



WoodWorks™
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL



Timber's Role in Modern Urbanization

**NESEA Building Energy
Boston**

Ricky McLain, PE, SE
Senior Technical Director
WoodWorks



T3 Minneapolis
Architect: MGA | Michael Green Architecture, DLR Group
Structural Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates
Photo: Corey Gaffer courtesy Perkins + Will

FUNDING PARTNERS



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

> Course Description

Due to their high strength, dimensional stability and positive environmental performance, mass timber building products are quickly becoming materials of choice for sustainably-minded designers. This presentation will review the environmental performance of mass timber products available, including glue-laminated timber (glulam), cross laminated timber (CLT) and nail laminated timber (NLT), and discuss applications such as seismic post-tensioned, self-centering rocking walls; tornado and blast-resistant structures; hurricane and high wind-resisting systems. We'll provide an overview of key 2021 IBC tall wood code proposals that would see an increase of up to 18 stories for mass timber buildings if approved. Topics will include new construction types, a regime of fire tests conducted to validate the proposals, and an update on the status of the changes.



> Learning Objectives

1. Identify mass timber products available in North America and consider how they can be used under current building codes and standards.
2. Review completed mass timber projects that demonstrate a range of applications and system configurations.
3. Discuss benefits of using mass timber products, including structural versatility, prefabrication, lighter carbon footprint, and reduced labor costs.
4. Highlight possibilities for the expanded use and application of mass timber in larger and taller buildings.



TODAY'S AGENDA

MASS TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

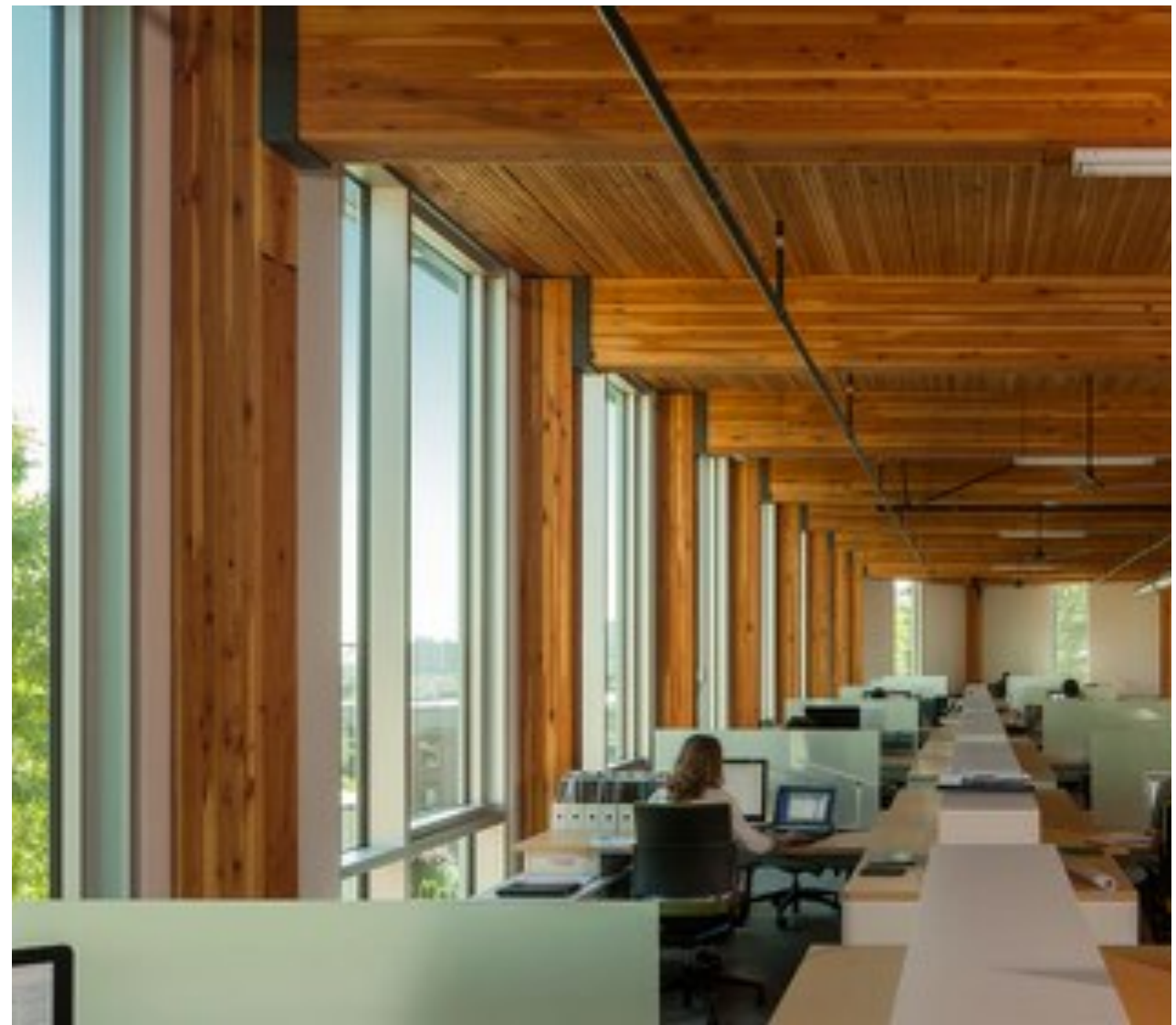
MASS TIMBER

- **WHAT IS IT – PRODUCTS**
- **WHY USE IT – APPEAL**
- **HOW DOES IT WORK – DESIGN TOPICS**
- **WHERE IS IT USED – CASE STUDIES**
- **WHAT'S NEXT?**



HEAVY TIMBER

Federal Center South, Seattle, WA
Photo: Benjamin Benschneider



MASS TIMBER

Bullitt Center, Seattle, WA
Photo: John Stamets

GLULAM



CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER (CLT)



NAIL-LAMINATED TIMBER (NLT)



Photo: Think Wood



Photo: StructureCraft



Photo: LendLease

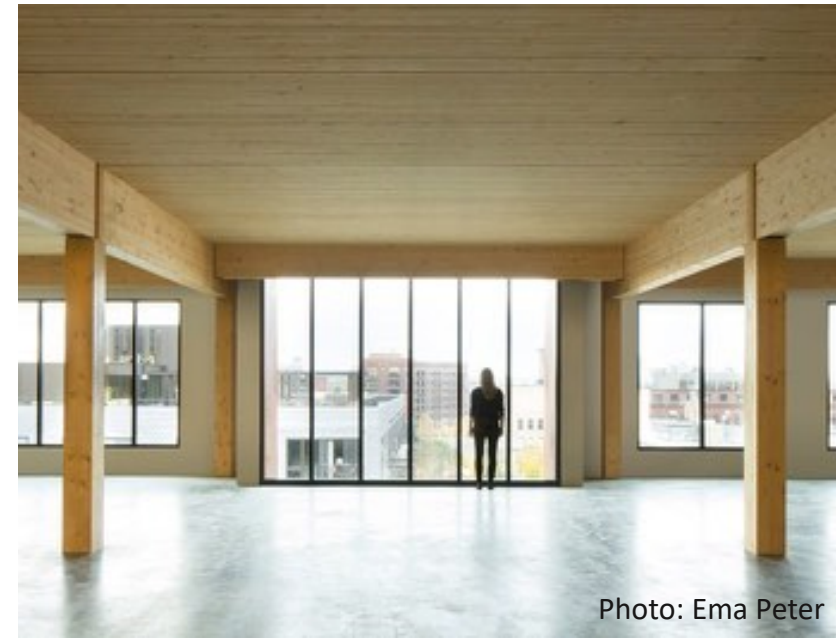


Photo: Ema Peter

DOWEL-LAMINATED TIMBER (DLT)



Photo: StructureCraft

MASS PLYWOOD PANELS (MPP)



DECKING



Photo: StructureCraft



Photo: LEVER Architecture



Photo: Bernard André Photography

OFFICES | MULTI-FAMILY | COMMERCIAL | EDUCATIONAL



Photo: JC Buck



Photo: William Horne



Photo: LEVER Architecture



Photo: David Sundberg and Gray Organschi Architecture



Photo: ©Albert Vecerka/Esto



Photo: Christian Columbres

Mass Timber Projects In Design and Constructed in the US (December 2018)

AS OF DECEMBER 2018, 487 MASS TIMBER PROJECTS DESIGNED, UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR BUILT



Stage
■ Construction Started / Built
■ In Design

| Stage | Mass Timber | # of Projects |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Construction Started / Built | CLT | 85 |
| | NLT | 5 |
| | DLT | 4 |
| | Heavy Timber Decking | 44 |
| | Post & Beam | 39 |
| | Total | 177 |
| In Design | CLT | 141 |
| | NLT | 21 |
| | DLT | 3 |
| | Heavy Timber Decking | 35 |
| | Post & Beam | 110 |
| | Total | 310 |
| Grand Total | | 487 |

