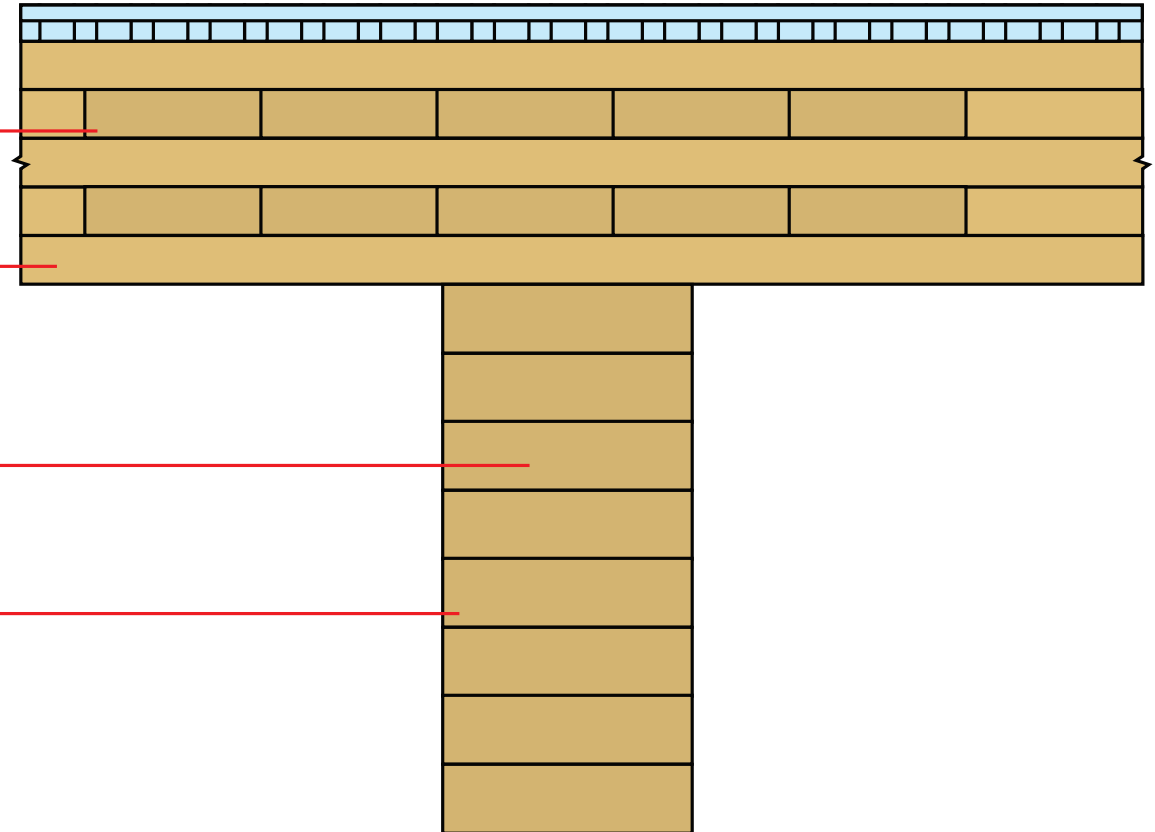
Noncombustible material not required

Mass timber floor panel

2-hr of MT FRR;  
noncombustible material not required

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

2-hr of MT FRR;  
