

Technical Evaluation Report™

TER 2204-03

Truss/Rafter/Joist to Wall Top Plate Connections with Grip-Rite Structural Screws

PrimeSource Building Products, Inc.

Product:

1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws

Issue Date:

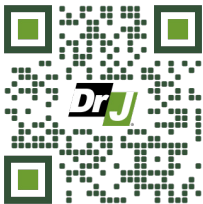
August 5, 2022

Revision Date:

September 7, 2023

Subject to Renewal:

October 1, 2024



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INFORMATION:

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DIVISION: 06 00 00 - WOOD, PLASTICS AND COMPOSITES SECTION: 06 05 23 - Wood, Plastic, and Composite Fastenings
SECTION: 06 00 90 - Wood and Plastic Fastenings

1 Innovative Products Evaluated^{1,2}

1.1 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws

2 Applicable Codes and Standards^{3,4}

2.1 Codes

2.1.1 IBC—15, 18, 21: *International Building Code*®

2.1.2 IRC—15, 18, 21: *International Residential Code*®

2.2 Standards and Referenced Documents

2.2.1 AISI S904: *Standard Test Methods for Determining the Tensile and Shear of Screws*

2.2.2 ANSI/AWC NDS: *National Design Specification (NDS) for Wood Construction*

2.2.3 ASTM A153: *Standard Specification for Zinc Coating (Hot-Dip) on Iron and Steel Hardware*

2.2.4 ASTM A510: *Standard Specification for General Requirements for Wire Rods and Coarse Round Wire, Carbon Steel, and Alloy Steel*

2.2.5 ASTM B117: *Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus*

2.2.6 ASTM D1761: *Standard Test Methods for Mechanical Fasteners in Wood*

¹ For more information, visit drjcertification.org or call us at 608-310-6748.

² **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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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 F1575: Standard Test Method for Determining Bending Yield Moment of Nails*

2.2.8 *ASTM G85: Standard Practice for Modified Salt Spray (Fog) Testing*

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).⁵
- 3.2 Testing and/or inspections conducted for this TER were performed an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited testing laboratory,⁶ an ISO/IEC 17020 accredited inspection body,⁷ which are internationally recognized accreditations through International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and/or a licensed Registered Design Professional (RDP).
- 3.3 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws were evaluated as an alternate means of attaching metal plate connected wood trusses, rafters, or floor joists to the tops of walls to provide uplift and lateral load resistance. The fasteners were evaluated under the following conditions:
 - 3.3.1 Shear strength for use as an alternate to toenail connections, hurricane and seismic clip/straps or nails in shear (lateral) load applications either parallel or perpendicular to wood grain.
 - 3.3.2 Withdrawal strength for use as an alternative to toenail connections, metal hurricane and seismic clip/straps or nails in tension (uplift) load applications.
 - 3.3.3 Head pull-through strength for use as an alternative to toenail connections, hurricane and seismic clips/straps or nails in tension (uplift) load application.
- 3.4 Connections other than those addressed in Section 3 are outside the scope of this TER.
- 3.5 Use of fasteners in locations exposed to saltwater or saltwater spray is outside the scope of this TER.
- 3.6 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 qualified⁸ to practice product and code compliance services within its scope of accreditation and engineering expertise, respectively.
- 3.7 Engineering evaluations are conducted with DrJ's ANAB accredited ICS code scope, which are also its areas of professional engineering competence.
- 3.8 Any regulation specific issues not addressed in this section are outside the scope of this TER.

⁵ <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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ 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.

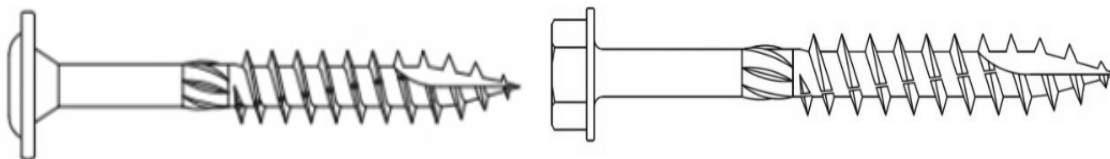


Figure 1. 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screw with Flat Head (Left) and Hex Head (Right)

4.2 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws are partially threaded, self-drilling screws with flat heads and a star shaped driving recess or hex-washer heads. The screws have a Type 17 point. The screws have a reamer knurl between the screw thread and the smooth portion of the shank. For this application, 4" and 6" lengths are evaluated.