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|----|------------------------------|----|
| CA | In Design | 7 | NH | In Design | 1 |
| CT | Construction Started / Built | 3 | NJ | In Design | 3 |
| | In Design | 5 | NM | In Design | 1 |
| DC | Construction Started / Built | 2 | NY | Construction Started / Built | 5 |
| | In Design | 1 | | In Design | 10 |
| DE | In Design | 1 | OH | Construction Started / Built | 1 |
| FL | Construction Started / Built | 15 | | In Design | 3 |
| | In Design | 13 | OK | Construction Started / Built | 1 |
| GA | In Design | 11 | | In Design | 1 |
| HI | In Design | 1 | OR | Construction Started / Built | 16 |
| IA | In Design | 1 | | In Design | 20 |
| ID | Construction Started / Built | 1 | PA | Construction Started / Built | 2 |
| | In Design | 2 | | In Design | 2 |
| IL | Construction Started / Built | 4 | RI | Construction Started / Built | 1 |
| | In Design | 10 | | In Design | 1 |
| IN | Construction Started / Built | 1 | SC | Construction Started / Built | 5 |
| KS | In Design | 1 | | In Design | 7 |
| KY | Construction Started / Built | 1 | TN | Construction Started / Built | 3 |
| LA | In Design | 1 | | In Design | 2 |
| MA | Construction Started / Built | 15 | TX | Construction Started / Built | 12 |
| | In Design | 21 | | In Design | 29 |
| MD | Construction Started / Built | 1 | UT | Construction Started / Built | 1 |
| | In Design | 6 | | In Design | 1 |
| ME | Construction Started / Built | 1 | VA | Construction Started / Built | 1 |
| | In Design | 9 | | In Design | 9 |
| MI | Construction Started / Built | 1 | VT | Construction Started / Built | 1 |
| | In Design | 2 | | In Design | 7 |
| MN | Construction Started / Built | 1 | WA | Construction Started / Built | 17 |
| | In Design | 2 | | In Design | 23 |
| MO | Construction Started / Built | 4 | WI | Construction Started / Built | 2 |
| | In Design | 4 | | In Design | 13 |
| | | | WV | Construction Started / Built | 2 |
| | | | WY | In Design | 1 |

Considering mass timber for a project?
 Ask us anything.

For free project support, contact:
help@woodworks.org
woodworks.org/project-assistance

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

GLULAM



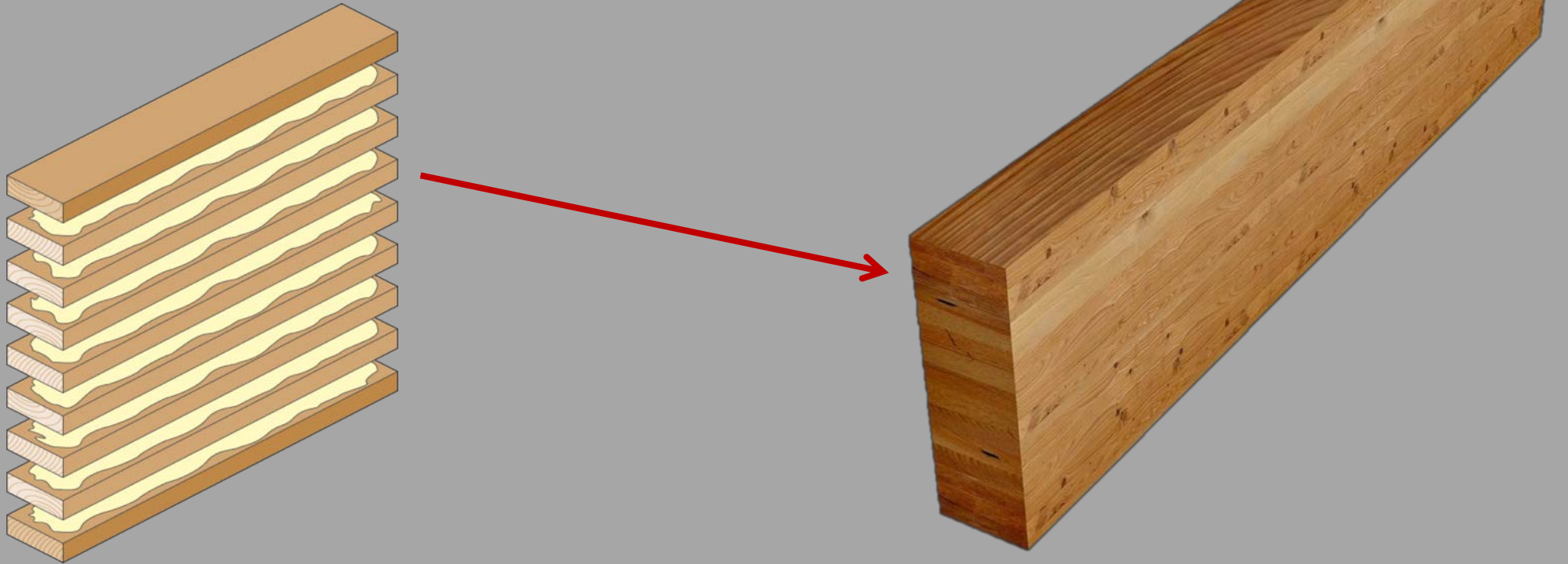
PHOTO CREDIT: ALEX SCHREYER

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

GLULAM

GLULAM = A STRUCTURAL COMPOSITE OF LUMBER AND ADHESIVES

- RECOGNIZED IN IBC 2303.1.3 USING ANSI/AITC A 190.1 AND ASTM D 3737
- CAN BE USED FOR FLOOR, ROOF PURLINS, BEAMS, ARCHES, COLUMNS



RADIATOR BUILDING

PORTLAND, OR

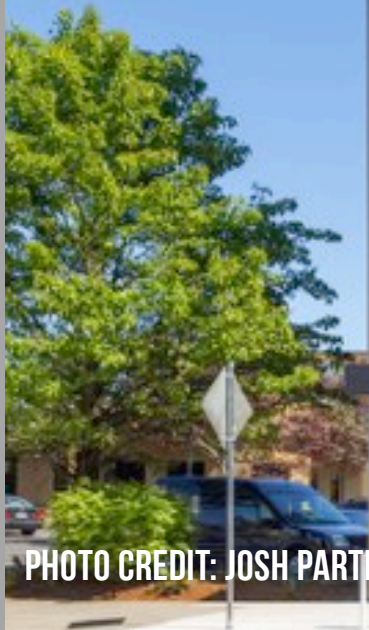


PHOTO CREDIT: JOSH PARTEE



RADIATOR BUILDING

PORTLAND, OR



BUILDING INFO:
OFFICE BUILDING
5 STORIES
36,000 SF
COMPLETED 2015

PHOTO CREDIT: JOSH PARTEE

FLEXIBILITY OF SPANS AND SHAPES

The image shows the interior of the Richmond Olympic Oval, a large sports arena. The most striking feature is the ceiling, which is a complex, curved structure made of yellow, ribbed panels. The ceiling is supported by a network of white, curved steel trusses that create a series of large, open spans. Numerous small, recessed lights are embedded in the ceiling, providing a warm, golden glow. Below the ceiling, the floor is highly reflective, mirroring the intricate structure above. In the background, a long, horizontal window or glass wall allows natural light to enter the space. The overall atmosphere is one of modern architectural elegance and structural flexibility.

RICHMOND OLYMPIC OVAL, RICHMOND, BC, CANADA

DESIGN TEAM: CANNON DESIGN ARCHITECTURE, FAST + EPP, GLOTMAN SIMPSON

**PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE TRACEY, CRAIG CARMICHAEL, JON PESOCHIN, KK LAW CREATIVE,
ZIGGY WELSCH**

**104' SPAN GLULAM ARCHES
GLULAM PURLINS @ 4' 0.C**



**LEMAY AMERICA AUTO MUSEUM
PHOTO CREDIT: WESTERN WOOD STRUCTURES**

NAIL LAMINATED TIMBER

A close-up photograph of a wall made of nail laminated timber. The wall is composed of horizontal wooden planks. Several vertical wooden studs are visible, running from the bottom to the top of the frame. The wood has a natural, light brown color with visible grain and knots. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the wood.

