

# Technical Evaluation Report™

## TER 1508-01

Shear Wall Performance of Hunter Panels Xci NB, Xci Ply  
and Xci Ply (Class A)

**Hunter Panels, LLC**

### Product:

**Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)**

Issue Date:

October 3, 2015

Revision Date:

October 31, 2023

Subject to Renewal:

October 1, 2024



Use the QR code to access the most recent version or a sealed  
copy of this Technical Evaluation Report (TER) at [drjcertification.org](https://drjcertification.org).



COMPANY  
INFORMATION:

ADDITIONAL  
LISTEES:

Hunter Panels, LLC  
15 Franklin St  
Portland, ME 04101-7119

TF: 888-746-1114  
TF: 887-755-1769

[hunterpanels.com](http://hunterpanels.com)

DIVISION: 06 00 00 - WOOD, PLASTICS AND COMPOSITES

SECTION: 06 16 00 - Sheathing

SECTION: 06 12 00 - Structural Panels

DIVISION: 07 00 00 - THERMAL AND MOISTURE PROTECTION

SECTION: 06 12 19 - Shear Wall Panels

SECTION: 07 27 00 - Air Barriers

## 1 Innovative Products Evaluated<sup>1,2</sup>

- 1.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)

## 2 Applicable Codes and Standards<sup>3,4</sup>

### 2.1 Codes

- 2.1.1 *IBC—15, 18, 21: International Building Code®*  
2.1.2 *IRC—15, 18, 21: International Residential Code®*  
2.1.3 *IECC—15, 18, 21: International Energy Conservation Code®*

### 2.2 Standards and Referenced Documents

- 2.2.1 *ANSI/AWC SDPWS: Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic*  
2.2.2 *ASCE/SEI 7: Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*  
2.2.3 *ASTM E84: Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*  
2.2.4 *ASTM E564: Standard Practice for Static Load Test for Shear Resistance of Framed Walls for Buildings*  
2.2.5 *ASTM E2126: Standard Test Methods for Cyclic (Reversed) Load Test for Shear Resistance of Vertical Elements of the Lateral Force Resisting Systems for Buildings*  
2.2.6 *ASTM E2178: Standard Test Method for Air Permeance of Building Materials*

<sup>1</sup> For more information, visit [drjcertification.org](http://drjcertification.org) or call us at 608-310-6748.

<sup>2</sup> **Federal Regulation Definition.** 24 CFR 3280.2 "Listed or certified" means included in a list published by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency, or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials, and whose listing states either that the equipment or material meets nationally recognized standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner. **International Building Code (IBC) Definition of Listed.** Equipment, materials, products or services included in a list published by an organization acceptable to the building official and concerned with evaluation of products or services that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services and whose Listing states either that the equipment, material, product or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose. **IBC Definition of Labeled.** Equipment, materials or products to which has been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, approved agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and whose labeling indicates either that the equipment, material or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

<sup>3</sup> This Listing is a code defined research report, which is also known as a duly authenticated report, provided by an approved agency (see IBC Section 1703.1) and/or an approved source (see IBC Section 1703.4.2). An approved agency is "approved" when it is ANAB accredited. DrJ Engineering, LLC (DrJ) is listed in the ANAB directory. A professional engineer is "approved" as an approved source when that professional engineer is properly licensed to transact engineering commerce. Where sealed by a professional engineer, it is also a duly authenticated report certified by an approved source. (i.e., Registered Design Professional). DrJ is an ANAB accredited product certification body.

<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all references in this Listing are from the 2021 version of the codes and the standards referenced therein. This material, product, design, service and/or method of construction also complies with the 2000-2021 versions of the referenced codes and the standards referenced therein.

### 3 Performance Evaluation

- 3.1 Tests, test reports, research reports, duly authenticated reports and related engineering evaluations are defined as intellectual property and/or trade secrets and protected by Defend Trade Secrets Act 2016 (DTSA).<sup>5</sup>
- 3.2 Testing and/or inspections conducted for this TER were performed at an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited testing laboratory,<sup>6</sup> an ISO/IEC 17020 accredited inspection body,<sup>7</sup> which are internationally recognized accreditations through International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and/or a licensed Registered Design Professional (RDP).
- 3.3 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) were evaluated to determine:
  - 3.3.1 Structural performance for shear wall assemblies used as lateral force resisting systems in Seismic Design Categories A through F, have been tested and evaluated in accordance with the following standards:
    - 3.3.1.1 ASCE/SEI 7: Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures
    - 3.3.1.2 ASTM D7989: Standard Practice for Demonstrating Equivalent In-Plane Lateral Seismic Performance to Wood-Frame Shear Walls Sheathed with Wood Structural Panels
    - 3.3.1.3 ASTM E72: Standard Test Methods of Conducting Strength Tests of Panels for Building Construction
    - 3.3.1.4 ASTM E564: Standard Practice for Static Load Test for Shear Resistance of Framed Walls for Buildings
    - 3.3.1.5 ASTM E2126: Standard Test Methods for Cyclic (Reversed) Load Test for Shear Resistance of Vertical Elements of the Lateral Force Resisting Systems for Buildings
  - 3.3.2 Lateral force resisting systems for use in both wind and seismic applications follow the performance-based provisions of IBC Section 2306.1, IBC Section 2306.3 and/or Section 4.3 SDPWS for light-frame wood wall assemblies.
    - 3.3.2.1 Table 3 provides Seismic Design Coefficients (SDC) that conform to the requirements in ASCE 7 Section 12.2.1, 12.2.1.1 and Table 12.2-1 for design of wall assemblies in buildings that require seismic design.
      - 3.3.2.1.1 ASTM D7989 is accepted engineering practice used to establish SDCs. Test data generated by ISO/IEC 17025 approved agencies and/or professional engineers and all associated professional engineering evaluations which use ASTM D7989 as their basis, are defined as intellectual property and/or trade secrets and are also defined as an independent design review (i.e., Listings, certified reports, duly authenticated reports from approved agencies, and/or research reports prepared by approved agencies and/or approved sources).
  - 3.3.3 Structural performance under lateral load conditions for use as an alternative to the conventional wall bracing provisions of IBC Section 2308.6 Method WSP (Wood Structural Panel).
  - 3.3.4 Structural performance under lateral load conditions for use as a perforated shear wall.
  - 3.3.5 Resistance to transverse loads for wall assemblies used in light-frame wood construction in accordance with IBC Section 1609.1.1.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/part-II/chapter-90>. Given our professional duty to inform, please be aware that whoever, with intent to convert a trade secret (TS), that is related to a product or service used in or intended for use in interstate or foreign commerce, to the economic benefit of anyone other than the owner thereof, and intending or knowing that the offense will, injure any owner of that trade secret, knowingly without authorization copies, duplicates, sketches, draws, photographs, downloads, uploads, alters, destroys, photocopies, replicates, transmits, delivers, sends, mails, communicates, or conveys such information; shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both. Any organization that commits any offense described in subsection (a) shall be fined not more than the greater of \$5,000,000 or 3 times the value of the stolen trade secret to the organization, including expenses for research and design and other costs of reproducing the trade secret that the organization has thereby avoided. The federal government and each state have a public records act. As the National Society of Professional Engineers states, "Engineers shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer, or public body on which they serve." Therefore, to protect intellectual property (IP) and TS, and to achieve compliance with public records and trade secret legislation, requires approval through the use of Listings, certified reports, technical evaluation reports, duly authenticated reports and/or research reports prepared by approved agencies and/or approved sources. For more information, please review this website: Intellectual Property and Trade Secrets.