4.3 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws are formed from carbon steel wire hardened after forming and then coated with a proprietary coating.

4.3.1 The coating consists of a layer of zinc and a proprietary black outer coating.

4.4 Treated Wood Applications

4.4.1 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws may be used in preservative-treated and fire-resistant-treated lumber as alternatives to hot-dip galvanized fasteners prescribed in [IBC Section 2304.10.6](#).⁹ 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws have been evaluated for use in wood treated with ACQ-D preservatives with a maximum retention of 0.40 pcf.

4.4.2 Corrosion resistance applications are limited to the following:

4.4.2.1 Where equilibrium moisture content of the chemically treated wood meets the dry service conditions as described in NDS.

4.4.2.2 Exposure is freshwater and chemically treated wood (no saltwater exposure).

4.4.3 Fastener design values for preservative-treated and fire-resistant-treated lumber must be reduced as stated by the manufacturer of the lumber treatment.

4.5 Wood Material

4.5.1 Wood main and side members must be solid-sawn lumber or boards having an assigned specific gravity as given in the respective tables of this TER.

⁹ [2018 IBC Section 2304.10.5](#)

4.6 The 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws evaluated in this TER are set forth in Table 1.

Table 1. 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screw Properties

Fastener Designation	Head			Length (in)		Diameter (in)			Bending Yield Strength, ³ f _{yb} , (psi)	Allowable Steel Strength (lbs)	
	Style	Drive System	Diameter (in)	Fastener ¹	Thread ²	Shank	Minor	Major		Tensile	Shear
1/4" x 4"	Hex Washer	T-20	0.415	4	2	0.166	0.148	0.234	220,000	1,155	645
1/4" x 6"				6	3/4						
1/4" x 4"	Flat	T-25	0.533	4	2	0.166	0.148	0.234	220,000	1,155	645
1/4" x 6"				6	3/4						

SI: 1 in = 25.4 mm, 1 lb = 4.45 N, 1 psi = 0.00689 MPa
 1. Fastener length is measured from the underside of the head to the tip.
 2. Thread length includes tapered tip.
 3. Bending yield strength, F_{yb}, is determined in accordance with ASTM F1575 using minor thread diameter.

5 Applications

- 5.1 The 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws in this TER are used in construction of walls that meet the requirements of IBC Section 2308 or IRC Section R602 for the following applications:
- 5.1.1 To attach minimum 1 1/2" thick wood trusses, rafters, or floor joists to wood walls.
- 5.1.2 To attach minimum 1 1/2" thick wood gable end trusses to wood walls.
- 5.2 Allowable design loads are applicable to fasteners installed in accordance with Section 6.
- 5.3 Walls shall consist, at a minimum, of a single or double top plate installed in accordance with IBC Section 2308.5.3.2 or IRC Section R602.3.2.
- 5.4 The 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws in this TER are used in buildings requiring design in accordance with IBC Section 1609 or wind analysis in accordance with IRC Section R301.2.1.
- 5.5 The 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws in this TER are used in buildings requiring design in accordance with IBC Section 1613 or wind analysis in accordance with IRC Section R301.2.2.
- 5.6 To maintain a continuous uplift load path, connections in the same area must be stacked on the same side of the wall (i.e., rafter to top plate connection and top plate to stud connection).
- 5.7 Allowable design loads for uplift and lateral resistance for truss, rafter, and joist to top plate connections are provided in Table 2.
- 5.8 Loads parallel to the wall are labeled F1 and loads perpendicular to the wall are labeled F2. See Figure 2 for load directions.
- 5.9 Allowable design loads are applicable to fasteners installed in accordance with Section 6 in top plate applications.