PHOTO CREDIT: STRUCTURECRAFT

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

NAIL-LAMINATED TIMBER (NLT) PANELS

- NAIL-LAMINATED TIMBER (NLT) =**
A STRUCTURAL PANEL OF SQUARE-EDGED
DIMENSIONAL LUMBER LAMINATIONS (USUALLY 2X)
SET ON EDGE AND NAILED WIDE FACE TOGETHER
- **RECOGNIZED IN IBC 2304.8.3 (MECHANICALLY LAMINATED DECKING)**
 - **NDS 15.1.1 PROVIDES DISTRIBUTION FACTORS FOR CONCENTRATED LOADS**
 - **CAN BE USED FOR FLOOR, ROOF DECKING. OCCASIONALLY USED FOR SHAFT WALLS**





MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

NAIL-LAMINATED TIMBER (NLT) PANELS



**NLT SHRINKAGE/EXPANSION DESIGN:
RULE OF THUMB: LEAVE ONE PLY OUT PER 8'-
10' WIDE PANEL**

BULLITT CENTER

SEATTLE, WA



PHOTO CREDIT: BULLITT CENTER

BULLITT CENTER

SEATTLE, WA

**NAIL-LAMINATED TIMBER DECKS PROVIDE:
MAXIMIZED SPANS, REDUCED NUMBER OF COLUMNS, MORE OPEN SPACE
FLEXIBILITY, MINIMIZED STRUCTURE DEPTH**

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN STAMETS

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

DOWEL-LAMINATED TIMBER (DLT) PANELS

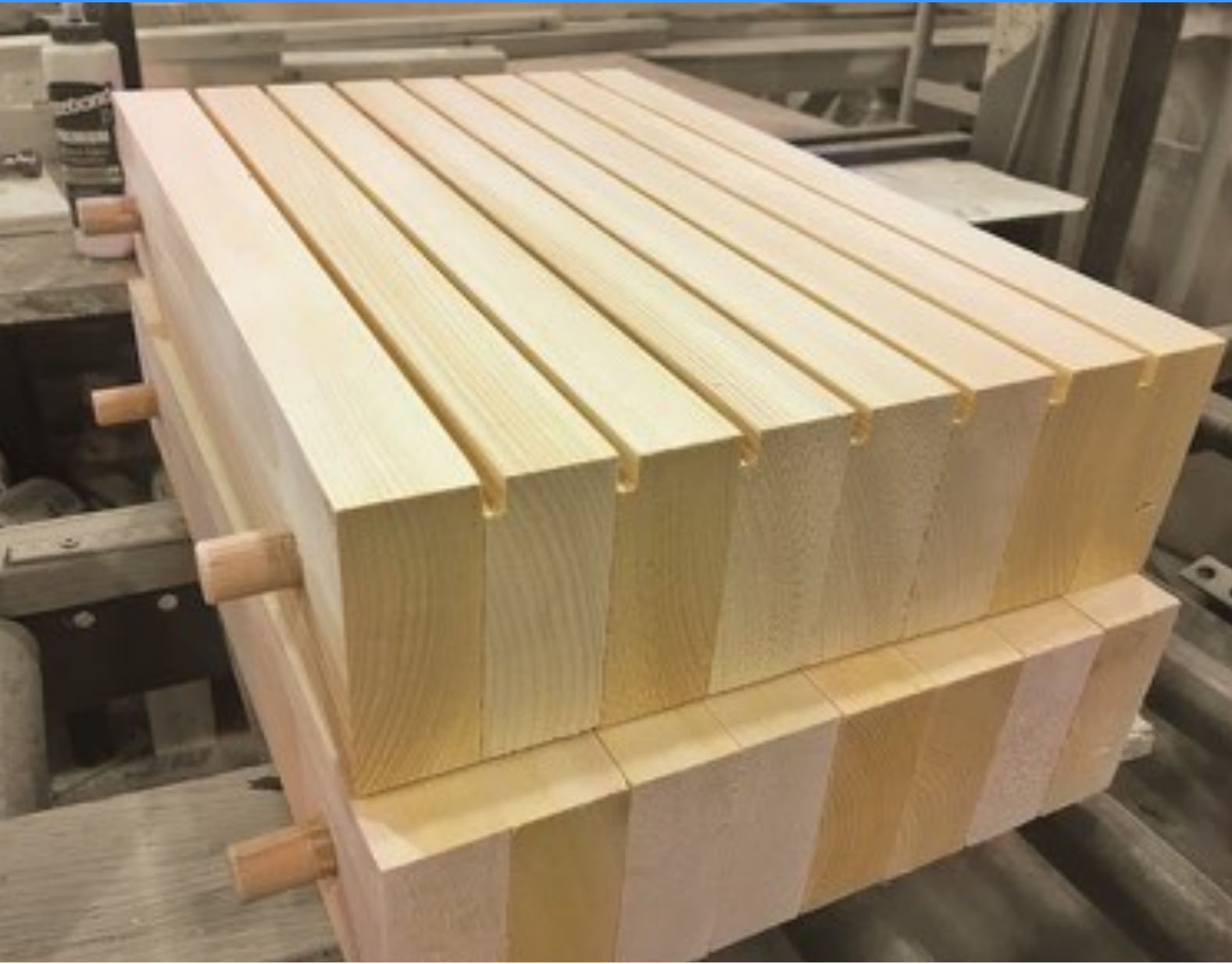


PHOTO CREDIT: STRUCTURECRAFT



PHOTO CREDIT: STRUCTURE FUSION



MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

GLUE-LAMINATED TIMBER (GLT) PANELS

PHOTO CREDIT: UNALAM



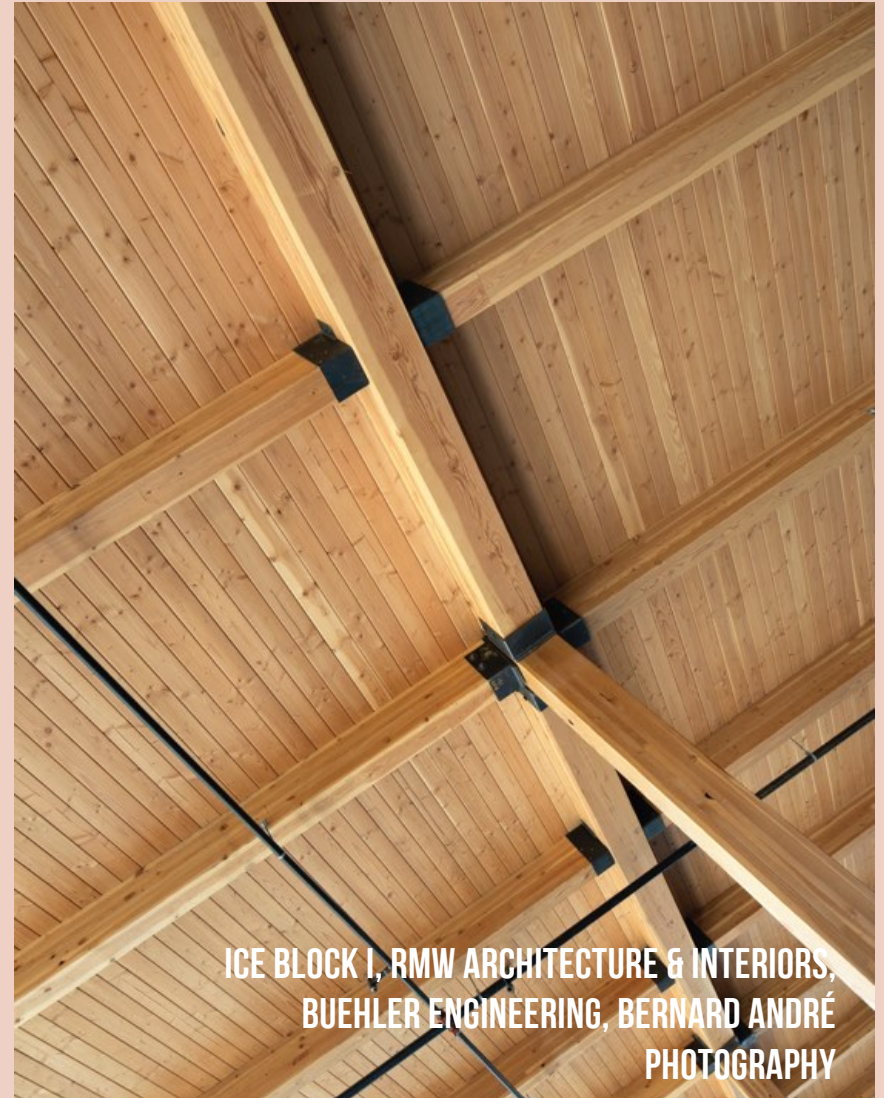
MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

