



AMERICAN FOREST & PAPER ASSOCIATION

American Wood Council
Engineered and Traditional Wood Products

January 20, 2009

Kurt Stochlia, P.E.
Vice-President External Operations
ICC Evaluation Service, Inc.

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Acceptance Criteria for Racking Shear Evaluation of Proprietary Sheathing Materials Used as Braced Wall Panels, Subject AC269-0209-R1 (KS/MO)

Dear Kurt:

Please consider the follow changes:

a) 1.2 Scope:

Proprietary sheathing materials used as braced wall panels for racking resistance in accordance with ~~covered in~~ this criteria are limited to the Seismic Design Categories noted in the appropriate section of this criteria.

Reason: Clarify that sheathing materials used as braced wall panels for racking resistance are limited to Seismic Design Categories per AC 269.

b) 6.2.3 For proprietary sheathing materials covered under ~~ICC-ES acceptance~~ this criteria and wood-based sheathing materials tested to this criteria, earthquake load resistance shall be determined using the following maximum values: $R = 2$, $\Omega_o = 2.5$, $C_d = 2$ under the IBC with a maximum height of 35 feet (19.8 m) for seismic design categories D; and $R = 4.5$, $\Omega = 2.8$ under the UBC with a maximum height of 65 feet (19.8 m) for seismic zones 3 and 4.

Reason: Clarify that sheathing materials evaluated per AC 269 (e.g. "this criteria") can be assigned seismic coefficients per 6.2.3. The words "For proprietary sheathing materials covered under ICC ES acceptance criteria" may suggest that any proprietary sheathing material covered under ICC ES acceptance criteria, whether evaluated for racking resistance per AC 269 or not, may assume seismic coefficients per 6.2.3.

Underlined portions in Sections 4.2.6, 4.2.6.1, 6.2.1, and 6.2.2 have been previously approved. While not the subject of proposed revisions to 1.2 and 6.2.3, we would like to propose the following revision to 6.2.2:

c) 6.2.2 For the use of braced wall panels and braced wall lines in Exposure B where the basic wind speed is 120 mph or greater and in Exposures C and D where the basic wind speed is 110 mph or greater, special inspection must be provided in accordance with IBC Sections 1705.1, 1705.2 and 1705.4, ~~except for buildings designed and constructed in accordance with IBC Section 2308 or the IRC.~~ A statement of special inspections complying with IBC Section 1705 shall be provided to the code official. (This includes addressing requirements in IBC Section 1705.4.1 and 1705.4.2.)

Reason: 120 mph Exposure B and 110 Exposure C and D are beyond the limits of prescriptive requirements in IBC Section 2308 and the IRC. The presence of the exception gives that appearance that braced wall panel bracing methods per the IBC or IRC are applicable in the specified higher wind zones.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Philip Line, P.E.
Senior Manager, Engineering Research



January 20, 2009

Mr. Kurt Stochlia, P.E.
 ICC-ES
 5360 Workman Mill Road
 Whittier, CA 90601

Re: Acceptance Criteria for Racking Shear Evaluation of Proprietary Sheathing Materials
 Used as Braced Wall Panels, Subject AC269-0209-R1.

Dear Kurt:

Here are some comments on the proposed revisions to AC269.

- 1) Section 4.2.6.1: For the purpose of demonstrating equivalency to code-recognized continuous braced walls in SDC A through C, the 1/4" x 3" x 3" plate washers shall not be allowed in testing. IBC Section 2305.3.11 requires the use of 0.229" x 3" x 3" plate washer only when used in SDC D through F. For SDC A through C, IBC requires only standard cut washers. As a result, this proposed revision makes the equivalency less conservative than the code. Incidentally, IBC and SDPWS call for 0.229" (5.82 mm), instead of 1/4" (6.35 mm), plate washers in SDC D through F.
- 2) The same proposed changes to AC130 (i.e., new Section 7.2 in AC130-0209-R1), concerning the anchorage to concrete details, shall be required for this AC.
- 3) The transverse wind load resistance of the bracing wall shall be addressed. As you know, these proprietary sheathing materials are frequently used with vinyl siding, which depends on the wall bracing to provide the required resistance to wind pressure (positive and negative) in accordance with AC37. If these materials are considered equivalent to wood structural panels as bracing wall panels in the IBC and IRC, the transverse wind load resistance shall be considered as well. It seems that this is a major issue that has been overlooked in this AC. As a result, I suggest Section 4.4 be revised as follows:

4.4 Braced Wall Panel Structural Testing Other than Racking: Structural tests shall be conducted to demonstrate that the proprietary sheathing materials are capable of resisting transverse wind loads in accordance with Section 4.7 of AC295 other than the racking test are beyond the scope of this acceptance criteria.

I hope these deficiencies can be corrected before the approval by the ES Evaluation Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Borjen Yeh".

Borjen ("B.J.") Yeh, Ph.D., P.E.
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