

Mass Timber Floor Vibration Design Guide: A New Resource for Engineers

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Course Description

This webinar introduces a new resource developed to address a gap in available knowledge: the U.S. Mass Timber Floor Vibration Design Guide. The decision to use mass timber floors over competing materials is largely driven by economics. In almost all floor applications, the design of the mass timber panels and framing is determined by limiting the floor vibrations perceived by occupants (or sensitive equipment) to acceptable levels. While it is widely recognized that floor vibration design has a significant impact on cost, there has been little information on how to cost-effectively design mass timber floors for vibration. In addition to introducing the design guide and its contents, this webinar will cover the range of mass timber panel products used for floors, as well as design methodologies, and example calculations.



Learning Objectives

- 1. Discuss criteria for acceptable floor vibration performance of mass timber systems in varying occupancies including multi-family and laboratories with sensitive equipment.
- 2. Review floor vibration design parameters through a systems rather than product-based approach.
- 3. Demonstrate methods of designing mass timber floors for vibration and highlight appropriate design methods for different system characteristics.
- 4. Introduce the U.S. Mass Timber Floor Vibration Design Guide and highlight its applicability to mass timber floor panel design for code-compliant projects.

























Framing	; Materia	ls Prope	rties for V	ibration	
Material	Floor Weight (psf)	Damping	Material Stiffness (10 ⁶ psi)	Material Mass (pcf)	Example Floor System
Concrete	100-150	1-5%	3.2-5.8	120-150	2-way slab on columns
Steel	50-100	0.5-5%	30	490	Concrete on metal deck on purlins and girders
Mass Timber	15-65	1-5%	1.2-1.8	30-40	Beam or wall supported panels
Wood Frame	10-40	2-12%	1.2-2.0	30-40	Wall supported joists or trusses































CLT Handbook Base Span Limit

For PRG 320-2019 Basic CLT Grades and Layups from Solid Sawn Lumber

Grade	Layup	Thickness	Base Span Limit
	3ply	4 1/8"	13.1
E1	5ply	6 7/8"	18.2
	7ply	9 5/8"	22.7
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.4
E2	5ply	6 7/8"	17.2
	7ply	9 5/8"	21.6
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.0
E3	5ply	6 7/8"	16.7
	7ply	9 5/8"	20.9
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.7
E4	5ply	6 7/8"	17.6
	7ply	9 5/8"	22.1
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.6
E5	5ply	6 7/8"	17.5
	7ply	9 5/8"	21.9

Grade	Layup	Thickness	FPI Span Limit
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.6
V1	5ply	6 7/8"	17.6
	7ply	9 5/8"	22.0
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.6
V1(N)	5ply	6 7/8"	17.6
	7ply	9 5/8"	22.0
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.4
V2	5ply	6 7/8"	17.2
	7ply	9 5/8"	21.5
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.0
V3	5ply	6 7/8"	16.7
	7ply	9 5/8"	20.9
	3ply	4 1/8"	11.7
V4	5ply	6 7/8"	16.3
	7ply	9 5/8"	20.4
	3ply	4 1/8"	12.1
V5	5ply	6 7/8"	16.8
	7ply	9 5/8"	21.0

Reference: US Mass Timber Floor Vibration Design Guide, assuming 12% M.C.

■ E2	5ply	- 1/0 6 7/8"	12.4		opiy 5ply		
Appro	oximate l	sase spa	n Limits:	Limitation	7plv		
4 ¹ /	⁸ " 3-ply:	4 ~12 to	13 ft 2.0	- Does no	ot acco	unt for str	ength or de
E6 7	⁷ ₈ " 5-ply:	~16 to	18 ft	- Does no	ot acco	unt for bea	am flexibili
9 5/	[~] " 7-ply:	~20 to	22 ft 2.7	- Does no	ot acco	unt for pro	oject specif
E4	5ply					6 7/8"	16.7













Walking Spec	ed Walking Frequency	Steps Per Minute
Very Slow	1.25 Hz	75 SPM
Slow	1.6 Hz	95 SPM
Moderate	1.85 Hz	110 SPM
Fast	2.1 Hz	126 SPM
Running	Up to 4.0 Hz	240 SPM































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	Selection Based	on Judgement and Experience
Category	Range of Damping ζ (% critical)	Discussion
Lightly damped	1-2%	The lower end includes bare floors without topping and with minimal furnishing. The higher end includes floors with concrete topping and furnishings.
Moderately damped	2-4%	Lower values include bare timber-concrete composite floors, or timber floors with a floating concrete layer and full furnishings. The higher values include floors with floating floor layers, raised floors, full furnishings, and mechanical systems. Floors with both furnishings and permanent partitions, not otherwise accounted for, could also be represented on the higher end of this damping range.
Heavily damped	4-5%	Floors in this range represent the upper limit of inherent damping. These floors likely include floating toppings, raised floors, suspended ceilings, furnishings, fixtures, and/or permanent partitions not otherwise accounted for.







Place	Peak Accel, in 4-8	Response Factor.		
	Hz Range	R		
Commercial buildings including offices, retail, restaurants, airports	0.57% g	8		
Residential (day)	0.28% to 0.57% g	4 to 8		
Premium quality office, open office with busy corridors near mid- span, neavily trafficked public areas with seating	0.28% g	4		
Residential (night)*	0.20% g	2.8		
Hospitals and critical work areas	0.071% g	1		
* CCIP-016 suggests that this more res	trictive target may	not he necessary		

Place	Peak Accel.	Equivalent
	Target	Response
	in 4-8 Hz range	Factor, R
Outdoor pedestrian bridges	5% g	70
Indoor pedestrian bridges, shopping malls	1.5% g	21
Offices, residences, quiet areas	0.5% g	7

	RMS Velocity	RMS Velocity	Targe	Response	
The c	Target*	Target*	Fa	actor, R	
Commercial buildings including offices, retail, restaurants, airports	8 x 10 ⁻⁴ m/s	32,000 mips		8	
Residential	4 to 8 x 10 ⁻⁴ m/s	16,000 to 32,000 mips		4 to 8	
Premium quality office, open office with busy corridors near mid-span, heavily trafficked public areas with seating	4 x 10 ⁻⁴ m/s	16,000 mips		4	
	AISC	DG 11 Perforr	nance	e Targets	
	Place	RMS V	elocity	RMS Velocity	Equival Response E
	Ordinary Workshop	s 8 x 10	-4 m/s	32.000 mips	8
	Offices	4 x 10	-4 m/s	16,000 mips	4
	Residences	2 x 10	-4 m/s	8,000 mips	2
	Hospital patient room	ms 1.5 x 10)-4 m/s	6,000 mips	1.5
"mips'	' = micro-inche	s per second			

Place	Peak Acceleration Target	RMS Velocity Target
Offices, residences	0.5% g	16,000 – 32,000 mips
Premium offices or luxury residences	0.3% g	8,000 – 16,000 mips

There are many assumptions and judgements which go into predicting the response. This is not an exact compliance check.









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