TONGUE AND GROOVE DECKING

TONGUE AND GROOVE DECKING:

2X, 3X OR 4X SOLID OR LAMINATED WOOD DECKING
LAID FLAT WITH INTERLOCKING TONGUE AND GROOVE
ON NARROW (SIDE) FACE

- RECOGNIZED IN IBC 2304.8 (LUMBER DECKING)
- 2X USUALLY HAS A SINGLE T&G; 3X AND 4X USUALLY HAVE A DOUBLE T&G
- 6" AND 8" ARE COMMON WIDTHS
- CAN BE USED FOR FLOOR, ROOF DECKING



ICE BLOCK I, RMW ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS,
BUEHLER ENGINEERING, BERNARD ANDRÉ
PHOTOGRAPHY

ICE BLOCK I

SACRAMENTO, CA



ICE BLOCK I, RMW ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS, BUEHLER
ENGINEERING, BERNARD ANDRÉ PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO CREDIT: RMW ARCHITECTURE

ICE BLOCKS

SACRAMENTO, CA



PHOTO CREDIT: WOODWORKS

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER (CLT)



MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER (CLT)

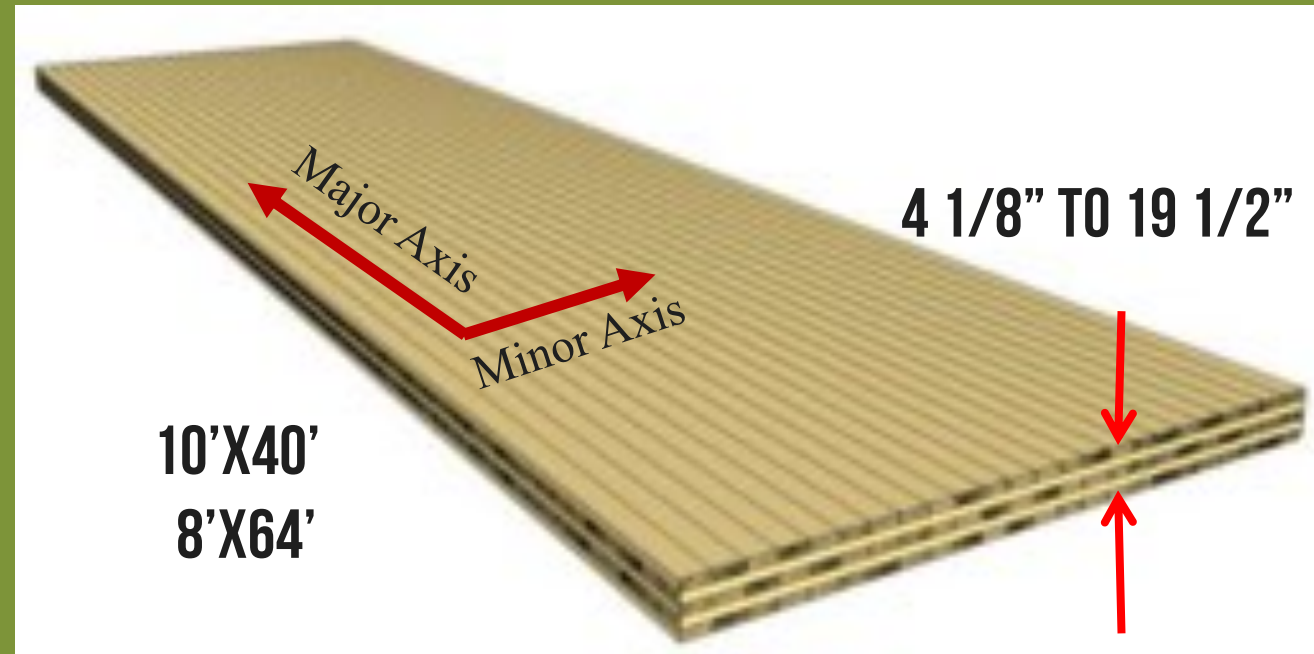
WHAT IS CLT?

SOLID WOOD PANEL

3 LAYERS MIN. OF SOLID SAWN LAMS

90 DEG. CROSS-LAMS

SIMILAR TO PLYWOOD SHEATHING



FIRST TECH CREDIT UNION

HILLSBORO, OR



5 STORIES
156,000 SF



ARCHITECT: HACKER
IMAGE CREDIT: STRUCTURLAM



FIRST TECH CREDIT UNION

HILLSBORO, OR



ARCHITECT: HACKER
IMAGE CREDIT: STRUCTURLAM

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER (CLT)

IN 2015 IBC, CLT IS NOW DEFINED IN CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS:

[BS] CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER. A prefabricated engineered wood product consisting of not less than three layers of solid-sawn lumber or *structural composite lumber* where the adjacent layers are cross oriented and bonded with structural adhesive to form a solid wood element.

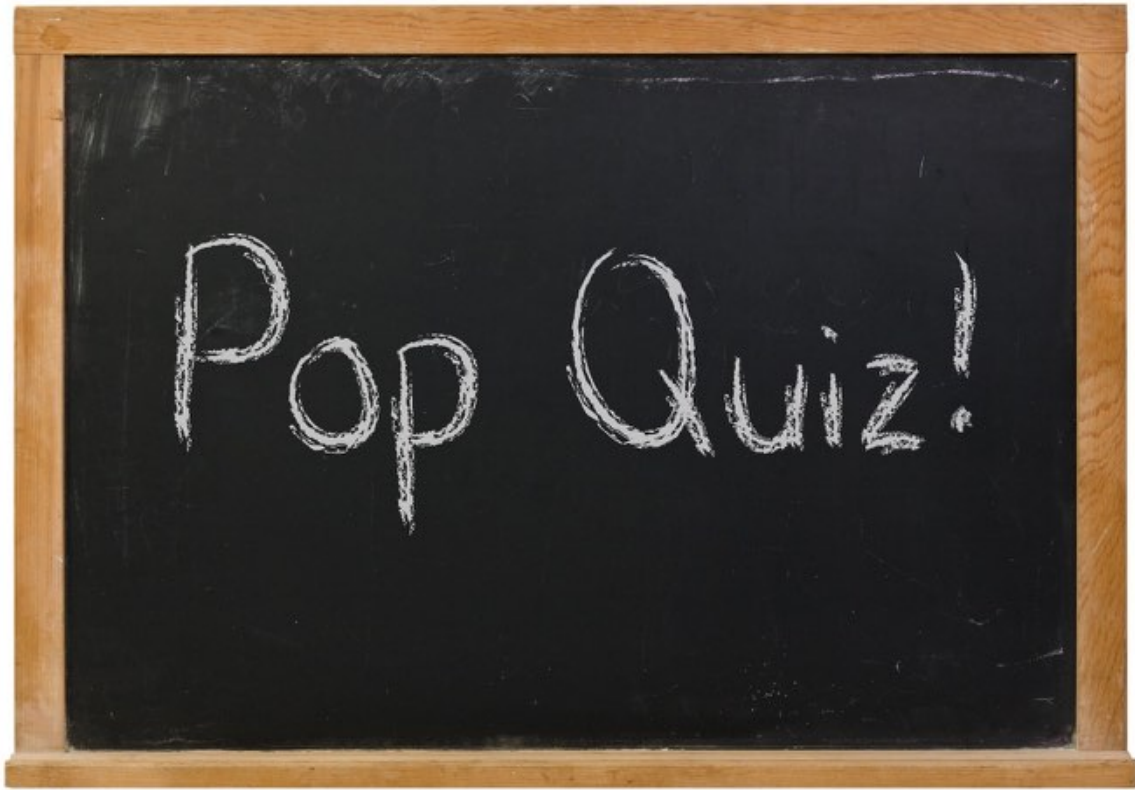
AND IS REFERENCED IN CHAPTER 23:

2303.1.4 Structural glued cross-laminated timber. Cross-laminated timbers shall be manufactured and identified in accordance with ANSI/APA PRG 320.



MASS TIMBER DESIGN

CONSTRUCTION TYPES



**Q: OF THE 5 CONSTRUCTION TYPES, WHICH
ONES CAN MASS TIMBER BE USED IN?**

A: ALL 5!

