Technical Evaluation Report
TER 1802-03

SPAX® 5/16" PowerLag® Fasteners for Use in Multi-Ply Truss, Sawn Lumber and Engineered Wood Product Assemblies

Altenloh, Brinck & Company U.S., Inc.

Product:
SPAX® 5/16" T-Star Washer Head PowerLag® Fasteners

Issue Date:
February 21, 2019
Revision Date:
August 20, 2019
Subject to Renewal:
April 1, 2020
1. Product(s) Evaluated:

1.1. SPAX® 5/16” T-Star Washer Head PowerLag® Fasteners

1.2. For the most recent version of this Technical Evaluation Report (TER), visit drjengineering.org. For more detailed state professional engineering and code compliance legal requirements and references, visit drjengineering.org/statelaw. DrJ is fully compliant with all state professional engineering and code compliance laws.

1.3. This TER can be used to obtain product approval in any country that is an IAF MLA Signatory (all countries found here) and covered by an IAF MLA Evaluation per the Purpose of the MLA (as an example, see letter to ANSI from the Standards Council of Canada). Manufacturers can go to jurisdictions in the U.S., Canada and other IAF MLA Signatory Countries and have their products readily approved by authorities having jurisdiction using DrJ’s ANSI accreditation.

1.4. Building code regulations require that evaluation reports are provided by an approved agency meeting specific requirements, such as those found in IBC Section 1703. Any agency accredited in accordance with ANSI ISO/IEC 17065 meets this requirement within ANSI’s scope of accreditation. For a list of accredited agencies, visit ANSI’s website. For more information, see drjcertification.org.
1.5. Requiring an evaluation report from a specific private company (i.e., ICC-ES, IAPMO, CCMC, DrJ, etc.) can be viewed as discriminatory and is a violation of international, federal, state, provincial and local anti-trust and free trade regulations.

1.6. DrJ’s code compliance work:

1.6.1. Conforms to code language adopted into law by individual states and any relevant consensus based standard such as an ANSI or ASTM standard.

1.6.2. Complies with accepted engineering practice, all professional engineering laws and by providing an engineer’s seal DrJ takes professional responsibility for its specified scope of work.

2. Applicable Codes and Standards:

2.1. 2012, 2015 and 2018 International Residential Code (IRC)


2.3. ASTM A153 – Standard Specification for Zinc Coating (Hot-Dip) on Iron and Steel

2.4. ASTM A510 – Standard Specification for General Requirements for Wire Rods and Coarse Round Wire, Carbon Steel, and Alloy Steel

2.5. ASTM B117 – Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus

2.6. ASTM D1761 – Standard Test Methods for Mechanical Fasteners in Wood

2.7. ASTM D2395 – Standard Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Wood and Wood-Based Materials


2.9. ASTM G85 – Standard Practice for Modified Salt Spray (Fog) Testing

2.10. AWC/NDS – American Wood Council National Design Specification (NDS) for Wood Construction

3. Performance Evaluation:

3.1. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners were evaluated to determine their ability to provide multi-ply attachment in trusses, sawn lumber, and engineered wood applications.


3.3. Any code compliance issues not specifically addressed in this section are outside the scope of this TER.

4. Product Description and Materials:

Figure 1: SPAX® 5/16” T-Star Washer Head PowerLag® Fasteners for Multi-Ply Assemblies (in.)

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1 Unless otherwise noted, all references in this TER are from the 2018 version of the codes and the standards referenced therein, including, but not limited to, ASCE 7, SDPWS and WFCM. This product also complies with the 2000-2015 versions of the IBC and IRC and the standards referenced therein. As required by law, where this TER is not approved, the building official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons this TER was not approved. For variations in state and local codes, if any, see Section 8.
4.1. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners are manufactured with carbon steel grade 1022 or 10B21 wire conforming to ASTM A510 or grade 17MnB3 or 19MnB4 wire conforming to DIN 1654.

4.2. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners are manufactured using a standard cold-formed process followed by a heat-treating process. Allowable bending yield and critical dimensions are found in Figure 1 and Table 1.

4.2.1. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners have a gimlet point.