Noncombustible material not required

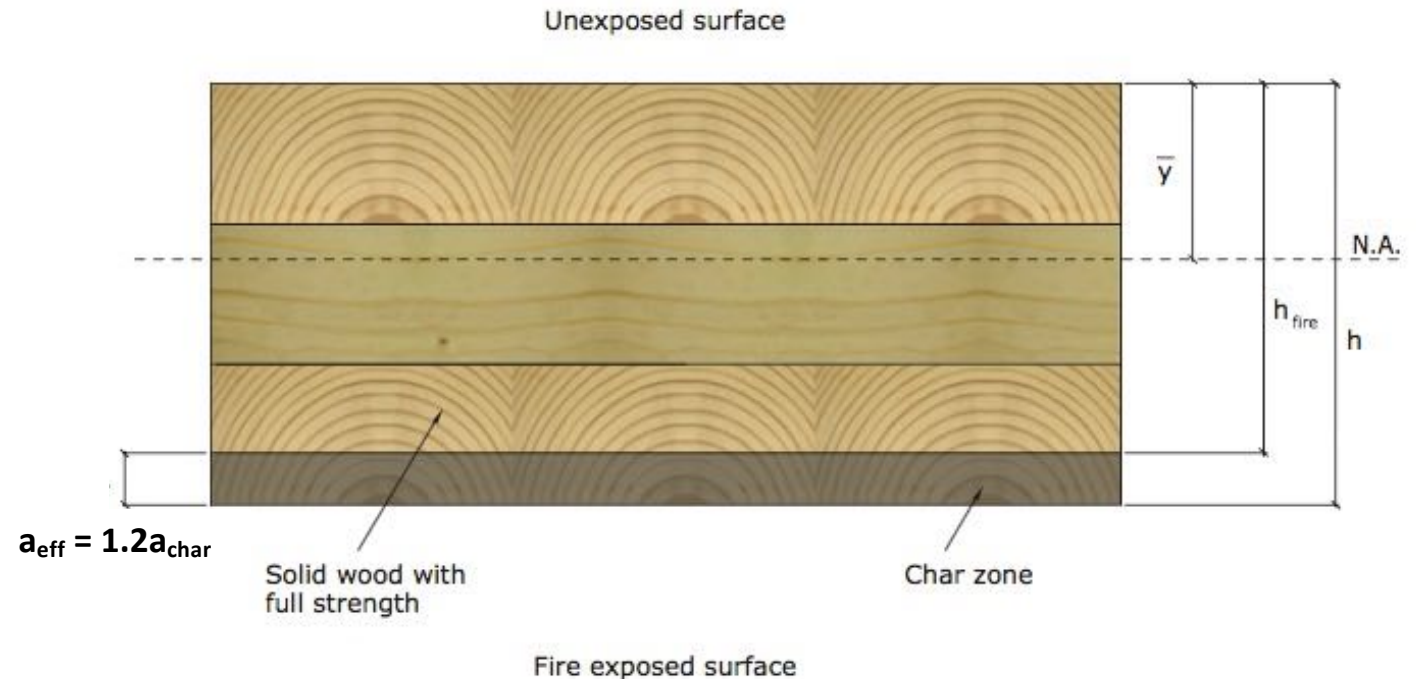


# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

How do you determine FRR of MT?

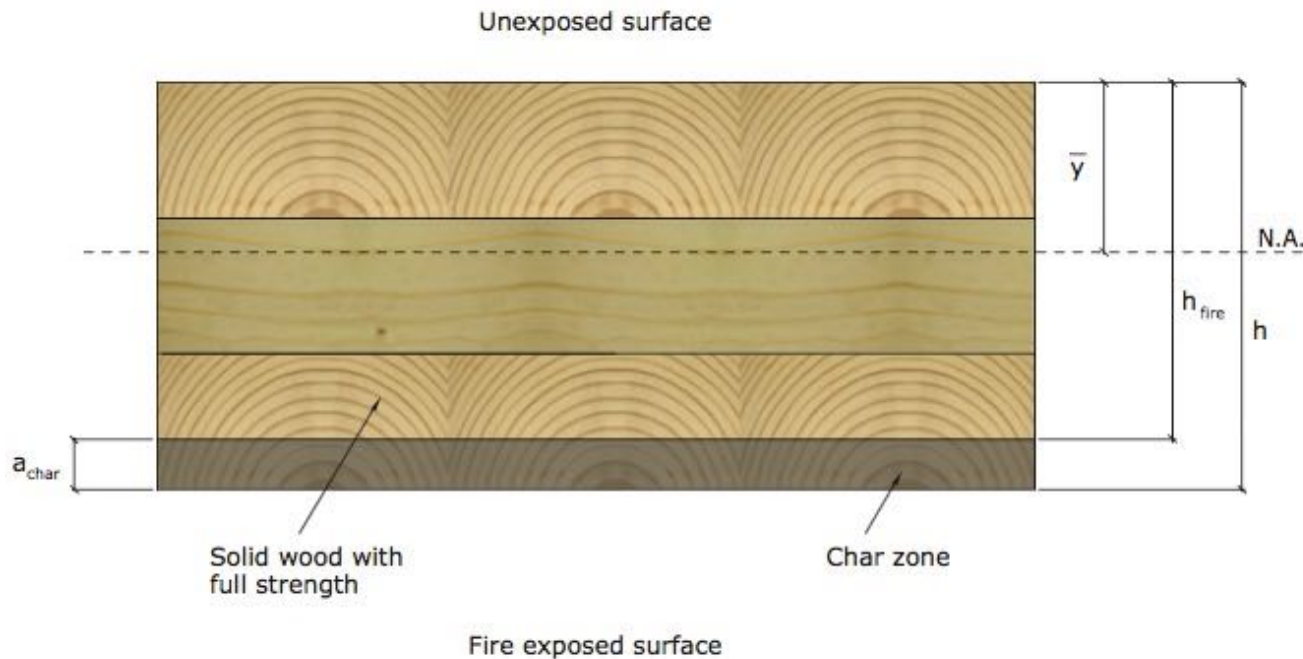
2 Options:

1. Calculations in Accordance with IBC 722 → NDS Chapter 16
2. Tests in Accordance with ASTM E119





# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



## CLT fire design:

- Lam thickness affects char depth
- Partially charred cross layers are typically neglected for structural checks

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## CLT fire design example:

- 2-hour rating req'd
- Try 5-ply, 6-7/8", V1
- Span = 15 ft, DL = 55 psf, LL = 40 psf



Credit: Marcus Kauffman

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## CLT fire design example:

- 2-hr with 1-3/8" laminations
- Total char depth = 3.8"

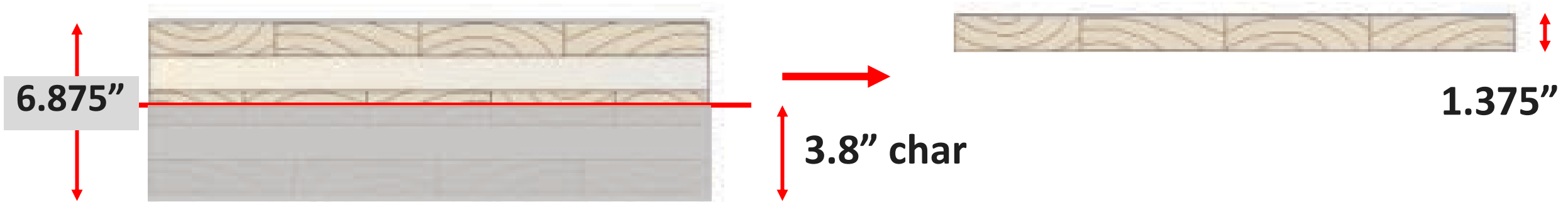
**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n=1.5\text{in./hr.}$ )**

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{\text{char}}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{\text{lam}}$ (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6

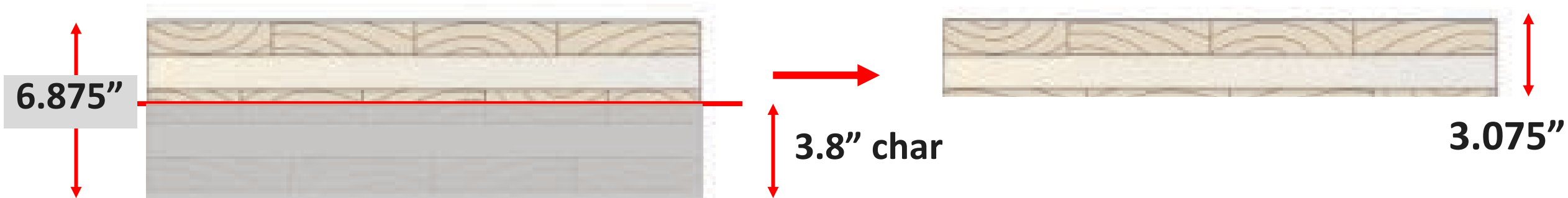


# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

**Option 1: neglect minor axis layer and partial major axis layer. Assess as single layer**



**Option 2: account for partial major axis layer and minor axis layer. Assess using shear analogy method**



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

Option 1: neglect minor axis layer and partial major axis layer. Assess as single layer



$$S = bd^2/6 = (12)(1.375)^2/6 = 3.78 \text{ in}^3 \quad C_F = 1.3 \text{ (assume 2x6 lamella)} \quad C_{fu} = 1.15$$

$$M_{all} = F_b' S_{eff} = (900 \text{ psi})(3.78 \text{ in}^3)(1.3)(1.15)(2.85) = 1208 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

