

# Technical Evaluation Report™

## TER 2204-04

Structural Performance of Hunter Panels Xci Ply  
and Xci Ply (Class A) on Steel Framing

**Hunter Panels, LLC**

**Product:**

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

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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 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 *AISI S100: North American Specification for the Design of Cold-formed Steel Structural Members*
- 2.2.2 *AISI S213: North American Specification for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Lateral Design*
- 2.2.3 *ASCE/SEI 7: Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*
- 2.2.4 *ASTM D7989: Standard Practice for Demonstrating Equivalent In-Plane Lateral Seismic Performance to Wood-Frame Shear Walls Sheathed with Wood Structural Panels*
- 2.2.5 *ASTM E72: Standard Test Methods of Conducting Strength Tests of Panels for Building Construction*
- 2.2.6 *ASTM E84: Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics 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.

- 2.2.7 *ASTM E330: Standard Test Method for Structural Performance of Exterior Windows, Doors, Skylights and Curtain Walls by Uniform Static Air Pressure Difference*
- 2.2.8 *ASTM E564: Standard Practice for Static Load Test for Shear Resistance of Framed Walls for Buildings*
- 2.2.9 *ASTM E2126: Standard Test Methods for Cyclic (Reversed) Load Test for Shear Resistance of Vertical Elements of the Lateral Force Resisting Systems for Buildings*
- 2.2.10 *ASTM E2178: Standard Test Method for Air Permeance of Building Materials*

### 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 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 ASCE/SEI 7: Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures
  - 3.3.2 ASTM D7989: Standard Practice for Demonstrating Equivalent In-Plane Lateral Seismic Performance to Wood-Frame Shear Walls Sheathed with Wood Structural Panels
  - 3.3.3 ASTM E72: Standard Test Methods of Conducting Strength Tests of Panels for Building Construction
  - 3.3.4 ASTM E564: Standard Practice for Static Load Test for Shear Resistance of Framed Walls for Buildings
  - 3.3.5 ASTM E2126: Standard Test Methods for Cyclic (Reversed) Load Test for Shear Resistance of Vertical Elements of the Lateral Force Resisting Systems for Buildings

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/part-11/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.

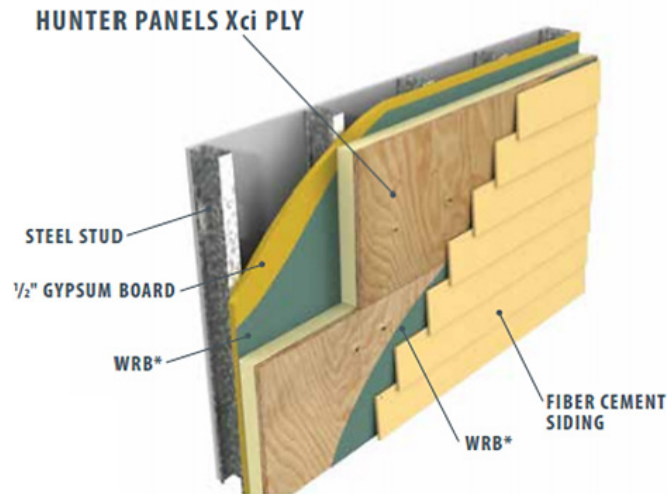
- 3.4 Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) were evaluated to determine:
- 3.4.1 Structural performance under lateral load conditions for wind and seismic loading for use with the IBC performance-based provisions of [IBC Section 2211.1.1](#) for light-frame steel wall assemblies.
  - 3.4.2 Table 2 provides Seismic Design Coefficients (SDC) that conform to the requirements in ASCE 7 Section 12.2.1 and Table 12.2-1 for design of wall assemblies in buildings that require seismic design in accordance with ASCE 7 (i.e., all seismic design categories).
    - 3.4.2.1 The basis for equivalency testing is outlined in ASCE7 Section 12.2.1.1:
      - 12.2.1.1 Alternative Structural Systems. Use of seismic force-resisting systems not contained in Table 12.2-1 shall be permitted contingent on submittal to and approval by the Authority Having Jurisdiction and independent structural design review of an accompanying set of design criteria and substantiating analytical and test data. The design criteria shall specify any limitations on system use, including Seismic Design Category and height; required procedures for designing the system's components and connections; required detailing; and the values of the response modification coefficient,  $R$ ; overstrength factor,  $\Omega_o$ ; and deflection amplification factor,  $C_d$ .
    - 3.4.2.2 The basis of the seismic evaluation performed as part of this TER is based on ASTM D7989 and testing per ASTM E2126 to establish SDCs that conform to the requirements of ASCE 7 Section 12.2.1.1.
  - 3.4.3 Resistance to transverse loads for wall assemblies used in light-frame wood and steel construction in accordance with [IBC Section 1609.1.1](#) and [IRC Section R301.2.1](#).
  - 3.4.4 Resistance to gravity loads for wall assemblies used in light-frame steel construction in accordance with [IBC Section 1604](#) and [IRC Section R301.1](#).
  - 3.4.5 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](#).
  - 3.4.6 Performance in accordance with ASTM E84 for flame spread and smoke-developed index ratings in accordance with [IBC Section 2603.5.4](#).
- 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.