4.2.2. SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® fastener heads are T-40 T-Star drive.

4.3. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners are available with proprietary coatings:

4.3.1. Interior Grade: Yellow Electro-Zinc with Wax meeting ASTM F1941

4.3.2. Exterior Grade: Proprietary HCR™ that exceed the protection provided by code approved hot-dipped galvanized coatings meeting ASTM A153 (IBC Section 2304.10.52 and IRC Section 317.3).

4.3.2.1. HCR™ coating is approved for use in ground contact pressure treated wood (ACQ) in general construction (freshwater) applications.

4.3.2.2. HCR™ coated fasteners are approved for use in fire-retardant-treated lumber, provided the conditions set forth by the fire-retardant-treated lumber manufacturer are met, including appropriate strength reductions.

4.4. The fasteners evaluated in this TER are set forth in Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fastener Name</th>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Head Diameter</th>
<th>Shank Diameter</th>
<th>Thread Diameter</th>
<th>Nominal Bending Yield (f_{th}, psi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PowerLag® (5/16”)</td>
<td>T-Star</td>
<td>0.776</td>
<td>0.1440</td>
<td>0.217</td>
<td>1.650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5. In-plant quality control procedures, under which the SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners are manufactured, are audited through an inspection process performed by an approved agency.

5. Applications:

5.1. General

5.1.1. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners are used for attaching multi-ply wood members including trusses, sawn lumber, and engineered wood products.

5.1.2. SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners are installed without lead holes as prescribed in NDS.

5.1.3. Where the application exceeds the limitations set forth herein, design shall be permitted in accordance with accepted engineering procedures, experience and technical judgment.
5.1.4. Design

5.1.4.1. Design of SPAX® PowerLag® fasteners is governed by the applicable code and the provisions for dowel-type fasteners in NDS.

5.1.4.2. Unless otherwise noted, adjustment of the design stresses for duration of load shall be in accordance with the applicable code.

5.2. Multi-ply Connection Design Values

5.2.1. SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® Fastener for Multi-Ply Truss and Sawn Lumber Assemblies

5.2.1.1. SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® fasteners lengths for truss and sawn lumber assemblies have the design values set forth in Table 2. Assembly conditions are detailed in Figure 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® Fastener Allowable Design Values (plf) for Multi-Ply Truss and Sawn Lumber Assemblies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Table 2: SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® Fastener Allowable Design Values (plf) for Multi-Ply Truss and Sawn Lumber Assemblies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multiple Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For SI: 1” = 25.4 mm, 1lbf = 4.45 N, 1 psi = 6.895 kPa.
1. Fastener length is measured from the underside of the head to the tip.
2. Thread length includes tip; see Figure 1 and Figure 2.
3. Wood framing shall be any species with specific gravity, G, of 0.42 or greater.
4. Allowable loads are based on a load duration factor CD = 1.0 and shall be multiplied by all applicable adjustment factors per the NDS.
5. All design values are applicable to top-loaded assemblies with even loading across the width of the entire assembly. For top-loaded members, fasteners shall be installed in two (2) rows with a maximum distance of 32” o.c. between fasteners in the same row.

5.2.2. SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® Fastener for Multi-Ply Engineered Wood (LVL, PSL, LSL) Assemblies

5.2.2.1. SPAX® 5/16” PowerLag® fasteners lengths for engineered wood assemblies have the design values set forth in Table 3. Assembly conditions are detailed in Figure 3.
Table 3: SPAX® 5/16" PowerLag® Fastener Allowable Design Values (plf) for Multi-Ply Engineered Wood (LVL, PSL, LSL) Assemblies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple Members</th>
<th>Nominal Fastener Length (in.)</th>
<th>Loaded Side(^5)</th>
<th>12&quot; O.C.</th>
<th>16&quot; O.C.</th>
<th>24&quot; O.C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Rows</td>
<td>3 Rows</td>
<td>2 Rows</td>
<td>3 Rows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2-ply 1-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Either</td>
<td>2175</td>
<td>3265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Point</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3-ply 1-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>1575</td>
<td>2365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>1575</td>
<td>2365</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Point</td>
<td>1575</td>
<td>2365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>4-ply 1-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Point</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>2-ply 1-3/4&quot; &amp; 3-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Either</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>1575</td>
<td>2365</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Point</td>
<td>1575</td>
<td>2365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>3-ply 1-3/4&quot; &amp; 3-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Point</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>2-ply 3-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>2360</td>
<td>3540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For SI: 1" = 25.4 mm, 1 lbf = 4.45 N, 1 psi = 6.895 kPa.
1. Fastener length is measured from the underside of the head to the tip.
2. Thread length includes tip; see Figure 1 and Figure 2.
3. Wood framing shall be any species with specific gravity, G, of 0.50 or greater.
4. Allowable loads are based on a load duration factor CD = 1.0 and shall be multiplied by all applicable adjustment factors per the NDS.
5. All design values are also applicable to top-loaded assemblies with even loading across the width of the entire assembly. For top-loaded members up to 18" deep, fasteners shall be installed in two (2) rows with a maximum distance of 24" o.c. between fasteners in the same row. Use three (3) rows for members deeper than 18".