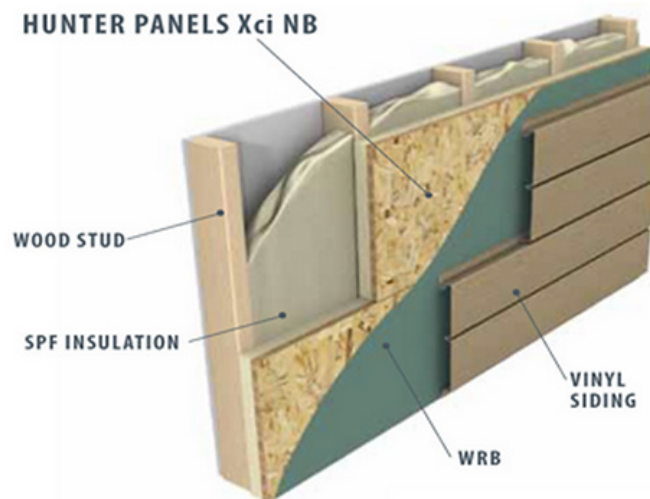
<sup>6</sup> Internationally recognized accreditations are performed by members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Accreditation Body and Regional Accreditation Group Members of IAF are admitted to the IAF MLA only after a stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer evaluation team, which is charged to ensure that the applicant complies fully with both international standards and IAF requirements. Once an accreditation body is a signatory of the IAF MLA, it is required to recognise certificates and validation and verification statements issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by all other signatories of the IAF MLA, with the appropriate scope.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

- 3.3.6 Performance for use as a component of the air barrier in accordance with IRC Section N1102.4.1, IECC Section R402.4.1.1 and IECC Section C402.5.1.
- 3.3.7 Performance in accordance with ASTM E84 for flame spread and smoke-developed index ratings in accordance with IBC Section 2603.5.4.
- 3.4 Fire resistance-rated wall assemblies in accordance with IBC Section 2603.5.1 are outside the scope of this evaluation.
- 3.5 Any building code and/or accepted engineering evaluations (i.e. research reports, duly authenticated reports, etc.) that are conducted for this Listing were performed by DrJ Engineering, LLC (DrJ), an ISO/IEC 17065 accredited certification body and a professional engineering company operated by RDPs / approved sources. DrJ is qualified<sup>8</sup> to practice product and code compliance services within its scope of accreditation and engineering expertise, respectively.
- 3.6 Engineering evaluations are conducted with DrJ's ANAB accredited ICS code scope, which are also its areas of professional engineering competence.
- 3.7 Any regulation specific issues not addressed in this section are outside the scope of this TER.

## 4 Product Description and Materials

- 4.1 The innovative products evaluated in this TER is shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Xci NB with SPF Insulation

- 4.2 Xci NB is a Type II Class 2 high thermal rigid insulation panel composed of a closed cell polyisocyanurate foam core bonded to a premium performance coated glass facer on one side and  $\frac{7}{16}$ " or  $\frac{5}{8}$ " OSB or plywood on the other. It is designed for use in Type V commercial wall applications to provide continuous insulation within the building envelope.
- 4.3 Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) are Type II Class 2 high thermal rigid insulation panels composed of a closed cell polyisocyanurate foam core bonded to a premium performance coated glass facer on one side and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " or  $\frac{3}{4}$ " fire treated plywood on the other. Both are designed for use in Types I-IV commercial wall applications to provide continuous insulation within the building envelope.

<sup>8</sup> Qualification is performed by a legislatively defined Accreditation Body. ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) is the largest independent accreditation body in North America and provides services in more than 75 countries. DrJ is an ANAB accredited product certification body.

#### 4.4 Material Availability

##### 4.4.1 Thickness:

- 4.4.1.1 Xci NB: 1.5" (38 mm) through 4.5" (114 mm)
- 4.4.1.2 Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A): 1.6" (41 mm) through 4.7" (119 mm)

##### 4.4.2 Standard Product Width:

- 4.4.2.1 48" (1,219 mm)

##### 4.4.3 Standard Length:

- 4.4.3.1 96" (2,438 mm)

## 5 Applications

### 5.1 General

5.1.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) are used in the following applications as:

- 5.1.1.1 Wall sheathing in buildings constructed in accordance with the IRC and IBC for light frame wood construction.
- 5.1.1.2 Structural wall sheathing to provide lateral load resistance (wind and seismic) for braced wall panels used in light-frame wood construction.
- 5.1.1.3 Structural wall sheathing in buildings constructed in accordance with the IBC requirements for Type V light frame construction.
- 5.1.1.4 Structural wall sheathing to provide resistance to transverse loads for wall assemblies used in light frame wood construction.

### 5.2 Structural Applications

#### 5.2.1 General Structural Provisions:

- 5.2.1.1 Except as otherwise described in this TER, Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shall be installed in accordance with the applicable building codes listed in Section 2 using the provisions set forth herein for the design and installation of Wood Structural Panels (WSP).
  - 5.2.1.1.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) are permitted to be designed in accordance with SDPWS for the design of shear walls using the methods set forth therein, including the perforated shear wall methodology, and subject to the SDPWS boundary conditions, except as specifically allowed in this TER.
- 5.2.1.2 Anchorage for in-plane shear shall be provided to transfer the induced shear force into and out of each shear wall. Shear wall anchorage shall be in accordance with the applicable code referenced in Section 2.
- 5.2.1.3 Installation is permitted for single top plate or double top plate applications.
- 5.2.1.4 Where the application exceeds the limitations set forth herein, design shall be permitted in accordance with accepted engineering procedures, experience, and technical judgment.