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<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 Product Description and Materials

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



**Figure 1.** Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)

4.2 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.

### 4.3 Material Availability

#### 4.3.1 Thickness:

4.3.1.1 Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A): 1.6" (41 mm) through 4.7" (119 mm)

#### 4.3.2 Standard Width:

4.3.2.1 48" (1,219 mm)

#### 4.3.3 Standard Length:

4.3.3.1 96" (2,438 mm)

## 5 Applications

5.1 Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) are used in the following applications as:

- 5.1.1 Wall sheathing in buildings constructed in accordance with the IRC and IBC for light-frame steel construction.
- 5.1.2 Structural wall sheathing to provide lateral load resistance (wind and seismic) for braced wall panels used in light-frame steel construction.
- 5.1.3 Structural wall sheathing in buildings constructed in accordance with the IBC requirements for Type I-IV light frame steel construction.
- 5.1.4 Structural wall sheathing to provide resistance to transverse loads for wall assemblies used in light-frame steel construction.
- 5.1.5 Structural wall sheathing to provide resistance to compression loads for wall assemblies used in light-frame steel construction.

## 5.2 Structural Applications

- 5.2.1 Except as otherwise described in this TER, 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).
- 5.2.2 Anchorage for in-plane shear shall be provided to transfer the induced shear force into and out of each shear wall.
  - 5.2.2.1 For wind design, anchor bolt spacing shall not exceed 6' o.c.
  - 5.2.2.2 For seismic design, anchor bolt spacing shall not exceed 4' o.c.
- 5.2.3 The maximum aspect ratio for full height walls braced with Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shall be 4:1.
- 5.2.4 The minimum full height panel width shall be 24".
- 5.2.5 Fastener type and spacing shall be per the applicable table of this TER and Section 6. Fasteners shall be installed with the head in contact with the face of the board.
- 5.2.6 Where the application exceeds the limitations set forth herein, design shall be permitted in accordance with accepted engineering procedures, experience, and technical judgment.
- 5.2.7 *Lateral Wind Loading:*
  - 5.2.7.1 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 for in Table 1.