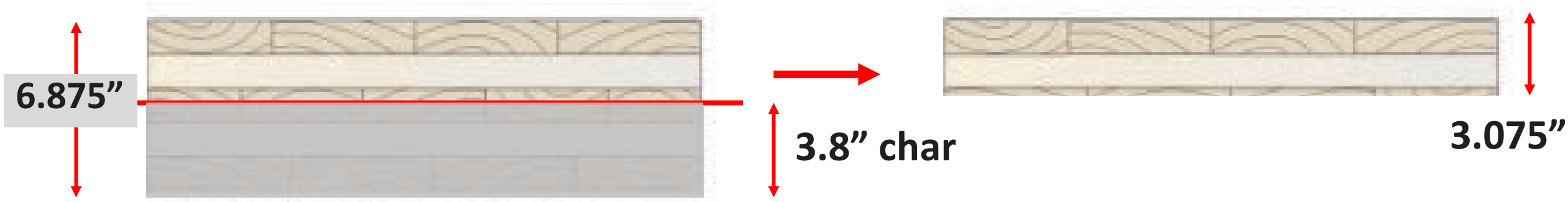
$$M_{max} = w L^2 / 8 = (55+40\text{psf}) (15 \text{ ft})^2 / 8 = 2672 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

$M_{max} > M_{all}$  therefore panel is inadequate for 2-hour fire design using option 1

Common lamella are based on 2x6 and 2x4 sizes lumber... Consult with the selected manufacturer or specify acceptable sizes

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

**Option 2: account for partial major axis layer and minor axis layer. Assess using shear analogy method**





# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

Option 2: account for partial major axis layer and minor axis layer. Assess using shear analogy method

## APPENDIX X3. Engineering Model Used in the Development of Design Values in Annex A (Non-Mandatory)

### X3.1 General

This appendix provides engineering formulas for the determination of CLT design values published in Annex A based on the shear-analogy model and CSA O86. This methodology has been recognized by the consensus-based canvas committee that developed this standard.

### X3.2 Flatwise Bending Moment

$$(F_b S)_{eff,j,0} = \left(\frac{1}{12}\right) 0.85 F_{b,major} S_{eff,j,0} \quad [X3-1 \text{ ASD}]$$

$$(f_b S)_{eff,j,0} = 0.85 f_{b,major} S_{eff,j,0} \quad [X3-1 \text{ LSD}]$$

$$(F_b S)_{eff,j,90} = \left(\frac{1}{12}\right) F_{b,minor} S_{eff,j,90} \quad [X3-2 \text{ ASD}]$$

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

Option 2: account for partial major axis layer and minor axis layer. Assess using shear analogy method

## 8.5.3 Fire Resistance of CLT – Structural Requirement

The procedure set forth in CAN/ULC S101 is applicable to floor and roof assemblies and requires fire exposure to the underside of the specimen being tested. When wall assemblies are evaluated, the specimen is exposed to fire from one side only. This structural requirement is essential in limiting the risk of structural failure or collapse of physical elements due to the effects of a fire.

Step 3: Finding the location of the neutral axis and section properties of the effective reduced cross-section

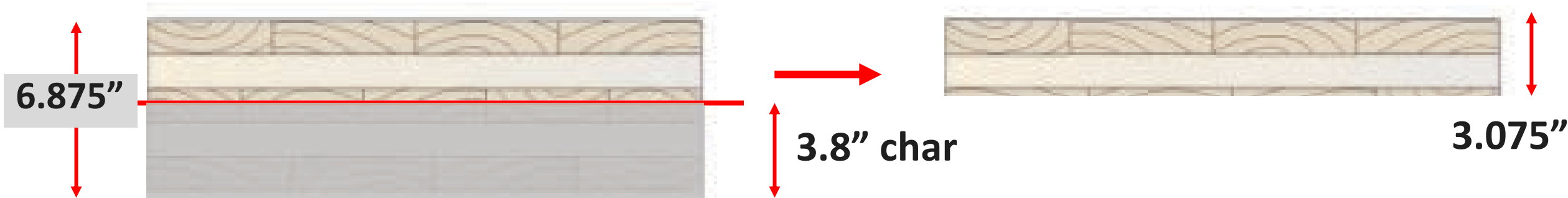
$$\bar{y} = \frac{\sum_i \tilde{y}_i h_i E_i}{\sum_i h_i E_i}$$