#### 5.2.2 Prescriptive IBC Conventional Light-Frame Wood Construction:

- 5.2.2.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) may be used to brace exterior walls of buildings as an equivalent alternative to Method WSP of the IBC when installed with blocked or unblocked  $\frac{1}{2}$ " gypsum fastened with a minimum 5d cooler nail (0.086" diameter x  $1\frac{5}{8}$ ") or #6 type W or S screw spaced a maximum of 16" o.c. at panel edges and 16" o.c. in the field. Bracing shall be in accordance with the conventional light frame construction method of IBC Section 2308.6 and this TER.

### 5.2.3 Performance-Based Wood-Framed Construction:

- 5.2.3.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) used in wall assemblies designed as shear walls are permitted to be designed in accordance with the methodology used in SDPWS for WSP using the capacities shown in Table 1 and Table 2.
- 5.2.3.2 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shear walls are permitted to resist horizontal wind load forces using the allowable shear loads (in pounds per linear foot) set forth in Table 1.
- 5.2.3.3 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shear walls that require seismic design in accordance with IBC Section 1613 shall use the seismic allowable unit shear capacities set forth in Table 2.
- 5.2.3.3.1 The response modification coefficient, R, system overstrength factor,  $\Omega_0$ , and deflection amplification factor,  $C_d$ , indicated in Table 2 shall be used to determine the base shear, element design forces, and design story drift in accordance with ASCE 7 Chapter 12 and Section 14.5.
- 5.2.3.3.2 For Limit States Seismic Design, see Table 3 for the specified shear strength, ductility and overstrength factors.

**Table 1.** Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) Allowable Stress Design (ASD) Capacity - Wind

Structural Sheathing <sup>1,4</sup>	Fastener (Spaced 3":12")	Maximum Stud Spacing (in)	Gypsum Wallboard (GWB)	Gypsum Wallboard Fastener <sup>3</sup> Spacing (edge/field) (in)	Allowable Unit Shear Capacity (plf)
Xci NB, Xci Ply, and Xci Ply (Class A) (7/16" or 5/8" Wood Structural Panel + 2" Polyiso)	3 1/4" x 0.131" or 3 1/2" x 0.131" Smooth Shank Nail <sup>2</sup>	16 o.c.	No GWB	N/A	325
			1/2" GWB	8/8	350
Xci NB, Xci Ply, and Xci Ply (Class A) (7/16" or 5/8" Wood Structural Panel + 1 1/2" Polyiso)	3 1/4" x 0.131" Smooth Shank Nail	16 o.c.	No GWB	N/A	375
Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) (5/8" FRT Plywood + 1" Polyiso)	3 1/4" x 0.131" Smooth Shank Nail <sup>5</sup>	16 o.c.	No GWB	N/A	700

SI: 1 in = 25.4 mm, 1 lb/ft = 0.0146 kN/m

- For Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A), design values shall be reduced in accordance with the fire retardant treatment manufacturer published strength design reduction factors for fasteners.
- Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) attached with a minimum 3 1/2" x 0.131" smooth shank nail for 2 5/8" thick product and a minimum 3 1/4" x 0.131" smooth shank nail for 2 7/16" and 2" thick product. Fasteners are to be spaced a maximum of 3" o.c. at the edges and 12" o.c. in the field with a minimum edge distance of 3/8". Minimum fastener penetration of 3/4" required. Maximum product thickness - 2 5/8" (2" foam plus 5/8" wood structural panel). Minimum product thickness - 2 7/16" (2" foam plus 7/16" wood structural panel).
- Gypsum attached with minimum 5d cooler nail or #6 type W or S screws 1 1/4" long. Fastener spacing shall be as required above.
- Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) joints shall be butted at framing members and a single row of fasteners must be applied to each panel edge into the stud below.
- Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) attached with a minimum 3 1/4" x 0.131" smooth shank nail. Fasteners are to be spaced a maximum of 3" o.c. at the edges and 12" o.c. in the field with a minimum edge distance of 3/8". Minimum fastener penetration of 3/4" required. Product thickness - 1 5/8" (1" foam plus 5/8" FRT Plywood).



**Table 2. Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) Allowable Stress Design (ASD)  
Capacity & Seismic Design Coefficients<sup>1,2,3,10</sup>**

Seismic Force-Resisting System	Maximum Stud Spacing (in)	Gypsum Wallboard (GWB)	Seismic Allowable Unit Shear Capacity <sup>4</sup> (plf)	Apparent Shear Stiffness, $G_a$ (kips/in)	Response Modification Factor, <sup>5</sup> $R$	System Overstrength Factor, <sup>6</sup> $\Omega_0$	Deflection Amplification Coefficient, <sup>7</sup> $C_d$	Structural System Limitations and Building Height Limit <sup>8</sup> (ft)				
								Seismic Design Category				
								B	C	D	E	F
Light-Frame (Wood) Walls Sheathed with Xci NB, Xci Ply, and Xci Ply (Class A) ( $7/16"$ or $5/8"$ Wood structural panel + 2" Polyiso)	16 o.c.	$1/2"$ GWB <sup>9</sup>	280	9.4	6.5	3	4	NL	NL	65	65	65
		No GWB	260	3.7								
Light-Frame (Wood) Walls Sheathed with Xci NB ( $7/16"$ or $5/8"$ Wood structural panel + $1\frac{1}{2}"$ Polyiso)	16 o.c.	No GWB	300	4.8	6.5	2	8					

SI: 1 in = 25.4 mm, 1 lb/ft = 0.0146 kN/m

- For Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) design values shall be reduced in accordance with the fire retardant treatment manufacturer published strength design reduction factors for fasteners.
- Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) attached with a minimum  $3\frac{1}{2}" \times 0.131"$  smooth shank nail for  $2\frac{5}{8}"$  thick product and a minimum  $3\frac{1}{4}" \times 0.131"$  smooth shank nail for  $2\frac{7}{16}"$  and 2" thick product. Fasteners are to be spaced a maximum of 3" o.c. at the edges and 12" o.c. in the field with a minimum edge distance of  $\frac{3}{8}"$ . Minimum fastener penetration of  $\frac{3}{4}"$  required. Maximum product thickness -  $2\frac{5}{8}"$  (2" foam plus  $\frac{5}{8}"$  wood structural panel). Minimum product thickness -  $2\frac{7}{16}"$  (2" foam plus  $\frac{7}{16}"$  wood structural panel).
- All seismic design coefficients follow the equivalency procedures as defined in Section 3 of this TER.
- Allowable Unit shear capacity is based on a safety factor of 2.5 in accordance with ASCE/SEI 7 Chapter 12.
- Response modification coefficient,  $R$ , for use throughout ASCE/SEI 7. Note  $R$  reduces forces to a strength level, not an allowable stress level.
- The tabulated value of the overstrength factor,  $\Omega_0$ , is permitted to be reduced by subtracting one-half (0.5) for structures with flexible diaphragms.
- Deflection amplification factor,  $C_d$ , for use with ASCE/SEI 7 Sections 12.8.6, 12.8.7, and 12.9.2.
- NL = Not Limited. Heights are measured from the base of the structure as defined in ASCE/SEI 7 Section 11.2.
- Gypsum attached with minimum #6 type W or S screws  $1\frac{1}{4}"$  long spaced 8" o.c. at panel edges and in the field. Maximum stud spacing is 16" o.c.
- Drift limits are required to be checked in accordance with and shall not exceed those as allowed by ASCE 7 Table 12.12-1