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

Structural Sheathing <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Stud Gauge (Grade) <sup>3</sup>	Stud Spacing	Fastener Type <sup>2</sup>	Fastener Spacing (edge:field) (in)	Wind Allowable Unit Shear Capacity <sup>4</sup> (plf)
Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)	18-gauge (33 ksi)	16" o.c.	3 1/4" Trufast SIP LD	6:12	270
	12-gauge (50 ksi)	16" o.c.	3 1/4" Trufast SIP HD	6:12	280

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

- Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) maximum thickness is 2 5/8" (2" foam, 5/8" plywood). Other thicknesses are outside the scope of this TER.
- Screw shall penetrate a minimum of three thread lengths beyond the stud. Fastener edge distance shall be a minimum of 3/8". Fastener head shall be in contact with the panel surface.
- 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.
- Tabulated values are for walls constructed with or without gypsum wallboard on the interior face of the wall. Where gypsum wallboard is not installed, walls shall be constructed with mid-height strapping and blocking per [IRC Section R603.3.3](#).



5.2.8 **Seismic Design:**

- 5.2.8.1 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.
- 5.2.8.2 The response modification coefficient, R, system overstrength factor,  $\Omega_0$ , and deflection amplification factor,  $C_d$ , indicated in Table 3 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.

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

Seismic Force Resisting System <sup>3,4</sup>	Stud Gauge <sup>1</sup> (Grade)	Seismic Allowable Unit Shear Capacity (plf)	Apparent Shear Stiffness, $G_a$ (kips/in)	Response Modification Factor, R <sup>5</sup>	System Overstrength Factor, $\Omega_0$ <sup>6</sup>	Deflection Amplification Coefficient, $C_d$ <sup>7</sup>	Structural System Limitations and Building Height Limit <sup>8,9</sup> (ft)				
							Seismic Design Category				
							B	C	D	E	F
Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)	18-gauge (33 ksi)	215	2.0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	NL	NL	65	65	65
	12-gauge (50 ksi)	225	3.9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	NL	NL	65	65	65

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

- Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) on shall be attached to 18-gauge steel studs with 3/4" Trufast SIP LD screws and attached to 12-gauge steel studs with 3/4" Trufast SIP HD screws. Screw shall penetrate a minimum of three thread lengths beyond the stud. Fastener edge distance shall be a minimum of 3/8". Fastener head shall be in contact with the panel surface.
- All seismic design parameters follow the equivalency as defined in Section 3 of this TER.
- 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 Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) maximum thickness is 2 5/8" (2" foam, 5/8" plywood). Other thicknesses are outside the scope of this TER.
- Response modification coefficient, R, for use throughout ASCE 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 7 Sections 12.8.6, 12.8.7, and 12.9.1.2.
- Heights are measured from the base of the structure as defined in ASCE 7 Section 11.2.
- NL = Not Limited
- Tabulated values are for walls constructed with or without gypsum wallboard on the interior face of the wall. Where gypsum wallboard is not installed, walls shall be constructed with mid-height strapping and blocking per [IRC Section R603.3.3](#).

5.2.9 *Transverse Wind Loading:*

5.2.9.1 Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) panels are permitted to resist transverse wind load forces using the allowable transverse loads (in pounds per linear foot) set forth in Table 3. Required component and cladding loads to be resisted are found in IBC Section 1609.1.1, IRC Table R301.2.1(1)<sup>9</sup> and IRC Table R301.2.1(2).<sup>10</sup>

**Table 3. Transverse (Out-Of-Plane) Wind Load Resistance**

Product	Maximum Stud <sup>3</sup> Spacing (in)	Fastener Spacing (edge:field), (in)	Fastener Type <sup>4</sup>	Allowable Design Value (psf)	Allowable Components & Cladding Basic Wind Speed <sup>1,2</sup> (mph)	
					ASCE 7-05 (V <sub>asd</sub> )	ASCE 7-10 and 7-16 (V <sub>ult</sub> )
Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)	16 o.c.	6:12	3 1/4" Trufast SIP HD Screws	165	155	200

SI: 1 in = 25.4 mm, 1 psf = 0.0479 kN/m<sup>2</sup>, 1 mph = 1.61 km/h

- Design wind load capacity shall be in accordance with IBC Section 1609.1.1.
- Allowable wind speeds are based on the following: Mean roof height 30', Exposure B, Zone 5, 10 sq. ft. effective wind area. See the applicable building code for any adjustment need for specific building location and configuration.
- Minimum 16-gauge (54 mil) 3 5/8" x 1 5/8", 50 ksi steel studs.
- Screw shall penetrate a minimum of three thread lengths beyond the stud. Fasteners shall be installed with the head in contact with the face of the board. Fastener edge distance shall be a minimum of 3/8" on all sides of the board.