CONSTRUCTION TYPES

IBC 602

**IBC DEFINES 5 CONSTRUCTION TYPES: I, II, III, IV AND 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

IBC 602

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)

FIRE RESISTANCE

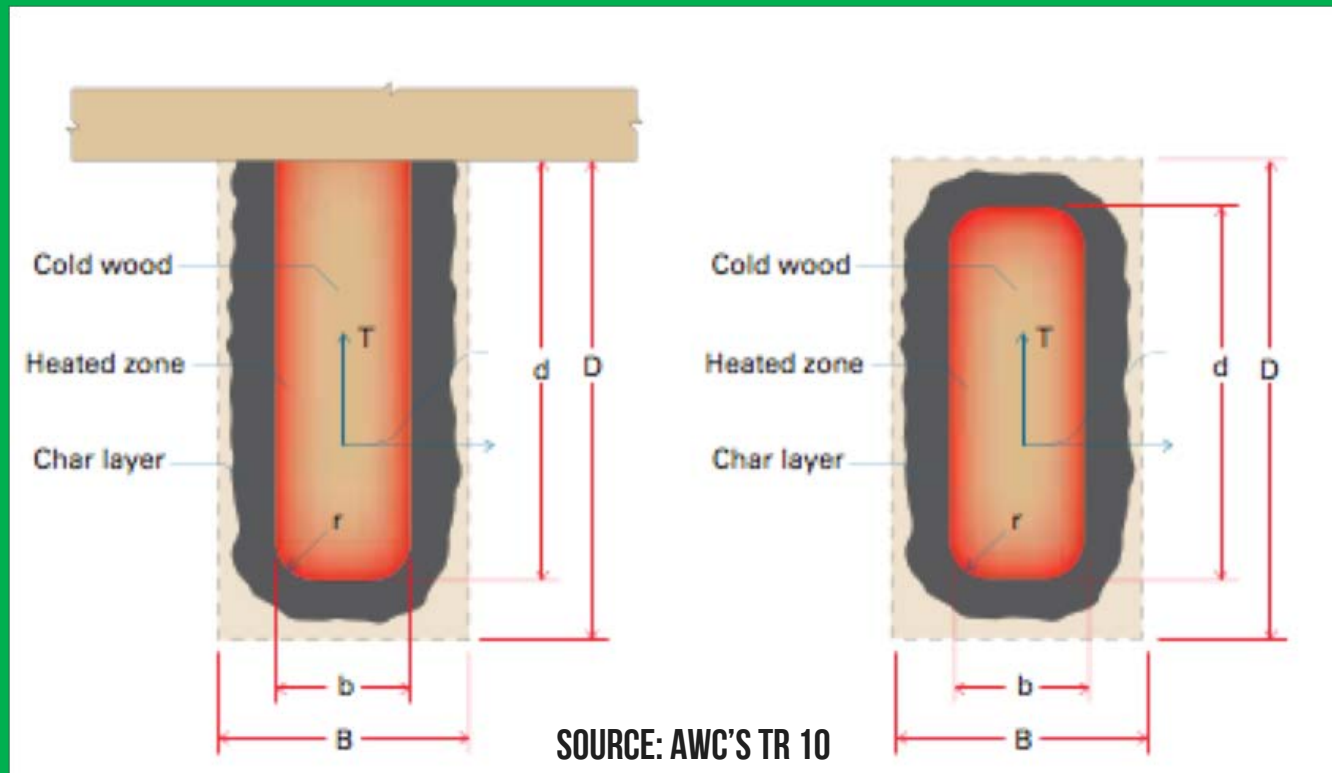
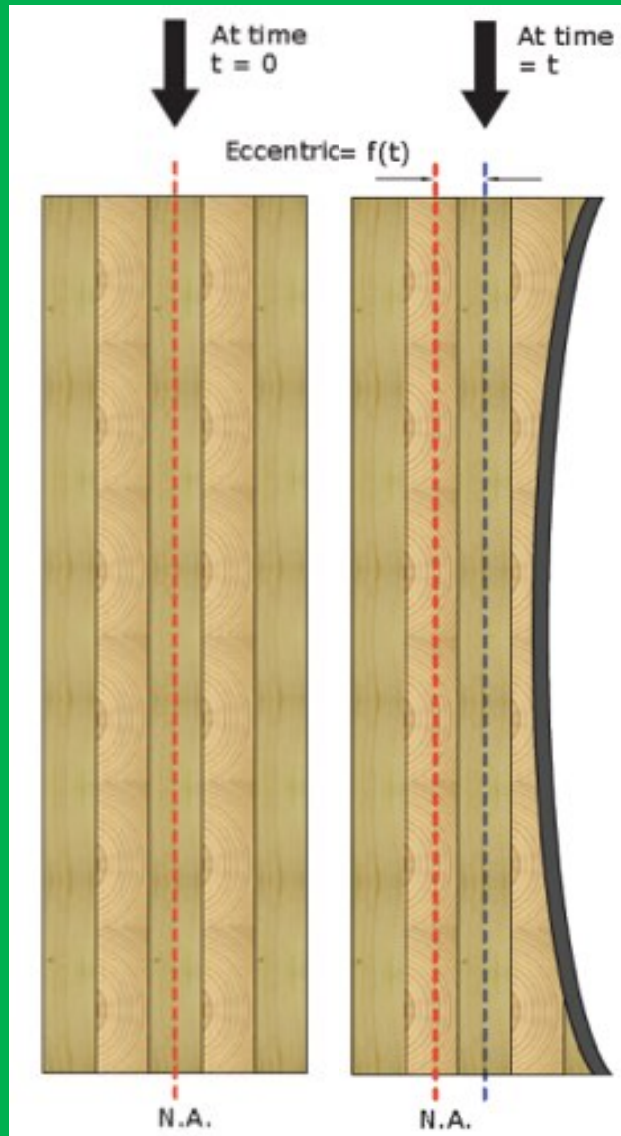


PHOTO CREDIT: FP INNOVATIONS

MASS TIMBER DESIGN

FIRE RESISTANCE

SIMILAR TO HEAVY TIMBER, MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS HAVE INHERENT FIRE RESISTANCE PROPERTIES

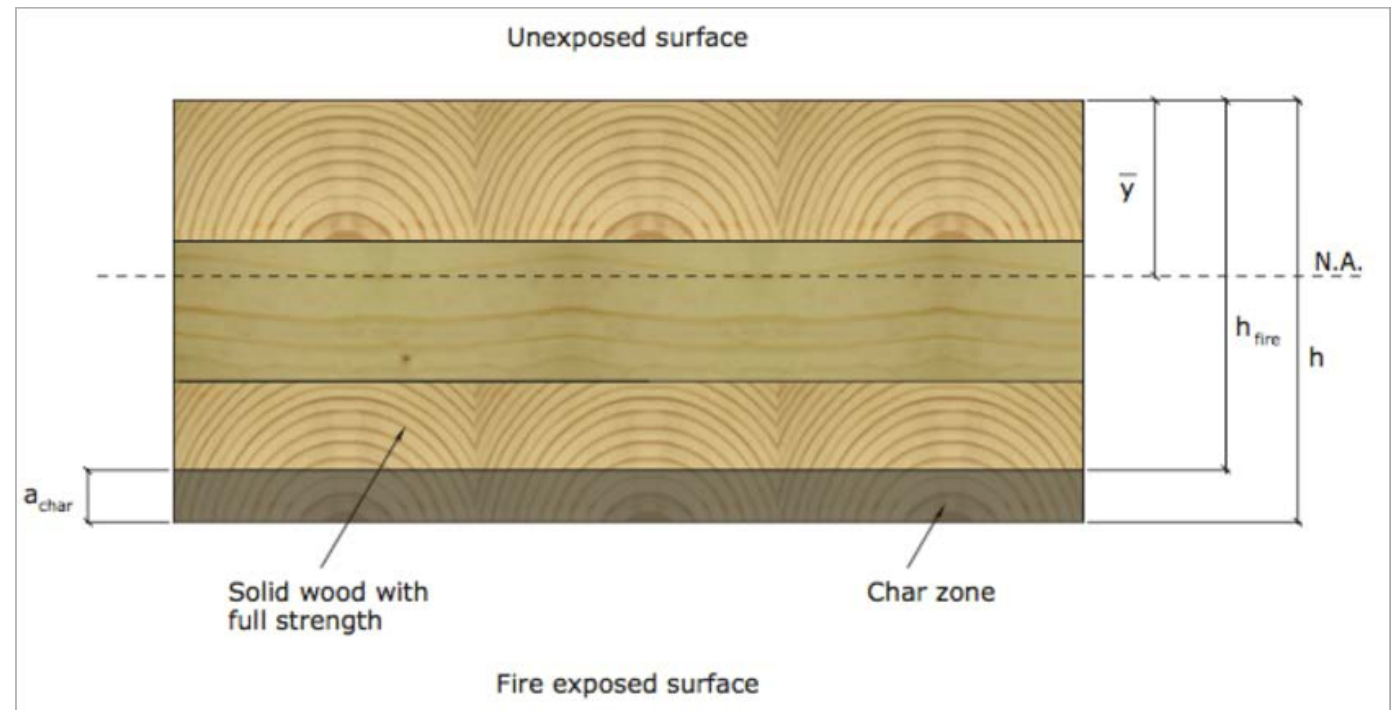


MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

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)