**Table 3.** Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) Limit States Design Capacity and Seismic Design Coefficients (Seismic)<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Seismic Force-Resisting System	Maximum Stud Spacing (in)	Gypsum Wallboard (GWB)	Seismic Specified Shear Strength (plf)	Ductility Factor, $R_d$	Overstrength Factor, $R_o$
Light-Frame (Wood) Wall Sheathed with Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) ( $7/16"$ or $5/8"$ Wood structural panel + 2" Polyiso)	16 o.c.	$1/2"$ GWB	370	4.0	1.7
		No GWB	350	3.0	1.7

SI: 1 in = 25.4 mm, 1 lb/ft = 0.0146 kN/m

- For Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) design values shall be reduced in accordance with the fire retardant treatment manufacturer published strength design reduction factors for fasteners.
- Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) attached with a minimum  $3 1/2" \times 0.131"$  smooth shank nail for  $2 5/8"$  thick product and a minimum  $3 1/4" \times 0.131"$  smooth shank nail for  $2 7/16"$  thick product. Fasteners are to be spaced a maximum of 3" o.c. at the edges and 12" o.c. in the field with a minimum edge distance of  $3/8"$ . Minimum fastener penetration of  $3/4"$  required. Maximum product thickness -  $2 5/8"$  (2" foam plus  $5/8"$  wood structural panel).
- Gypsum attached with minimum #6 type W or S screws  $1 1/4"$  long spaced 16" o.c. at panel edges and in the field. Maximum stud spacing is 16" o.c.

### 5.3 Transverse Wind Loading

- 5.3.1 Transverse wind load design shall be in accordance with [IBC Section 2304.6.1](#). Fasteners must be minimum 6d common nail ( $2" \times 0.113"$ ) with  $1 1/2"$  penetration or 8d common nail ( $2 1/2" \times 0.131"$ ) with  $1 3/4"$  penetration.

### 5.4 Perforated Shear Walls

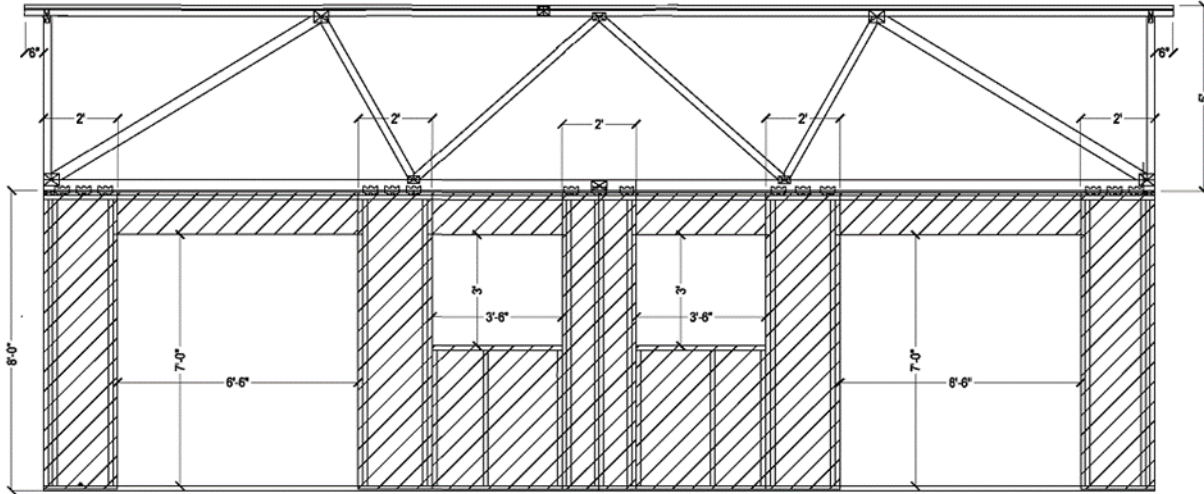
- 5.4.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shear walls are permitted to be designed in accordance with the methodology found in SDPWS Section 4.3.3.5 with the following exceptions:
- 5.4.2 SDPWS Equation 4.3-5 for  $C_o$  shall be replaced with the equation from Table 4.

**Table 4.**  $C_o$  for Use with SDPWS Perforated Shear Wall Methodology

Wall Assembly	Replace SDPWS Eq. 4.3-5 with the Following
Xci NB, Ply, Ply (Class A)	$C_o = \frac{r}{(0.6 + 0.4 * r)} * \frac{L_{tot}}{\sum L_i}$

- 5.4.3 The following example shows how to calculate the capacity of a perforated shear wall with Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) using Table 4.





1. The total length of the perforated shear wall,  $L_{tot}$ , is 30'.
2. The height of the perforated shear wall,  $h$ , is 8'.
3. The sum of the perforated shear wall segment lengths,  $\Sigma L_i$ , is 10'.
4. The total area of the openings,  $A_o$ , is:
  - 4.1. Two (2) 7' x 6' 6" openings – 45.5 sq. ft. x 2 = 91 sq. ft.
  - 4.2. Two (2) 3' x 3' 6" openings – 10.5 sq. ft. x 2 = 21 sq. ft.
  - 4.3. Total opening area is: 91 + 21 = 112 sq. ft.
5. Using SDPWS Equation 4.3-6, the sheathing area ratio,  $r$ , is:

$$r = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{A_o}{h \Sigma L_i}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{112}{8 * 10}} = 0.417$$

6. Using Table 4, the shear capacity adjustment factor,  $C_o$ , is:

$$C_o = \frac{r}{0.6 + 0.4 * r} * \frac{L_{tot}}{\Sigma L_i} = \frac{0.417}{0.6 + 0.4 * 0.417} * \frac{30}{10} = 1.63$$

7. From Table 1, the allowable unit shear capacity,  $v$ , is: 325 plf.
8. In accordance with SDPWS Section 4.3.3.5, the total ASD shear capacity of this perforated shear wall,  $V_{perforated}$ , is:

$$V_{perforated} = v * \Sigma L_i * C_o = 325 \text{ plf} * 10 \text{ ft.} * 1.63 = 5298 \text{ lbs.}$$

**Figure 2.** Example of a Perforated Shear Wall

## 5.5 Air Barrier

- 5.5.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) may be used as air barrier materials as prescribed in [IRC Section N1102.4.1.1](#), [IECC Section R402.4.1.1](#) and [IECC Section C402.5.1](#) in accordance with ASTM E2178.