5.2.10 *Compression Strength:*

5.2.10.1 Steel stud walls sheathed with Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) have the compressive strength listed in Table 4.

**Table 4. Compressive Strength<sup>1,3,4</sup>**

Product	Stud Gauge <sup>4</sup>	Allowable Compression Capacity <sup>1,2,3</sup> (plf)
Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A)	12	13,795
	16	4,900

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

- Tested in accordance with ASTM E72
- Fasteners used to attach Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) to studs are 3 1/4" Trufast SIP HD spaced 6" on center at the panels edges and 12" on center field spacing.
- Fasteners shall be installed with the head in contact with the face of the board. Fastener edge distance shall be a minimum of 3/8" on all sides of the board.
- Minimum 1 5/8" x 3 5/8" 50 ksi grade steel studs spaced at 16" on center maximum.

<sup>9</sup> 2018 IRC Table R301.2(2)

<sup>10</sup> 2018 IRC Table R301.2(3)



5.3 *Air Barrier*

5.3.1 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 as shown in Table 5.

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

Product	Air Pressure	Air Permeability
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 Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) compliance and are not intended to represent the performance under actual conditions.		

5.4 *Surface Burn Characteristics:*

5.4.1 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 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.		

5.5 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>11</sup>](#) shall be installed over the Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A).
- 6.3.3 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 Ply and Xci Ply (Class A).
- 6.3.5 Do not span expansion joints with Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A).
- 6.3.6 During installation, take precautions to minimize moisture intrusion behind insulation.

<sup>11</sup> 2015 IBC Section 1404.2

- 6.3.7 Beginning at the base of the wall, apply 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 Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) to fit openings and penetrations.
- 6.3.9 Offset 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 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 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 *Fastener Type:*
  - 6.3.14.1 18-gauge steel studs: minimum  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " Trufast SIP LD
  - 6.3.14.2 12-gauge and 16 gauge-studs: minimum  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " Trufast SIP HD
  - 6.3.14.3 Fasteners shall be long enough to penetrate a minimum of three thread lengths beyond the stud.
  - 6.3.14.4 Fasteners are to be drilled with underside of the head flush with the surface of the sheathing.
- 6.3.15 *Fastener Spacing:*
  - 6.3.15.1 6" o.c. at the perimeter and 12" o.c. in the field with minimum  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from board edges, or as required by the applicable tables in this TER.

## 7 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 Compressive strength testing in accordance with ASTM E72.
  - 7.1.2 Lateral wall testing in accordance with ASTM E564.
  - 7.1.3 Cyclic lateral wall testing in accordance with ASTM E2126 and analysis per ASTM D7989.
  - 7.1.4 Transverse load testing in accordance with ASTM E330.
  - 7.1.5 Air permeability testing in accordance with ASTM E 2178.
  - 7.1.6 Flame spread and smoke developed ratings in accordance with ASTM E84
- 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>12</sup>
- 7.6 Where additional condition of use and/or code compliance information is required, please search for Xci Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) on the [DrJ Certification](#) website.

## 8 Findings

- 8.1 As delineated in Section 3, 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 Ply and Xci Ply (Class A) shall be approved for the following applications:
  - 8.2.1 Lateral load resistance for wind and seismic loading in accordance with Table 1 and Table 2.
  - 8.2.2 Resist transverse loads for wall assemblies in accordance with Table 3.
  - 8.2.3 Compressive performance in accordance with Table 4.
  - 8.2.4 Performance for use as a component of the air barrier in accordance with Table 5.
  - 8.2.5 Surface burning characteristics in accordance with Table 6.
- 8.3 Unless exempt by state statute, when the 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>13</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>14</sup> Building codes require that the [building official](#) shall accept [duly authenticated reports](#)<sup>15</sup> or [research reports](#)<sup>16</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](#).
  - 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.