Figure 3: SPAX® 5/16" PowerLag® Fastener Assemblies for Engineered Wood

5.3. Spacing, Edge Distance and End Distance

5.3.1. SPAX® PowerLag® fastener spacing, edge distance and end distances shall be as specified in Table 4.

Table 4: SPAX® PowerLag® Spacing, Edge Distance and End Distance Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fastener Name</th>
<th>Shank Diameter (in.)</th>
<th>Min. Edge Distance (in.)</th>
<th>Minimum Spacing (in.)</th>
<th>Minimum End Distance (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Between Rows</td>
<td>Between Fasteners in Row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Staggered</td>
<td>Staggered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PowerLag® (5/16&quot;)</td>
<td>0.217</td>
<td>1-3/4</td>
<td>1-1/6</td>
<td>5/8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Installation:

6.1. Installation shall comply with the manufacturer’s installation instructions and this TER. In the event of a conflict between the manufacturer’s installation instructions and this TER, the more restrictive shall govern.

6.2. The 5/16” PowerLag® structural wood fastener must be installed with a ½” (12.7 mm), low rpm/high torque electric drill (450 rpm) or impact wrench using the appropriate driver bit. Do not overdrive.

6.3. Install PowerLag® fasteners such that as many threads fully engage the main member (final member in multi-ply assembly) as possible when head is fully seated against the lumber.

6.4. Lead holes are not required.

6.5. For applications outside the scope of this TER, an engineered design is required.

7. Test and Engineering Substantiating Data:


7.2. Lateral resistance data in accordance with ASTM D1761, University of Montana.

7.3. The product(s) evaluated by this TER fall within the scope of one or more of the model, state or local building codes for building construction. The testing and/or substantiating data used in this TER is limited to buildings, structures, building elements, construction materials and civil engineering related specifically to buildings.

7.4. The provisions of model, state or local building codes for building construction do not intend to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any design or method of construction. Alternatives shall use consensus standards, performance-based design methods or other engineering mechanics based means of compliance. This TER assesses compliance with defined standards, accepted engineering analysis, performance-based design methods, etc. in the context of the pertinent building code requirements.

7.5. Some information contained herein is the result of testing and/or data analysis by other sources, which DrJ relies on to be accurate, as it undertakes its engineering analysis.

7.6. DrJ has reviewed and found the data provided by other professional sources are credible. The information in this TER conforms with DrJ’s procedure for acceptance of data from approved sources.

7.7. DrJ’s responsibility for data provided by approved sources conforms with IBC Section 1703 and any relevant professional engineering law.

7.8. Where appropriate, DrJ’s analysis is based on design values that have been codified into law through codes and standards (e.g., IRC, WFCM, IBC, SDPWS, NDS, ACI, AISI, PS-20, PS-2, etc.). This includes review of code provisions and any related test data that aids comparative analysis or provides support for equivalency to an intended end-use application. Where the accuracy of design values provided herein is reliant upon the published properties of commodity materials (e.g., lumber, steel, concrete, etc.), DrJ relies upon grade/properties provided by the raw material supplier to be accurate and conforming to the mechanical properties defined in the relevant material standard.