**Table 5.** Air Permeability<sup>1,2</sup>

Product	Air Pressure	Air Permeability
Xci NB	75 Pa	< 0.02 L/s*m <sup>2</sup>
Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)	75 Pa	< 0.02 L/s*m <sup>2</sup>
1. Foam core tested in accordance with ASTM E2178. 2. Air pressure and permeability numbers shown represent Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) compliance and are not intended to represent the performance under actual conditions		

## 5.6 Fire Performance

### 5.6.1 Surface Burn Characteristics

- 5.6.1.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) were evaluated to assess performance with regard to flame spread and smoke developed index in accordance with ASTM E84 as shown in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Surface Burn Characteristics<sup>1,2</sup>

Product Name	Flame Spread Index	Smoke-Developed Index
Xci NB	≤ 75	≤ 450
Xci Ply	≤ 75	≤ 450
Xci Ply (Class A)	≤ 25	≤ 450
1. Foam core tested in accordance with ASTM E84. 2. Flame spread and smoke-developed indexes are shown for comparison purposes only and are not intended to represent the performance under actual fire conditions.		

- 5.7 Where the application falls outside of the performance evaluation, conditions of use and/or installation requirements set forth herein, alternative techniques shall be permitted in accordance with accepted engineering practice and experience. This includes but is not limited to the following areas of engineering: mechanics or materials, structural, building science, and fire science.

## 6 Installation

- 6.1 Installation shall comply with the approved construction documents, the manufacturer installation instructions, this TER and the applicable building code.
- 6.2 In the event of a conflict between the manufacturer installation instructions and this TER, the more restrictive shall govern.
- 6.3 *Installation Procedure*
- 6.3.1 Protect surrounding areas and surfaces from damage.
- 6.3.2 A water resistive barrier complying with [IBC Section 1403.2<sup>9</sup>](#) shall be installed over the Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A).
- 6.3.3 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shall not be applied over walls while they are vulnerable to water intrusion from above or behind.
- 6.3.4 Do not block flashing, weeps or other drainage paths with Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A).

<sup>9</sup> [2015 IBC Section 1404.2](#)

- 6.3.5 Do not span expansion joints with Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A).
- 6.3.6 During installation, take precautions to minimize moisture intrusion behind insulation.
- 6.3.7 Beginning at the base of the wall, apply Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) horizontally or vertically using maximum board lengths to minimize the number of joints.
- 6.3.8 Pre-cut Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) to fit openings and penetrations.
- 6.3.9 Offset Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) board joints a minimum of 6". Do not form four-corner intersections.
- 6.3.10 Form a "corner lock" pattern by staggering vertical joints at inside and outside corners.
- 6.3.11 Fill gaps greater than  $\frac{1}{8}$ " between Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) boards with expanding spray foam, or approved sealant and strike flush. Expanding spray foam may also be applied onto the Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) board edges during installation.
- 6.3.12 Abut all joints tightly and ensure an overall flush, level surface.
- 6.3.13 Verify all materials are installed in accordance with current Hunter Panels published literature and local code requirements.
- 6.3.14 Additional information on the installation and detailing of Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) can be found at [hunterpanels.com](http://hunterpanels.com).
- 6.3.15 *Fastener Type*
  - 6.3.15.1 Minimum  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " (82 mm) x 0.131" (3.5 mm) smooth shank nail with the underside of the head flush with the surface of the sheathing for  $\frac{5}{8}$ " FRT Plywood + 1" Polyiso and  $\frac{7}{16}$ " FRT Plywood + 2" Polyiso.
  - 6.3.15.2 Minimum  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (89 mm) x 0.131" (3.5 mm) smooth shank nail with the underside of the head flush with the surface of the sheathing for  $\frac{5}{8}$ " FRT Plywood + 2" Polyiso.
- 6.3.16 *Fastener Spacing*
  - 6.3.16.1 Maximum 3" o.c. at the perimeter and 12" o.c. in the field with minimum  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from board edges.
- 6.3.17 *Gypsum Wallboard*
  - 6.3.17.1 Where required, gypsum wallboard shall be installed with a minimum:
    - 6.3.17.1.1 #6 x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (32 mm) Type W or S screws
    - 6.3.17.1.2 5d cooler nails

## 7 Test Engineering Substantiating Data

- 7.1 Testing has been performed under the supervision of a professional engineer and/or under the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 as follows:
  - 7.1.1 Flame spread and smoke developed ratings in accordance with ASTM E84
  - 7.1.2 Lateral load testing in accordance with ASTM E2126
  - 7.1.3 Air permeability testing in accordance with ASTM E 2178
- 7.2 Information contained herein may include the result of testing and/or data analysis by sources that are approved agencies (i.e., ANAB accredited agencies), approved sources (i.e., RDPs), and/or professional engineering regulations. Accuracy of external test data and resulting analysis is relied upon.
- 7.3 Where pertinent, testing and/or engineering analysis is based upon provisions that have been codified into law through state or local adoption of codes and standards. The developers of these codes and standards are responsible for the reliability of published content. DrJ's engineering practice may use a code-adopted provision as the control sample. A control sample versus a test sample establishes a product as being equivalent to the code-adopted provision in terms of quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety.

- 7.4 The accuracy of the provisions provided herein may be reliant upon the published properties of raw materials, which are defined by the grade mark, grade stamp, mill certificate, Listings, certified reports, duly authenticated reports from approved agencies, and research reports prepared by approved agencies and/or approved sources provided by the suppliers of products, materials, designs, assemblies and/or methods of construction. These are presumed to be minimum properties and relied upon to be accurate. The reliability of DrJ's engineering practice, as contained in this TER, may be dependent upon published design properties by others.
- 7.5 Testing and engineering analysis: The strength, rigidity and/or general performance of component parts and/or the integrated structure are determined by suitable tests that simulate the actual conditions of application that occur and/or by accepted engineering practice and experience.<sup>10</sup>
- 7.6 Where additional condition of use and/or code compliance information is required, please search for Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) on the DrJ Certification website.