<sup>12</sup> See Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) [Title 24 Subtitle B Chapter XX Part 3280](#) for definition.

<sup>13</sup> [2018 IFC Section 104.9](#)

<sup>14</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>15</sup> <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1>

<sup>16</sup> <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1703.4.2>

- 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>17</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 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>18</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 in Table 3.
- 9.8.3 Compression loads shall not exceed those in Table 4.
- 9.9 The manufacturer installation instructions shall be available on the jobsite for inspection.
- 9.10 When used in shear wall applications, all panel edges shall be supported by wall framing or solid blocking a minimum of 2" (51 mm) nominal in thickness.
- 9.11 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:
- 9.11.1 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.
- 9.11.2 This TER and the installation instructions shall be submitted at the time of permit application.
- 9.11.3 These innovative products have an internal quality control program and a third-party quality assurance program.
- 9.11.4 At a minimum, these innovative products shall be installed per Section 6 of this TER.
- 9.11.5 The review of this TER, by the AHJ, shall be in compliance with IBC Section 104 and IBC Section 105.4.

<sup>17</sup> <https://iaf.nu/en/about-iaf-mla/#:~:text=required%20to%20recognise>

<sup>18</sup> 2018 IBC Section 1705.12



- 9.11.6 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](#).
- 9.11.7 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.
- 9.12 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](#).
- 9.13 [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).
- 9.14 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](http://hunterpanels.com).

## 11 Review Schedule

- 11.1 This TER is subject to periodic review and revision. For the most recent version, visit [drjcertification.org](http://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 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 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>19</sup> where providing test reports, engineering analysis and/or other related IP/TS is subject to prison of not more than 10 years<sup>20</sup> and/or a \$5,000,000 fine or 3 times the value of<sup>21</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>22</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>23</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>24</sup>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.drjengineering.org/AppendixC> and <https://www.drjcertification.org/cornell-2016-protection-trade-secrets>.

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

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1832#:~:text=Any%20organization%20that,has%20thereby%20avoided>

<sup>22</sup> <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1706.2>

<sup>23</sup> [IBC 2021, Section 1706.1 Conformance to Standards](#)

<sup>24</sup> [IBC 2021, Section 1707 Alternative Test Procedure, 1707.1 General](#)

- 1.3 **Approved<sup>25</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>26</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>27</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>28</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>29</sup> (i.e., ANAB, International Accreditation Forum (IAF), etc.).

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<sup>25</sup> See Section 8 for the distilled building code definition of Approved

<sup>26</sup> Los Angeles Municipal Code, SEC. 98.0503. TESTING AGENCIES

<sup>27</sup> https://up.codes/viewer/california/ca-building-code-2022/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1

<sup>28</sup> New York City, The Rules of the City of New York, § 101-07 Approved Agencies

<sup>29</sup> New York City, The Rules of the City of New York, § 101-07 Approved Agencies

- 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).
- 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>30</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>31</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”.

<sup>30</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>31</sup> <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/codes/codreg/ucc.html>



- 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>32</sup> and [Part 3280](#),<sup>33</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>34</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>35</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>36</sup> or equivalent.
- 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>37</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.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-XX/part-3282/subpart-A/section-3282.14>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-XX/part-3280>

<sup>34</sup> [IBC 2021, Section 1706 Design Strengths of Materials, 1706.2 New Materials](#). Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1706.2.

<sup>35</sup> [IBC 2021, Section 1707 Alternative Test Procedure, 1707.1 General](#). Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1707.1.

<sup>36</sup> Please see the [ANAB directory](#) for building official approved agencies.

<sup>37</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.



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.