8. Findings:

8.1. When used in accordance with this TER and the manufacturer’s installation instructions, PowerLag® fasteners are suitable to provide multi-ply attachment in trusses, sawn lumber, and engineered wood applications.

8.1.1. PowerLag® fasteners with HCR™ coating are approved for use in ground contact pressure treated wood (ACQ) in general construction (freshwater) applications.

8.2. HCR™ and HCR-X™ Coated Fasteners are approved for use in fire-retardant-treated lumber, provided the conditions set forth by the fire-retardant-treated lumber manufacturer are met, including appropriate strength reductions.
8.3. **IBC Section 104.11** and **IRC Section R104.11** (**IFC Section 104.9** is similar) state:

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, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material, design or method of construction shall be approved where the building official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, not less than the equivalent of that prescribed in 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.

8.4. This product has been evaluated in the context of the codes listed in Section 2, and is compliant with all known state and local building codes. Where there are known variations in state or local codes that are applicable to this evaluation, they are listed here:

8.4.1. No known variations

8.5. This TER uses professional engineering law, the building code, ANSI/ASTM consensus standards and generally accepted engineering practice as its criteria for all testing and engineering analysis. DrJ’s professional engineering work falls under the jurisdiction of each state Board of Professional Engineers, when signed and sealed.

9. **Conditions of Use:**

9.1. Where required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) in which the project is to be constructed, this TER and the installation instructions shall be submitted at the time of permit application.

9.2. Any generally accepted engineering calculations needed to show compliance with this TER shall be submitted to the code official for review and approval.

9.3. 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 (e.g., Owner, Registered Design Professional, etc.).

9.4. PowerLag® fasteners covered by this TER shall be installed in accordance with this TER and the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

9.5. For conditions not covered in this TER, connections shall be designed in accordance with generally accepted engineering practice.

9.6. Manufacturer’s installation instructions shall be followed as provided in Section 6 and at spax.us.


9.8. PowerLag® fasteners are produced under a quality control program subject to periodic inspections in accordance with **IBC Section 1703.5.2**.

9.9. **Design**

9.9.1. Building Designer Responsibility

9.9.1.1. Unless the AHJ allows otherwise, the Construction Documents shall be prepared by a Building Designer for the Building and shall be in accordance with **IRC Section R106** and **IBC Section 107**.

9.9.1.2. The Construction Documents shall be accurate and reliable and shall provide the location, direction and magnitude of all applied loads and shall be in accordance with **IRC Section R301** and **IBC Section 1603**.

9.9.2. Construction Documents

9.9.2.1. Construction Documents shall be submitted to the Building Official for approval and shall contain the plans, specifications, and details needed for the Building Official to approve such documents.
9.10. Responsibilities

9.10.1. The information contained herein is a product, material, detail, design and/or application TER evaluated in accordance with the referenced building codes, testing and/or analysis through the use of accepted engineering practice, experience and technical judgment.

9.10.2. DrJ TERs provide an assessment of only those attributes specifically addressed in the Products Evaluated or Code Compliance Process Evaluated sections.

9.10.3. The engineering evaluation was performed on the dates provided in this TER, within DrJ's professional scope of work.

9.10.4. This product is manufactured under a third-party quality control program in accordance with IRC Section R104.4 and R109.2 and IBC Section 104.4 and 110.4.

9.10.5. 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, and the TER shall be reviewed for code compliance by the Building Official.

9.10.6. The use of this TER is dependent on the manufacturer's in-plant QC, the ISO/IEC 17020 third-party quality assurance program and procedures, proper installation per the manufacturer's instructions, the Building Official's inspection and any other code requirements that may apply to demonstrate and verify compliance with the applicable building code.

10. Identification:

10.1. The PowerLag® fasteners described in this TER are identified by a label on the board or packaging material bearing the manufacturer's name, product name, TER number, and other information to confirm code compliance.

10.2. Additional technical information can be found at spax.us.

11. Review Schedule:

11.1. This TER is subject to periodic review and revision. For the most recent version of this TER, visit drjengineering.org.

11.2. For information on the current status of this TER, contact DrJ Engineering.

- Mission and Professional Responsibilities
- Product Evaluation Policies
- Product Approval – Building Code, Administrative Law and P.E. Law