## 8 Findings

- 8.1 As delineated in Section 3, Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) have performance characteristics that were tested and/or meet pertinent standards and is suitable for use pursuant to its specified purpose.
- 8.2 When used and installed in accordance with this TER and the manufacturer installation instructions, Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shall be approved for the following applications:
- 8.2.1 Lateral load resistance due to wind and seismic loads carried by shear walls.
- 8.2.2 Transverse load resistance due to components and cladding pressures on building surfaces.
- 8.2.3 Performance for use as an air barrier material in accordance with IRC Section N1102.4.1.1, IECC Section R402.4.1.1 and IECC Section C402.5.1.
- 8.3 Unless exempt by state statute, when the Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) is to be used as a structural and/or building envelope component in the design of a specific building, the design shall be performed by an RDP.
- 8.4 Any application specific issues not addressed herein can be engineered by an RDP. Assistance with engineering is available from Hunter Panels, LLC.
- 8.5 IBC Section 104.11 (IRC Section R104.11 and IFC Section 104.10)<sup>11</sup> are similar) in pertinent part states:

**104.11 Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code. Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not approved, the building official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons the alternative was not approved.

- 8.6 **Approved:**<sup>12</sup> Building codes require that the building official shall accept duly authenticated reports<sup>13</sup> or research reports<sup>14</sup> from approved agencies and/or approved sources (i.e., licensed RDP) with respect to the quality and manner of use of new products, materials, designs, services, assemblies, or methods of construction.
- 8.6.1 Acceptance of an approved agency, by a building official, is performed by verifying that the agency is accredited by a recognized accreditation body of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).
- 8.6.2 Acceptance of a licensed RDP, by a building official, is performed by verifying that the RDP and/or their business entity is listed by the licensing board of the relevant jurisdiction.

<sup>10</sup> See Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 24 Subtitle B Chapter XX Part 3280 for definition.

<sup>11</sup> 2018 IFC Section 104.9

<sup>12</sup> Approved is an adjective that modifies the noun after it. For example, Approved Agency means that the Agency is accepted officially as being suitable in a particular situation. This example conforms to IBC/IRC/IFC Section 201.4 where the building code authorizes sentences to have an ordinarily accepted meaning such as the context implies.

<sup>13</sup> <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1>

<sup>14</sup> <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1703.4.2>

- 8.6.3 Federal law, [Title 18 US Code Section 242](#), requires that where the alternative product, material, service, design, assembly, and/or method of construction is not approved, the building official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons why the alternative was not approved, as denial without written reason deprives a protected right to free and fair competition in the marketplace.
- 8.7 DrJ is an engineering company, employs RDPs and is an ISO/IEC 17065 [ANAB-Accredited Product Certification Body – Accreditation #1131](#).
- 8.8 Through ANAB accreditation and the [IAF Multilateral Agreements](#), this TER can be used to obtain product approval in any [jurisdiction](#) or country that has [IAF MLA Members & Signatories](#) to meet the [Purpose of the MLA](#) – “*certified once, accepted everywhere.*” IAF specifically says, “*Once an accreditation body is a signatory of the IAF MLA, it is required to recognise certificates and validation and verification statements issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by all other signatories of the IAF MLA, with the appropriate scope.*”<sup>15</sup>

## 9 Conditions of Use

- 9.1 Material properties shall not fall outside the boundaries defined in Section 3.
- 9.2 As defined in Section 3, where material and/or engineering mechanics properties are created for load resisting design purposes, the resistance to the applied load shall not exceed the ability of the defined properties to resist those loads using the principles of accepted engineering practice.
- 9.3 This TER and the installation instructions, when required by a code official, shall be submitted at the time of permit application.
- 9.4 When Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) are not installed for use as wall bracing, as described in this TER, the walls shall be braced by other materials, in accordance with the applicable code.
- 9.5 When used as part of a continuous air barrier assembly, all sheathing panel edges at the top and bottom of the wall assemblies, and all joints between sheathing panels, shall be sealed with an approved construction tape.
- 9.6 When used in accordance with the IBC in Seismic Design Categories C, D, E, or F, special inspections shall comply with [IBC Section 1705.13](#).<sup>16</sup>
- 9.7 When used in accordance with the IBC in high wind areas, special inspections shall comply with [IBC Section 1705.12](#).
- 9.8 Loads applied shall not exceed those recommended by the manufacturer as follows:
- 9.8.1 Allowable shear loads do not exceed values in Table 1 for wind loads and Table 2 for seismic loads.
- 9.8.2 Transverse design loads shall not exceed those described in [IBC Section 2304.6.1](#), unless an approved exterior wall covering capable of separately resisting loads perpendicular to the face of the walls is installed over the sheathing.
- 9.9 The manufacturer installation instructions shall be available on the jobsite for inspection.
- 9.10 When required by adopted legislation and enforced by the [building official](#), also known as the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) in which the project is to be constructed:
- 9.10.1 Any calculations incorporated into the construction documents shall conform to accepted engineering practice, and, when prepared by an [approved source](#), shall be approved when signed and sealed.
- 9.10.2 This TER and the installation instructions shall be submitted at the time of [permit](#) application.
- 9.10.3 These innovative products have an internal quality control program and a third-party quality assurance program.
- 9.10.4 At a minimum, these innovative products shall be installed per Section 6 of this TER.
- 9.10.5 The review of this TER, by the AHJ, shall be in compliance with [IBC Section 104](#) and [IBC Section 105.4](#).

<sup>15</sup> <https://iaf.nu/en/about-iaf-mla/#:~:text=required%20to%20recognise>

<sup>16</sup> [2018 IBC Section 1705.12](#)



- 9.10.6 These innovative products have an internal quality control program and a third party quality assurance program in accordance with IBC Section 104.4, IBC Section 110.4, IBC Section 1703, IRC Section R104.4 and IRC Section R109.2.
- 9.10.7 The application of these innovative products in the context of this TER are dependent upon the accuracy of the construction documents, implementation of installation instructions, inspection as required by IBC Section 110.3, IRC Section R109.2 and any other regulatory requirements that may apply.
- 9.11 The approval of this TER by the AHJ shall comply with IBC Section 1707.1, where legislation states in pertinent part, “*the building official shall accept duly authenticated reports from approved agencies in respect to the quality and manner of use of new materials or assemblies as provided for in Section 104.11”*, all of IBC Section 104, and IBC Section 105.4.
- 9.12 Design loads shall be determined in accordance with the building code adopted by the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed and/or by the building designer (i.e., owner or RDP).
- 9.13 The actual design, suitability, and use of this TER, for any particular building, is the responsibility of the owner or the owner’s authorized agent.

## 10 Identification

- 10.1 The innovative products listed in Section 1.1 are identified by a label on the board or packaging material bearing the manufacturer name, product name, TER number, and other information to confirm code compliance.
- 10.2 Additional technical information can be found at hunterpanels.com.

## 11 Review Schedule

- 11.1 This TER is subject to periodic review and revision. For the most recent version, visit drjcertification.org.
- 11.2 For information on the status of this TER, contact DrJ Certification.