Table 2. Allowable Uplift & Lateral Loads for Fasteners in Truss/Rafter/Joist to Wall Top Plate Connections

Fastener Designation	Main Member ^{1,2}	Min. Main Member Penetration (in)	Top Plate	Fastener Angle to Vertical	Allowable Loads ³ (lb)		
					Wood Species ⁴ (Specific Gravity)		
					SPF (0.42)		
					Uplift	F1	F2
¼" x 4"	Truss/Rafter/Joist ⁵	2¼	Single	22.5°	420	390	400
				0°	595	390	455
¼" x 6"		2¾	Double	22.5°	495	390	560
				0°	635	390	575
¼" x 4"	Gable End Truss	2½	Single	0°	595	455	390
¼" x 6"		3	Double	0°	635	575	390

SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm, 1 lb. = 4.45 N

- Gable end truss, truss, rafter, or floor joist members shall be a minimum of 2" nominal thickness. Design of gable truss, truss, rafter, or floor joist is by others.
- See Figure 2 for truss, rafter, or floor joist load directions and Figure 3 for gable end truss load directions. See Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, and Figure 6 for installation details.
- Includes 1.6 duration of load increase for wind and seismic. No further duration of load increases permitted. Reduce design values for other load durations as applicable.
- Equivalent specific gravity of Structural Composite Lumber (SCL) shall be equal to or greater than the specific gravities provided in this table. Refer to product information from SCL manufacturer.
- Install fastener at an upward angle from the vertical of 20° to 30° (22.5° is optimal) or 0° (See Figure 4 and Figure 5). For installation between 20° and 30°, design values for 22.5° may be used.

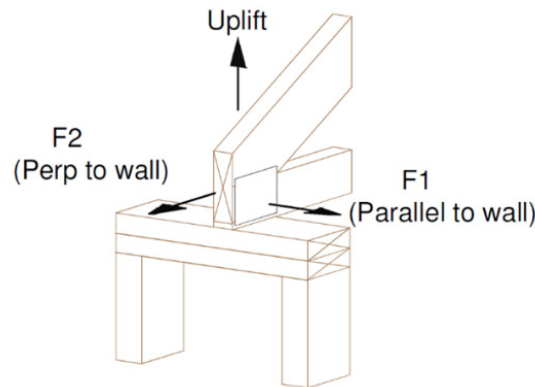


Figure 2. Uplift and Lateral Load Orientations for Truss, Rafter, and Joist

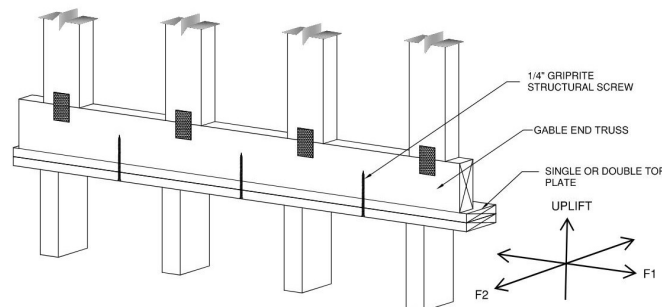


Figure 3. Gable End Truss to Top Plate - Uplift and Lateral Load (F1 and F2) Directions

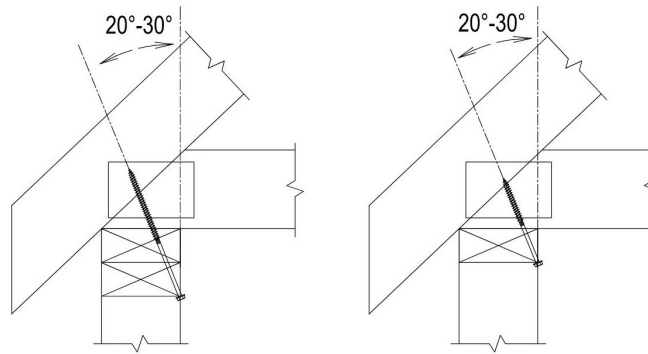


Figure 4. Installation of Fasteners at an Angle in Double Top Plate to Truss/Rafter/Joist Applications

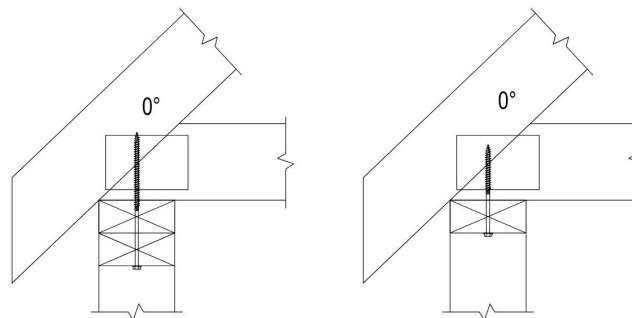


Figure 5. Installation of Fasteners in Top Plate Perpendicular to Truss/Rafter/Joist Applications

