

Technical Tip

Third-Party Certification of Performance Standard

The International Building Code defines Oriented Strand Board, OSB, as wood structural panels intended for structural use complying with the requirements of Department of Commerce PS 2, *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels*. Section 2303.1.4 of the IBC states that every panel shall be designed and fabricated in accordance the applicable standard and identified by the trademarks of an approved testing and inspection agency indicating conformance with the applicable standard. Two of the more recognizable companies that have been accredited by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) for testing and inspection of wood structural panels in the United States are the *Timber Engineering Company* (TECO) and the *Engineered Wood Association* (APA).

Approved testing and inspection agencies for wood structural panels, specifically OSB, are testing and inspecting to the same PS 2 standard. When a panel is identified in the grade stamp by the trademark of an approved testing and grading agency, it indicates that the panel conforms to PS 2. Individual testing agencies do not have their own performance standards. They only test to ensure that panels satisfy the requirements of the IBC by ensuring conformance to PS 2. For the purpose of design, panels bearing the trademark of TECO or APA should be considered equally capable of satisfying minimum performance requirements. High-performance panels may be subject to meeting performance requirements that exceed the PS 2 minimums and will be indicated by being stamped with “VIP+™ Certified”, an ESR number or some other identifying mark.

Please contact our technical services department at 800-933-9220 with any questions or comments.