## 12 Approved for Use Pursuant to US and International Legislation Defined in Appendix A

- 12.1 Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) are included in this TER published by an approved agency that is concerned with evaluation of products or services, maintains periodic inspection of the production of listed materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose TER Listing states either that the material, product, or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose. This TER meets the legislative intent and definition of being acceptable to the AHJ.



## Appendix A

### 1 Legislation that Authorizes AHJ Approval

- 1.1 **Fair Competition:** State legislatures have adopted Federal regulations for the examination and approval of building code referenced and alternative products, materials, designs, services, assemblies and/or methods of construction that:
  - 1.1.1 Advance Innovation,
  - 1.1.2 Promote competition so all businesses have the opportunity to compete on price and quality in an open market on a level playing field unhampered by anticompetitive constraints, and
  - 1.1.3 Benefit consumers through lower prices, better quality, and greater choice.
- 1.2 **Adopted Legislation:** The following local, state, and federal regulations affirmatively authorize Xci NB, Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) to be approved by AHJs, delegates of building departments, and/or delegates of an agency of the federal government:
  - 1.2.1 Interstate commerce is governed by the Federal Department of Justice to encourage the use of innovative products, materials, designs, services, assemblies and/or methods of construction. The goal is to “protect economic freedom and opportunity by promoting free and fair competition in the marketplace.”
  - 1.2.2 Title 18 US Code Section 242 affirms and regulates the right of individuals and businesses to freely and fairly have new products, materials, designs, services, assemblies and/or methods of construction approved for use in commerce. Disapproval of alternatives shall be based upon non-conformance with respect to specific provisions of adopted legislation, and shall be provided in writing stating the reasons why the alternative was not approved, with reference to the specific legislation violated.
  - 1.2.3 The federal government and each state have a public records act. In addition, each state also has legislation that mimics the federal Defend Trade Secrets Act 2016 (DTSA),<sup>17</sup> where providing test reports, engineering analysis and/or other related IP/TS is subject to prison of not more than 10 years<sup>18</sup> and/or a \$5,000,000 fine or 3 times the value of<sup>19</sup> the Intellectual Property (IP) and Trade Secrets (TS).
    - 1.2.3.1 Compliance with public records and trade secret legislation requires approval through the use of listings, certified reports, Technical Evaluation Reports, duly authenticated reports and/or research reports prepared by approved agencies and/or approved sources.
  - 1.2.4 For new materials<sup>20</sup> that are not specifically provided for in any building code, the design strengths and permissible stresses shall be established by tests, where suitable load tests simulate the actual loads and conditions of application that occur.
  - 1.2.5 The design strengths and permissible stresses of any structural material shall conform to the specifications and methods of design using accepted engineering practice.<sup>21</sup>
  - 1.2.6 The commerce of approved sources (i.e., registered PEs) is regulated by professional engineering legislation. Professional engineering commerce shall always be approved by AHJs, except where there is evidence, provided in writing, that specific legislation has been violated by an individual registered PE.
  - 1.2.7 The AHJ shall accept duly authenticated reports from approved agencies in respect to the quality and manner of use of new materials or assemblies as provided for in IBC Section 104.11.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.drjengineering.org/AppendixC> and <https://www.drjcertification.org/cornell-2016-protection-trade-secrets>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1832#:~:text=imprisoned%20not%20more%20than%2010%20years>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1832#:~:text=Any%20organization%20that,has%20thereby%20avoided>

<sup>20</sup> <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1706.2>

<sup>21</sup> IBC 2021, Section 1706.1 Conformance to Standards

<sup>22</sup> IBC 2021, Section 1707 Alternative Test Procedure, 1707.1 General



- 1.3 **Approved<sup>23</sup> by Los Angeles:** The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) states in pertinent part that the provisions of LAMC are not intended to prevent the use of any material, device, or method of construction not specifically prescribed by LAMC. The Department shall use Part III, Recognized Standards in addition to Part II, Uniform Building Code Standards of Division 35, Article 1, Chapter IX of the LAMC in evaluation of products for approval where such standard exists for the product or the material and may use other approved standards, which apply. Whenever tests or certificates of any material or fabricated assembly are required by Chapter IX of the LAMC, such tests or certification shall be made by a testing agency approved by the Superintendent of Building to conduct such tests or provide such certifications. The testing agency shall publish the scope and limitation(s) of the listed material or fabricated assembly.<sup>24</sup> The Superintendent of Building roster of approved testing agencies is provided by the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS). The Center for Building Innovation (CBI) Certificate of Approval License is TA24945. Tests and certifications found in a CBI Listing are LAMC approved. In addition, the Superintendent of Building shall accept duly authenticated reports from approved agencies in respect to the quality and manner of use of new materials or assemblies as provided for in the California Building Code (CBC) Section 1707.1.<sup>25</sup>
- 1.4 **Approved by Chicago:** The Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) states in pertinent part that an Approved Agency is a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) acting within its recognized scope and/or a certification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acting within its accredited scope. Construction materials and test procedures shall conform to the applicable standards listed in the MCC. Sufficient technical data shall be submitted to the building official to substantiate the proposed use of any product, material, service, design, assembly and/or method of construction not specifically provided for in the MCC. This technical data shall consist of research reports from approved sources (i.e., MCC defined Approved Agencies).
- 1.5 **Approved by New York City:** The NYC Building Code 2022 (NYCBC) states in pertinent part that an approved agency shall be deemed<sup>26</sup> an approved testing agency via ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, an approved inspection agency via ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation, and an approved product evaluation agency via ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation. Accrediting agencies, other than federal agencies, must be members of an internationally recognized cooperation of laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies subject to a mutual recognition agreement<sup>27</sup> (i.e., ANAB, International Accreditation Forum (IAF), etc.).
- 1.6 **Approved by Florida:** Statewide approval of products, methods, or systems of construction shall be approved, without further evaluation, by 1) A certification mark or listing of an approved certification agency, 2) A test report from an approved testing laboratory, 3) A product evaluation report based upon testing or comparative or rational analysis, or a combination thereof, from an approved product evaluation entity; 4) A product evaluation report based upon testing or comparative or rational analysis, or a combination thereof, developed and signed and sealed by a professional engineer or architect, licensed in Florida. For local product approval, products or systems of construction shall demonstrate compliance with the structural wind load requirements of the Florida Building Code (FBC) through one of the following methods; 1) A certification mark, listing, or label from a commission-approved certification agency indicating that the product complies with the code; 2) A test report from a commission-approved testing laboratory indicating that the product tested complies with the code; 3) A product-evaluation report based upon testing, comparative or rational analysis, or a combination thereof, from a commission-approved product evaluation entity which indicates that the product evaluated complies with the code; 4) A product-evaluation report or certification based upon testing or comparative or rational analysis, or a combination thereof, developed and signed and sealed by a Florida professional engineer or Florida registered architect, which indicates that the product complies with the code; 5) A statewide product approval issued by the Florida Building Commission. The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) website provides a listing of companies certified as a Product Evaluation Agency (i.e., EVLMiami 13692), a Product Certification Agency (i.e., CER10642), and as a Florida Registered Engineer (i.e., ANE13741).