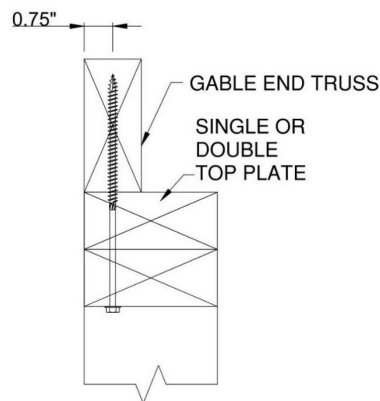


Figure 6. Gable End Truss to Top Plate Installation Configuration

- 5.10 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 *Truss/Rafter/Joist to Top Plate Installation*
- 6.3.1 Install ¼" Grip-Rite Structural Screws upward into the center of the truss, rafter, or joist through the wall top plates or wood structural framing member at the bottom corner of the top plate(s). The fastener should be installed at an upward angle from the vertical of 20° to 30° (Figure 4) and should penetrate the truss, rafter, or joist within ¼" of the centerline. Fasteners located between studs may be installed perpendicular to the face of the top plate (Figure 5).
- 6.3.1.1 If the truss, rafter, or floor joist is located directly over a top plate splice, offset the fastener ¼" to one side of the splice.
- 6.3.2 Minimum penetration into truss/gable truss/rafter/joist using a single top plate connections is 2.5".
- 6.3.3 Minimum penetration into truss/gable truss/rafter/joist using a double top plate connections is 3".
- 6.4 *Gable End Truss to Top Plate Installation*
- 6.4.1 Install ¼" Grip-Rite Structural Screws upward into the center of the gable end truss through the wall top plates or wood structural framing member. The fastener should be installed perpendicular to the face of the top plate between studs (Figure 3) and should penetrate the gable end truss within ¼" of the centerline.
- 6.4.1.1 If the screw location for the gable end truss is located directly over a top plate splice or at a bottom chord splice joint, offset the fastener 1¾" to one side of the splice.
- 6.4.2 Minimum requirements for fastener spacing, edge distance, and end distance shall be in accordance with Table 3.

Table 3. Screw Spacing, Edge Distance, and End Distance Requirements^{1,2,3}

Connection Geometry			Minimum Spacing (in)	
			0.42	0.50
End Distance	Load in Any Direction		1¾	1¾
Edge Distance	Load in Any Direction		¾	¾
Spacing Between Fasteners in a Row (Parallel to Grain Spacing)	Loading Parallel to Grain		3⅝	3⅝
	Loading Perpendicular to Grain		2⅞	3⅝
	Axial Loading		1¾	1¾
Spacing Between Rows (Perpendicular to Grain Spacing)	Lateral Loading	In-line rows	1¼	1¾
		Staggered rows ⁴	⅝	¾
	Axial Loading		1	1

SI: 1 in = 25.4 mm

6. Edge distances, end distances, and spacing of fasteners shall be sufficient to prevent splitting of the wood or as shown in this table, whichever is the more restrictive.

7. Wood member stresses must be checked in accordance with Section 11.1.2 and Appendix E of the NDS, and end distances, edge distances and fastener spacing may need to be increased accordingly.

8. Values for "Spacing between Rows or Fasteners-Staggered" apply where the screws in adjacent rows are offset by one-half of the "Spacing between Fasteners in a Row".

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 Assembly testing in accordance with ASTM D1761
- 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.¹⁰
- 7.6 Where additional condition of use and/or code compliance information is required, please search for ¼" Grip-Rite Structural Screws on the DrJ Certification website.