2019 CA CLT Handbook

Helpful for CLT with asymmetric layups

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

Option 2: account for partial major axis layer and minor axis layer. Assess using shear analogy method



Shear Analogy Check Results:

$$S = 9.8 \text{ in}^3$$

$$M_{\text{all}} = F_b S_{\text{eff}} = (628 \text{ lb-ft/ft})(2.85) = 1790 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

$$M_{\text{max}} = w L^2 / 8 = (55+40\text{psf}) (15 \text{ ft})^2 / 8 = 2672 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

$M_{\text{max}} > M_{\text{all}}$  therefore panel is inadequate for 2-hour fire design using shear analogy



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

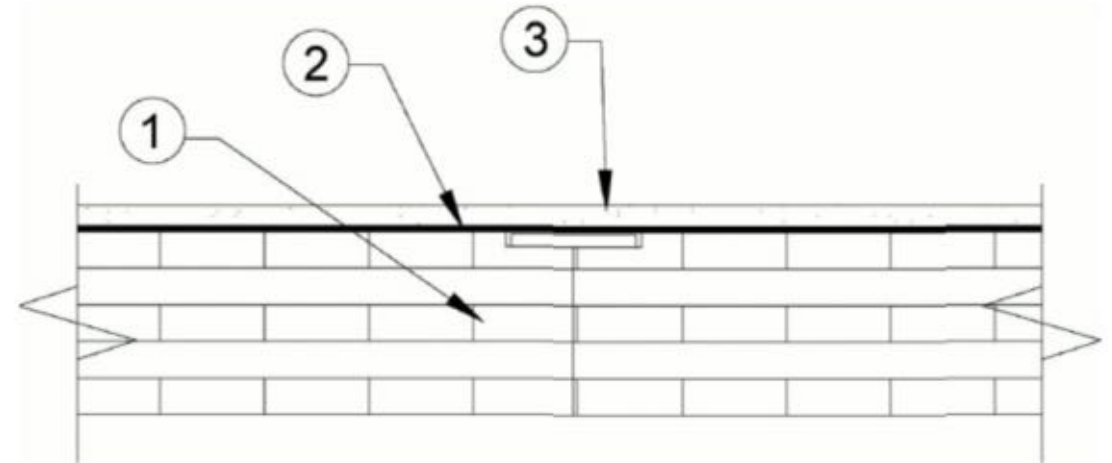
## NDS Chapter 16 Char Calculations vs. ASTM E119 Tested Assembly

- **NDS Chpt 16 calcs check structural integrity**
- **E119 checks structural integrity, hose stream and unexposed surface temperature**
- **TR 10 provide thermal checks**

**Unrestrained Assembly Rating - 1-1/2 Hr.**

**Restricted Load Condition - 50% maximum allowable bending moment from manufacturers published load tables developed in accordance with the NDS-2012 and CLT Handbook, US Edition.**

**\* Indicates such products shall bear the UL or cUL Certification Mark for jurisdictions employing the UL or cUL Certification (such as Canada), respectively.**