MT FRR Calculations Method:

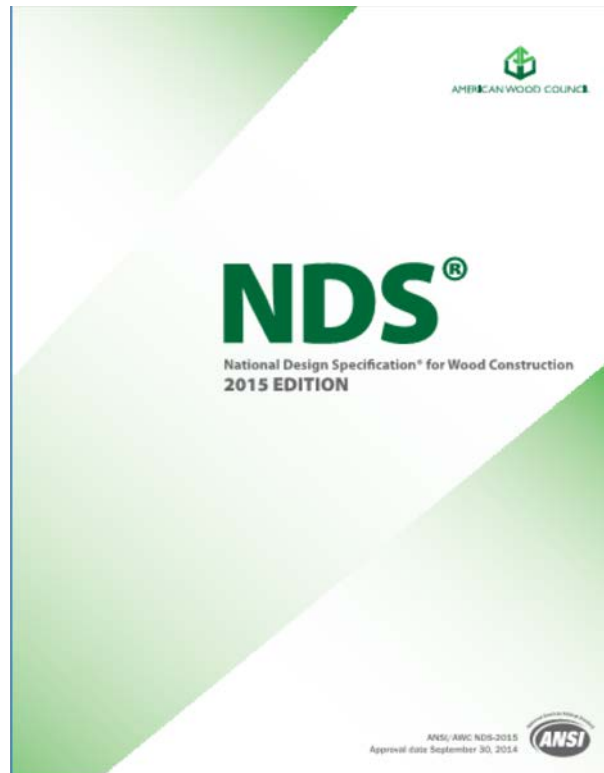
- IBC 703.3 allows several methods of determining FRR. One is calculations per 722.
- 722.1 refers to NDS Chpt 16 for exposed wood FRR

703.3 Methods for determining fire resistance. The application of any of the methods listed in this section shall be based on the fire exposure and acceptance criteria specified in ASTM E119 or UL 263. The required *fire resistance* of a building element, component or assembly shall be permitted to be established by any of the following methods or procedures:

3. Calculations in accordance with Section 722.

722.1 General. The provisions of this section contain procedures by which the *fire resistance* of specific materials or combinations of materials is established by calculations. These procedures apply only to the information contained in this section and shall not be otherwise used. The calculated *fire resistance* of concrete, concrete masonry and clay masonry assemblies shall be permitted in accordance with ACI 216.1/TMS 0216. The calculated *fire resistance* of steel assemblies shall be permitted in accordance with Chapter 5 of ASCE 29. The calculated *fire resistance* of exposed wood members and wood decking shall be permitted in accordance with Chapter 16 of ANSI/AF&PA *National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS)*.

MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



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_{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 |



Credit: FPInnovations

MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

Nominal char rate of 1.5"/HR is recognized in NDS. Effective char depth calculated to account for duration, structural reduction in heat-affected zone



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 |



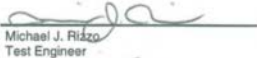



Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with $\beta_n=1.5$ in./hr.)

| 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 |

MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

Tested Assemblies Method:

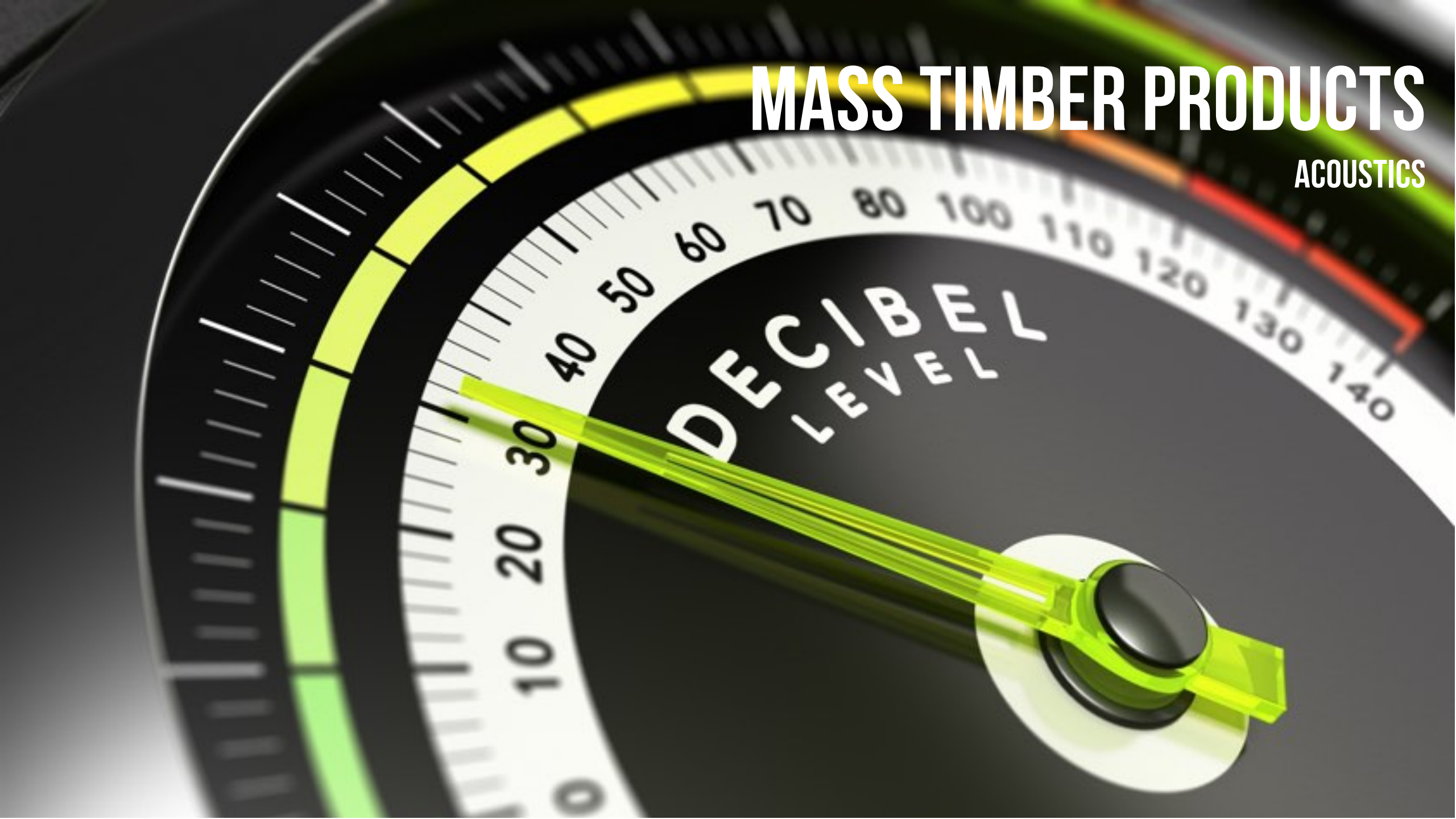
- Many successful Mass Timber ASTM E119 fire tests have been completed by industry & manufacturers

| | | |
|--|--|---|
|  <p>Fire Testing Laboratory</p>  <p>TEST REPORT Page 1 of 53</p> <p>for American Wood Council 222 Catoctin Circle SE, Suite 201 Leesburg, VA 20175</p> <p>Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials ASTM E 119 – 11a</p> <p>Test Report No: WP-1950 Assignment No: K-1089 Subject Material: Cross-Laminated Timber and Gypsum Board Wall Assembly (Load-Bearing) Test Date: October 4, 2012 Report Date: October 15, 2012</p> <p>Prepared by:  Michael J. Rizzo Test Engineer</p> <p>Reviewed by:  Robert J. Merchetti Director, Laboratory Facilities and Testing Services</p> | <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">TEST REPORT</p>  <p>REPORT NUMBER: 102891256SAT-001 ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE: February 27, 2017 REVISED DATE: N/A</p> <p>EVALUATION CENTER 16015 Shady Falls Road Elmendorf, TX 78112 Phone: (210) 635-8100 Fax: (210) 635-8101 www.intertek.com</p> <p>RENDERED TO Structurlam Products LP 2176 Government Street Penticton, BC V2A 8B5 Canada</p> |  <p>Project No. 301006155 Final Report 2012/13</p> <p>Preliminary CLT Fire Resistance Testing Report</p> <p>by Lindsay Osborne, M.A.Sc. Christian Dagenais, Eng., M.Sc. Scientists Advanced Building Systems – Serviceability and Fire Group</p> |
|--|--|---|