8 Findings

- 8.1 As delineated in Section 3, ¼" Grip-Rite Structural Screws have performance characteristics that were tested and/or meet pertinent standards and are suitable for use pursuant to their specified purpose.
- 8.2 When used and installed in accordance with this TER and the manufacturer installation instructions, ¼" Grip-Rite Structural Screws shall be approved for the following applications:
 - 8.2.1 An acceptable alternative means of attaching metal plate connected wood trusses, gable end trusses, or floor joists to the tops of walls to provide uplift and lateral load resistance due to wind and seismic forces as provided in Table 2.
- 8.3 Any application specific issues not addressed herein can be engineered by an RDP. Assistance with engineering is available from PrimeSource Building Products, Inc.
- 8.4 IBC Section 104.11 (IRC Section R104.11 and IFC Section 104.10¹¹ 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.

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

¹¹ 2018 IFC Section 104.9

- 8.5 **Approved:**¹² Building codes require that the building official shall accept duly authenticated reports¹³ or research reports¹⁴ 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.
- 8.5.1 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).
- 8.5.2 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.
- 8.5.3 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.
- 8.6 DrJ is an engineering company, employs RDPs and is an ISO/IEC 17065 ANAB-Accredited Product Certification Body – Accreditation #1131.
- 8.7 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.*”¹⁵

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 For conditions not covered in this TER, connections shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice.
- 9.4 Connected wood members must have a moisture content of less than or equal to nineteen percent (19%).
- 9.5 Use of fasteners in locations exposed to saltwater or saltwater spray is outside the scope of this TER.
- 9.6 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:
- 9.6.1 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.
- 9.6.2 This TER and the installation instructions shall be submitted at the time of permit application.
- 9.6.3 These innovative products have an internal quality control program and a third-party quality assurance program.
- 9.6.4 At a minimum, these innovative products shall be installed per Section 6 of this TER.
- 9.6.5 The review of this TER, by the AHJ, shall be in compliance with IBC Section 104 and IBC Section 105.4.

¹² 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.

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

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

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



- 9.6.6 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.
- 9.6.7 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.
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 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).
- 9.9 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 primesourcebp.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 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws 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 1/4" Grip-Rite Structural Screws 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),¹⁶ where providing test reports, engineering analysis and/or other related IP/TS is subject to prison of not more than 10 years¹⁷ and/or a \$5,000,000 fine or 3 times the value of¹⁸ 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 materials¹⁹ 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.²⁰
 - 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 104.11.²¹

¹⁶ <http://www.drjengineering.org/AppendixC> and <https://www.drjcertification.org/cornell-2016-protection-trade-secrets>.

¹⁷ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1832#:~:text=imprisoned%20not%20more%20than%2010%20years>

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

¹⁹ <https://up.codes/viewer/wyoming/ibc-2021/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1706.2>

²⁰ IBC 2021, Section 1706.1 Conformance to Standards

²¹ IBC 2021, Section 1707 Alternative Test Procedure, 1707.1 General

- 1.3 **Approved²² 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.²³ 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 1707.1.²⁴
- 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 deemed²⁵ 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 agreement²⁶ (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).

²² See Section 8 for the distilled building code definition of Approved

²³ Los Angeles Municipal Code, SEC. 98.0503. TESTING AGENCIES

²⁴ https://up.codes/viewer/california/ca-building-code-2022/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1

²⁵ New York City, The Rules of the City of New York, § 101-07 Approved Agencies

²⁶ 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](#),²⁷ 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 \(N.J.A.C. 5:23\)](#)”.²⁸ 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](#),²⁹ and [Part 3280](#),³⁰ 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.³¹
- 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](#).³² A building official [approved agency](#) is deemed to be approved via certification from an [accreditation body](#) that is listed by the [International Accreditation Forum](#)³³ or equivalent.

²⁷ https://up.codes/viewer/new_jersey/ibc-2018/chapter/17/special-inspections-and-tests#1707.1

²⁸ <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/codes/codereg/ucc.html>

²⁹ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-XX/part-3282/subpart-A/section-3282.14>

³⁰ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-XX/part-3280>

³¹ [IBC 2021, Section 1706 Design Strengths of Materials, 1706.2 New Materials](#). Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1706.2.

³² [IBC 2021, Section 1707 Alternative Test Procedure, 1707.1 General](#). Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1707.1.

³³ 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.³⁴ 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.

³⁴ IBC 2021, Section 1706 Design Strengths of Materials, Section 1706.1 Conformance to Standards Adopted law pursuant to IBC model code language 1706.1.