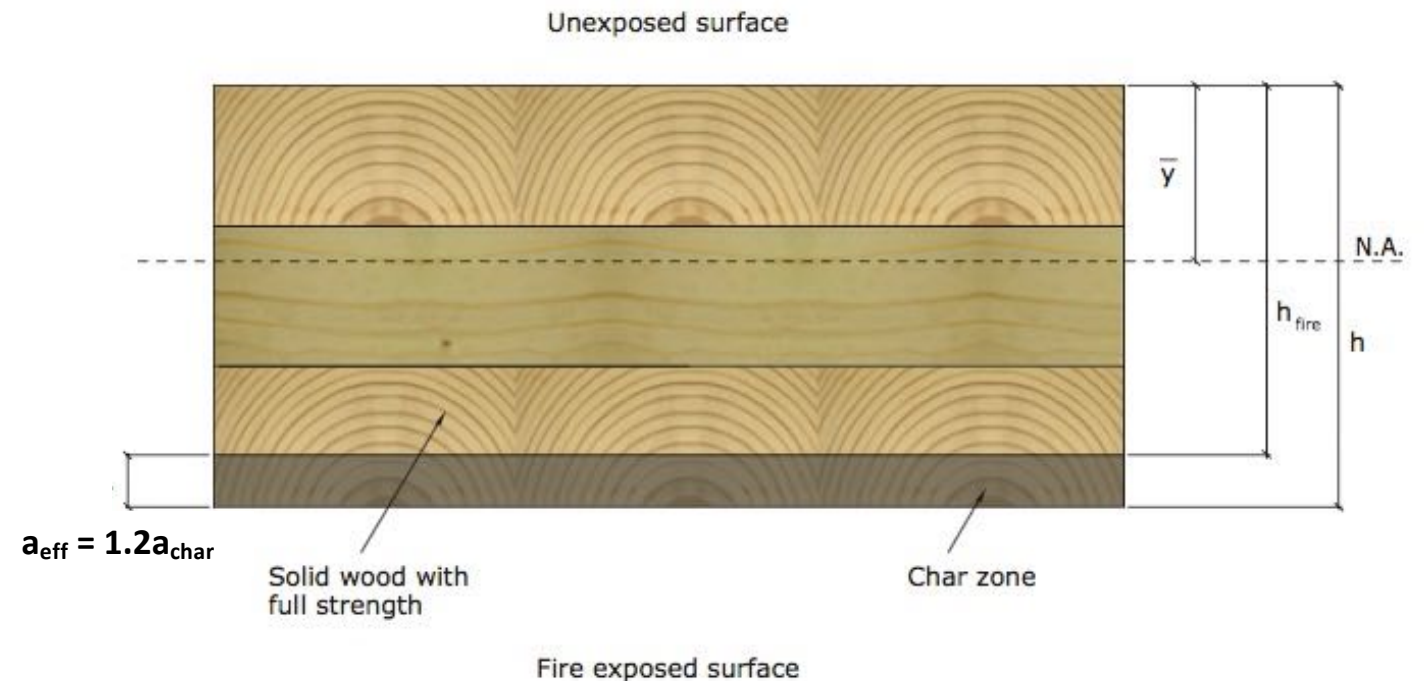


# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

How do you determine FRR of MT?

2 Options:

1. Calculations in Accordance with IBC 722 → NDS Chapter 16
2. Tests in Accordance with ASTM E119



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

Table 1: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Mass Timber Floor / Roof Assemblies



CLT Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Major x Minor Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection in Test	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm 4.488 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5 EMSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 36% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105mm 4.133 in)	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 5)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	None	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under Z-channels and furring strips with 3 5/8" fibrous lath	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	5	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	None	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.5	3	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	1 layer 5/8" normal gypsum	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	1 layer 5/8" Type X Gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 7/8" I-Joints with 3 1/2" Mineral Wool between Joins	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	EI M5 MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Grete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	SPF 1950 Fb MSR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 59% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
7-ply CLT (245mm 9.65")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% Moment Capacity	2.5	1 (Test 7)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	SmartLam	SL-V4	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails.	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 4)	Western Fire Center 10/26/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	SmartLam	VI	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails.	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 5)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails.	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 6)	Western Fire Center 11/01/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	KLH	CV3M1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	1	18	SwRI 11/1/2016



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

### 2-Hour Floor Panel Options with Ceiling Side Exposed:

Mass Timber Panel	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection	Floor Topping	Applied Load	Span	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Topside Spline	None	10,800 lb (60 psf)	12'	2
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	70 psf	12ft - support widths	2
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Grete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	75 psf (3.6 kPa) supplemental. 90psf including Gyp-Crete + self weight	12 ft	2.5
5-ply CLT (6.3")	None	Half-Lap & Surface Spline	None	17,800 lb (~ 108 psf)	12'	2
5-ply CLT (180mm 7.09")	None	Topside Spline	None	18,000 lb (185 psf)	12'	2
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Half-Lap	1/2" plywood with 8d nails.	95.2 psf live, 113.4 psf total	13' 5" clear	2
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Half-Lap	1/2" plywood with 8d nails.	95.2 psf live, 115.6 psf total	13' 5" clear	2
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Half-Lap	1/2" plywood with 8d nails.	95.2 psf live, 116.3 psf total	13' 5" clear	2
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	None	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	4.40 kN/m2 or 91.8 psf	15'10" - supports (2x3.5" or 89mm)	2

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## Extrapolating tested loading & span results:

\*Need to also look at deflections, vibrations, etc

Applied Load	Span	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Moment resulting from tested load and span (lb*ft)	Allowable total load (psf) at 14 ft span	Allowable total load (psf) at 15 ft span	Allowable total load (psf) at 16 ft span	Allowable total load (psf) at 17 ft span
10,800 lb (60 psf)	12'	2	1080	44	38	34	30
70 psf	12ft - support widths	2	1260	51	45	39	35
75 psf (3.6 kPA) supplemental. 90psf including Gyp-Crete + self weight	12 ft	2.5	1620	66	58	51	45
17,800 lb (~ 108 psf)	12'	2	1944	79	69	61	54
18,000 lb (185 psf)	12'	2	3330	136	118	104	92
95.2 psf live, 113.4 psf total	13' 5" clear	2	2552	104	91	80	71
95.2 psf live, 115.6 psf total	13' 5" clear	2	2601	106	92	81	72
95.2 psf live, 116.3 psf total	13' 5" clear	2	2617	107	93	82	72
4.40 kN/m2 or 91.8 psf	15'10" - supports (2x3.5" or 89mm)	2	2877	117	102	90	80

**TECHNICAL BRIEF**

# Demonstrating Fire-Resistance Ratings for Mass Timber Elements in Tall Wood Structures

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director – Tall Wood, WoodWorks

Changes to the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) have created opportunities for wood buildings that are much larger and taller than prescriptively allowed in past versions of the code. Occupant safety, and the need to ensure fire performance in particular, was a fundamental consideration as the changes were developed and approved. The result is three new construction types—Type IV-A, IV-B and IV-C—which are based on the previous Heavy Timber construction type (renamed Type IV-HT), but with additional fire protection requirements.

One of the main ways to demonstrate that a building will meet the required level of passive fire protection, regardless of structural materials, is through hourly fire-resistance ratings (FRRs) of its elements and assemblies. The IBC defines an FRR as *the period of time a building element, component or assembly maintains the ability to confine a fire, continues to perform a given structural function, or both, as determined by the tests, or the methods based on tests, prescribed in Section 703.*

FRRs for the new construction types are similar to those required for Type I construction, which is primarily steel and concrete.<sup>1</sup> (See Table 1.) They are found in IBC Table 601, which includes FRR requirements for all construction types and building elements; however, other code sections should be checked for overriding provisions (e.g., occupancy separation, shaft enclosures, etc.) that may alter the requirement.



TABLE 1:  
FRR Requirements (Hours) for Tall Mass Timber Construction Types and Existing Type I

Building Element	I-A Unlimited stories, max. 12 ft. clear height	IV-A Max. 18 stories, max. 12 ft. clear height	I-B Max. 12 stories, max. 12 ft. clear height	IV-B Max. 12 stories, max. 12 ft. clear height	IV-C Max. 9 stories, max. 12 ft. clear height
------------------	---	--	---	--	---

# Tall Timber Fire-Resistance Design



# Questions?



Jessica Scarlett, EIT

[Jessica.scarlett@woodworks.org](mailto:Jessica.scarlett@woodworks.org)  
(803)616-6231

Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE

[Scott.breneman@woodworks.org](mailto:Scott.breneman@woodworks.org)  
(530)723-6230

Ricky McLain

[Ricky.mclain@woodworks.org](mailto:Ricky.mclain@woodworks.org)  
(802)498-3310

901 East Sixth, Thoughtbarn-Delineate Studio,  
Leap!Structures, photo Casey Dunn



# Copyright Materials

This presentation is protected by US  
and International Copyright laws.  
Reproduction, distribution, display and use of  
the presentation without written permission  
of the speaker is prohibited.

© The Wood Products Council 2022

*Funding provided in part by the Softwood Lumber Board*

**Disclaimer:** The information in this presentation, including, without limitation, references to information contained in other publications or made available by other sources (collectively “information”) should not be used or relied upon for any application without competent professional examination and verification of its accuracy, suitability, code compliance and applicability by a licensed engineer, architect or other professional. Neither the Wood Products Council nor its employees, consultants, nor any other individuals or entities who contributed to the information make any warranty, representative or guarantee, expressed or implied, that the information is suitable for any general or particular use, that it is compliant with applicable law, codes or ordinances, or that it is free from infringement of any patent(s), nor do they assume any legal liability or responsibility for the use, application of and/or reference to the information. Anyone making use of the information in any manner assumes all liability arising from such use.