<sup>23</sup> See Section 8 for the distilled building code definition of Approved

<sup>24</sup> Los Angeles Municipal Code, SEC. 98.0503. TESTING AGENCIES

<sup>25</sup> https://up.codes/viewer/california/ca-building-code-2022/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1

<sup>26</sup> New York City, The Rules of the City of New York, § 101-07 Approved Agencies

<sup>27</sup> New York City, The Rules of the City of New York, § 101-07 Approved Agencies

- 1.7 **Approved by Miami-Dade County (i.e., Notice of Acceptance [NOA]):** A Florida statewide approval is an NOA. An NOA is a Florida local product approval. By Florida law, Miami-Dade County shall accept the statewide and local Florida Product Approval as provided for in Florida legislation [553.842](#) and [553.8425](#).
- 1.8 **Approved by New Jersey:** Pursuant to Building Code 2018 of New Jersey in [IBC Section 1707.1 General](#),<sup>28</sup> it states: “In the absence of approved rules or other approved standards, the building official shall accept duly authenticated reports from [approved agencies](#) in respect to the quality and manner of use of new materials or assemblies as provided for in the administrative provisions of the [Uniform Construction Code \(N.J.A.C. 5:23\)](#)”.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore N.J.A.C 5:23-3.7 states: Municipal approvals of alternative materials, equipment, or methods of construction. **(a) Approvals:** Alternative materials, equipment, or methods of construction shall be approved by the appropriate subcode official provided the proposed design is satisfactory and that the materials, equipment, or methods of construction are suitable for the intended use and are at least the equivalent in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety of those conforming with the requirements of the regulations. 1. A field evaluation label and report or letter issued by a nationally recognized testing laboratory verifying that the specific material, equipment, or method of construction meets the identified standards or has been tested and found to be suitable for the intended use, shall be accepted by the appropriate subcode official as meeting the requirements of (a) above. 2. Reports of engineering findings issued by nationally recognized evaluation service programs, such as, but not limited to, the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA), the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), the Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI), the International Code Council (ICC), and the National Evaluation Service, Inc., shall be accepted by the appropriate subcode official as meeting the requirements of (a) above. The [New Jersey Department of Community Affairs](#) has confirmed that technical evaluation reports, from any accredited entity listed by [ANAB](#), meets the requirements of item 2 given that the listed entities are no longer in existence and/or do not provide “reports of engineering findings”.
- 1.9 **Approved by the Code of Federal Regulations Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards:** Pursuant to Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter XX, [Part 3282.14](#),<sup>30</sup> and [Part 3280](#),<sup>31</sup> the Department encourages innovation and the use of new technology in manufactured homes. The design and construction of a manufactured home shall conform with the provisions of Part 3282 and Part 3280 where key approval provisions in mandatory language follow: 1) “All construction methods shall be in conformance with accepted engineering practices”; 2) “The strength and rigidity of the component parts and/or the integrated structure shall be determined by engineering analysis or by suitable load tests to simulate the actual loads and conditions of application that occur.”; and 3) “The design stresses of all materials shall conform to accepted engineering practice.”
- 1.10 **Approval by US, Local, and State Jurisdictions in General:** In all other local and state jurisdictions, the adopted building code legislation states in pertinent part that:
- 1.10.1 For [new materials](#) that are not specifically provided for in this code, the [design strengths and permissible stresses](#) shall be established by tests.<sup>32</sup>
- 1.10.2 For [innovative alternative products, materials, designs, services and/or methods of construction](#), in the absence of approved rules or other approved standards...the building official shall accept duly authenticated reports (i.e., listing and/or research report) from [approved agencies](#) with respect to the quality and manner of use of [new materials or assemblies](#).<sup>33</sup> A building official [approved agency](#) is deemed to be approved via certification from an [accreditation body](#) that is listed by the [International Accreditation Forum](#)<sup>34</sup> or equivalent.

<sup>28</sup> [https://up.codes/viewer/new\\_jersey/ibc-2018/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1](https://up.codes/viewer/new_jersey/ibc-2018/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/codes/codereg/ucc.html>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-XX/part-3282/subpart-A/section-3282.14>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-XX/part-3280>

<sup>32</sup> [IBC 2021, Section 1706 Design Strengths of Materials, 1706.2 New Materials](#). Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1706.2.

<sup>33</sup> [IBC 2021, Section 1707 Alternative Test Procedure, 1707.1 General](#). Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1707.1.

<sup>34</sup> Please see the [ANAB directory](#) for building official approved agencies.

- 1.10.3 The design strengths and permissible stresses of any structural material...shall conform to the specifications and methods of design of accepted engineering practice performed by an approved source.<sup>35</sup> An approved source is defined as a PE subject to professional engineering laws, where a research and/or a technical evaluation report certified by a PE, shall be approved.
- 1.11 **Approval by International Jurisdictions:** The USMCA and GATT agreements provide for approval of innovative materials, products, designs, services, assemblies and/or methods of construction through the Technical Barriers to Trade agreements and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA), where these agreements:
- 1.11.1 Permit participation of conformity assessment bodies located in the territories of other Members (defined as GATT Countries) under conditions no less favourable than those accorded to bodies located within their territory or the territory of any other country,
  - 1.11.2 State that conformity assessment procedures (i.e., ISO/IEC 17020, 17025, 17065, etc.) are prepared, adopted, and applied so as to grant access for suppliers of like products originating in the territories of other Members under conditions no less favourable than those accorded to suppliers of like products of national origin or originating in any other country, in a comparable situation.
  - 1.11.3 State that conformity assessment procedures are not prepared, adopted, or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade. This means that conformity assessment procedures shall not be more strict or be applied more strictly than is necessary to give the importing Member adequate confidence that products conform to the applicable technical regulations or standards.
  - 1.11.4 **Approved:** The purpose of the IAF MLA is to ensure mutual recognition of accredited certification and validation/verification statements between signatories to the MLA, and subsequently acceptance of accredited certification and validation/verification statements in many markets based on one accreditation for the timely approval of innovative materials, products, designs, services, assemblies and/or methods of construction. Accreditations granted by IAF MLA signatories are recognised worldwide based on their equivalent accreditation programs, therefore reducing costs and adding value to businesses and consumers.

<sup>35</sup> IBC 2021, Section 1706 Design Strengths of Materials, Section 1706.1 Conformance to Standards Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1706.1.