Contact WoodWorks for Inventory of Tests

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

ACOUSTICS

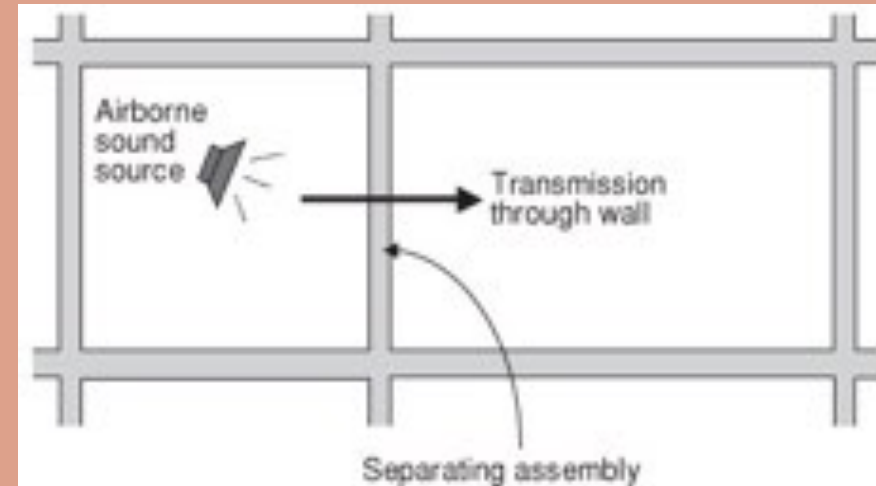


MASS TIMBER DESIGN

ACOUSTICS

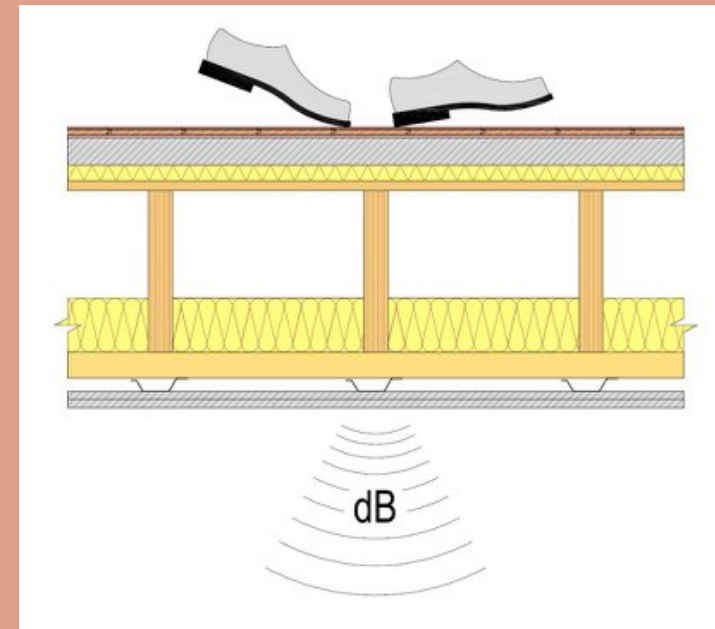
AIR-BORNE SOUND:

- **SOUND TRANSMISSION CLASS (STC)**
MEASURES HOW EFFECTIVELY AN ASSEMBLY ISOLATES AIR-BORNE SOUND AND REDUCES THE LEVEL THAT PASSES FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER



STRUCTURE-BORNE SOUND:

- **IMPACT INSULATION CLASS (IIC)**
EVALUATES HOW EFFECTIVELY AN ASSEMBLY BLOCKS IMPACT SOUND FROM PASSING THROUGH IT



MASS TIMBER DESIGN

ACOUSTICS – IBC 1207

NO ACOUSTICAL CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR MANY MASS TIMBER BUILDING TYPES SUCH AS OFFICES AND ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, MANY OWNERS REQUIRE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

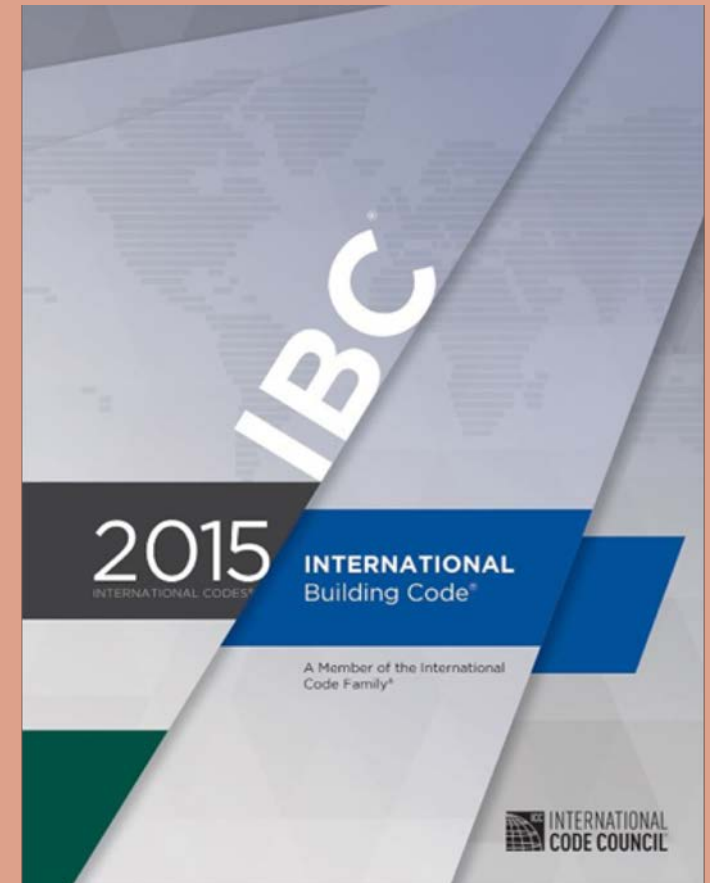
CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES:

MIN. STC OF 50 (45 IF FIELD TESTED):

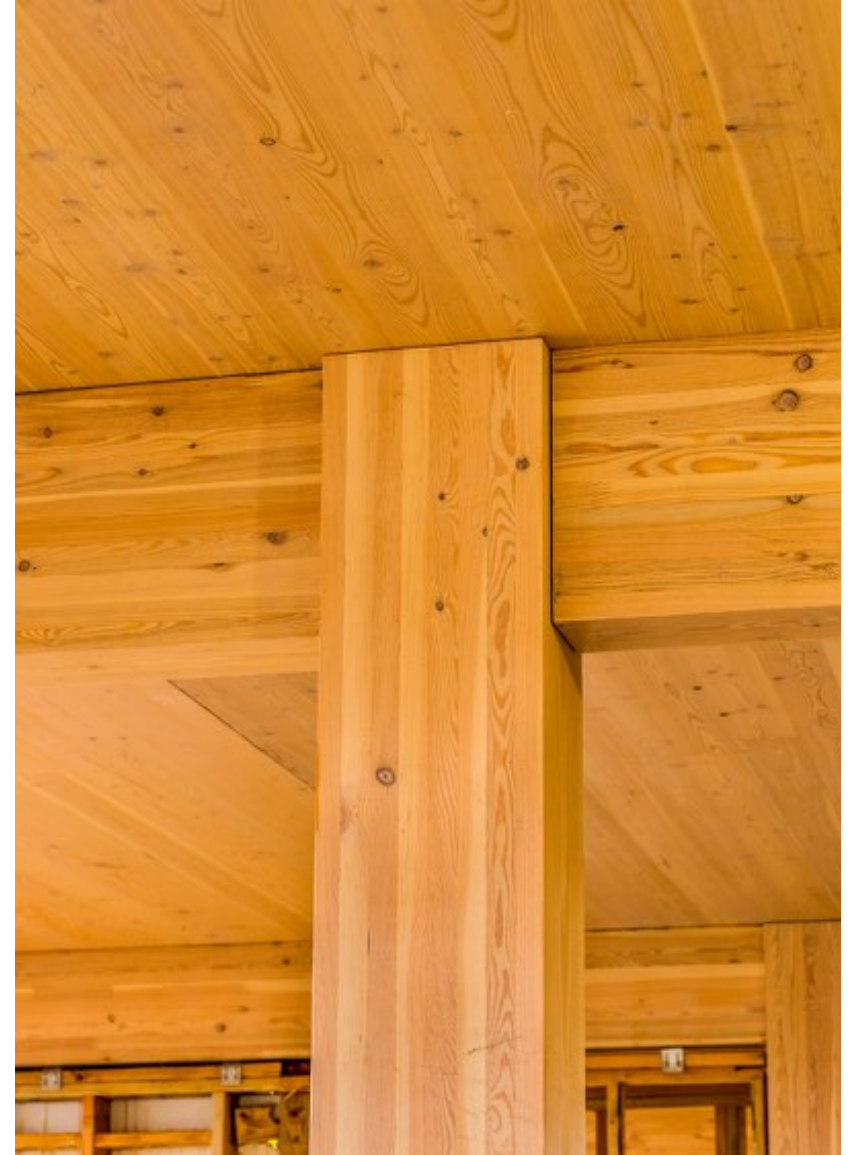
- **WALLS, PARTITIONS, AND FLOOR/CEILING ASSEMBLIES**

MIN. IIC OF 50 (45 IF FIELD TESTED) FOR:

- **FLOOR/CEILING ASSEMBLIES**



Mass Timber: Structure Often is Finish



Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture/Marcus Kauffman | Architect: PATH Architecture

Mass Timber Acoustics

TABLE 1:

Examples of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Panels

| Mass Timber Panel | Thickness | STC Rating | IIC Rating |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 3-ply CLT wall ⁴ | 3.07" | 33 | N/A |
| 5-ply CLT wall ⁴ | 6.875" | 38 | N/A |
| 5-ply CLT floor ⁵ | 5.1875" | 39 | 22 |
| 5-ply CLT floor ⁴ | 6.875" | 41 | 25 |
| 7-ply CLT floor ⁴ | 9.65" | 44 | 30 |
| 2x4 NLT wall ⁶ | 3-1/2" bare NLT 4-1/4" with 3/4" plywood | 24 bare NLT 29 with 3/4" plywood | N/A |
| 2x6 NLT wall ⁶ | 5-1/2" bare NLT 6-1/4" with 3/4" plywood | 22 bare NLT 31 with 3/4" plywood | N/A |
| 2x6 NLT floor + 1/2" plywood ² | 6" with 1/2" plywood | 34 | 33 |

Source: Inventory of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Assemblies, WoodWorks⁷

Mass Timber Acoustics



Concrete Slab:

6" Thick

80 PSF

STC 53



CLT Slab:

6-7/8" Thick

18 PSF

STC 41

Mass Timber Acoustics

There are three main ways to improve an assembly's acoustical performance:

1. Add mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers





Acoustics and Mass Timber: Room-to-Room Noise Control

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks

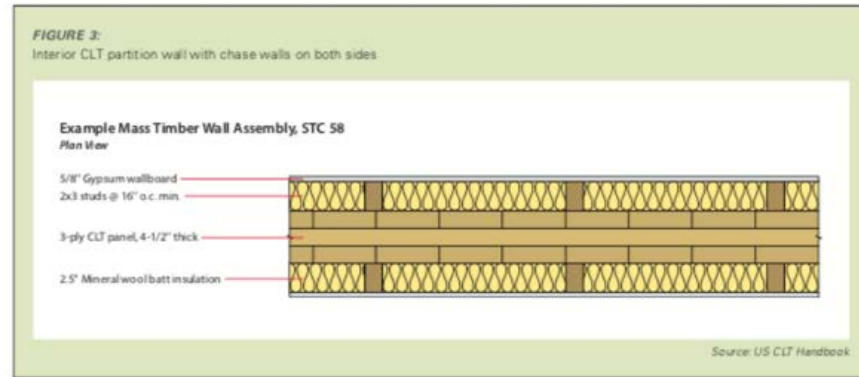


T3 Minneapolis
Architect: MGA | Michael Green Architecture, DLR Group
Structural Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates
Design Assist + Build: StructureCraft

The growing availability and code acceptance 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 has given designers a low-carbon alternative to steel, concrete, and masonry for many applications. However, the use of mass timber in multi-family and commercial buildings presents unique acoustic challenges.

While laboratory measurements of the impact and airborne sound isolation of traditional building assemblies such as light wood-frame, steel and concrete are widely available, fewer resources exist that quantify the acoustic performance of mass timber assemblies. Additionally, one of the most desired aspects of mass timber construction is the ability to leave a building's structure exposed as finish, which creates the need for asymmetric assemblies. With careful design and detailing, mass timber buildings can meet the acoustic performance expectations of most building types.

http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-MASS-TIMBER-ACOUSTICS.pdf



Mass Timber Assembly Options: Walls

Mass timber panels can also be used for interior and exterior walls—both bearing and non-bearing. For interior walls, the need to conceal services such as electrical and plumbing is an added consideration. Common approaches include building a chase wall in front of the mass timber wall or installing gypsum wallboard on resilient channels that are attached to the mass timber wall. As with bare mass timber floor panels, bare mass timber walls don't typically provide adequate noise control, and chase walls also function as acoustical improvements. For example, a 3-ply CLT wall panel with a thickness of 3.07" has an STC rating of 33.⁴ In contrast, Figure 3 shows an interior CLT partition wall with chase walls on both sides. This assembly achieves an STC rating of 58, exceeding the IBC's acoustical requirements for multi-family construction. Other examples are included in the inventory of tested assemblies noted above.

Acoustical Differences between Mass Timber Panel Options

The majority of acoustically-tested mass timber assemblies include CLT. However, tests have also been done on other mass timber panel options such as NLT and dowel-laminated timber (DLT), as well as traditional heavy timber options such as tongue and groove decking. Most tests have concluded that CLT acoustical performance is slightly better than that of other mass timber options, largely because the cross-orientation of laminations in a CLT panel limits sound flanking.

For those interested in comparing similar assemblies and mass timber panel types and thicknesses, the inventory noted above contains tested assemblies using CLT, NLT, glued-laminated timber panels (GLT), and tongue and groove decking.

Improving Performance by Minimizing Flanking

Even when the assemblies in a building are carefully designed and installed for high acoustical performance, consideration of flanking paths—in areas such as assembly intersections, beam-to-column/wall connections, and MEP penetrations—is necessary for a building to meet overall acoustical performance objectives.

One way to minimize flanking paths at these connections and interfaces is to use resilient connection isolation and sealant strips. These products are capable of resisting structural loads in compression between structural members and connections while providing isolation and breaking hard, direct connections between members. In the context of the three methods for improving acoustical performance noted above, these strips act as decouplers. With airtight connections, interfaces and penetrations, there is a much greater chance that the acoustic performance of a mass timber building will meet expectations.



Acoustical isolation strips

Photo: Rothoblaas

Table 1: CLT Floor Assemblies with Concrete/Gypsum Topping, Ceiling Side Exposed



| CLT Panel | Concrete/Gypsum Topping | Acoustical Mat Product Between CLT and Topping | Finish Floor | STC ¹ | IIC ¹ | Source |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| CLT 5-ply (6.875") | 1-1/2" Gyp-Crete [®] | Maxxon Acousti-Mat [®] 3/4 | None | 47 ² ASTC | 47 ² AIIIC | 1 |
| | | | LVT | - | 49 ² AIIIC | |
| | | | Carpet + Pad | - | 75 ² AIIIC | |
| | | | LVT on Acousti-Top [®] | - | 52 ² AIIIC | |
| | | | Eng Wood on Acousti-Top [®] | - | 51 ² AIIIC | |
| | | | None | 49 ² ASTC | 45 ² AIIIC | |
| | 1-1/2" Levelrock [®] Brand 2500 | Soprema [®] Insonomat | LVT | - | 47 ² AIIIC | |
| | | | LVT on Acousti-Top [®] | - | 49 ² AIIIC | |
| | | | None | 45 ⁶ | 39 ⁶ | 15 |
| | | | LVT | 48 ⁶ | 47 ⁶ | 16 |
| | | | LVT Plus | 48 ⁶ | 49 ⁶ | 58 |
| | | | Eng Wood | 47 ⁶ | 47 ⁶ | 59 |
| | 1-1/2" Levelrock [®] Brand 2500 | Soprema [®] Insonomat | Carpet + Pad | 45 ⁶ | 67 ⁶ | 60 |
| | | | Ceramic Tile | 50 ⁶ | 46 ⁶ | 61 |
| | | | None | 45 ⁶ | 42 ⁶ | 15 |
| | | | LVT | 48 ⁶ | 44 ⁶ | 16 |
| | | | LVT Plus | 48 ⁶ | 47 ⁶ | 58 |
| | | | Eng Wood | 47 ⁶ | 45 ⁶ | 59 |
| | 1-1/2" Levelrock [®] Brand 2500 | Soprema [®] Insonomat | Carpet + Pad | 45 ⁶ | 67 ⁶ | 60 |
| | | | Eng Wood | 47 ⁶ | 49 ⁶ | 59 |

More than 400 Tested Assemblies