

Technical Bulletin

ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) IN FLORIDA

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The American Plywood Association (APA) will confirm the structural integrity of Oriented Strand Board (OSB) as equal to or greater than a comparable thickness of plywood. Apparently this is sufficient for code jurisdictions located outside the so-designated high wind areas to approve of its use. Florida wind zones, however, require fastener pullout testing for code compliance as well.

The National Tile Roofing Manufacturers Association (NTRMA) was asked by the Southern Building Code Conference Institute (SBCCI) to establish resistance values for mechanically fastened roof tile based on their test protocols. Plywood, 15/32-inch and 19/32-inch, was chosen because it was the predominant roof deck material used in Florida at that time. We invited the APA to participate, using OSB as an alternate material but they declined. The subsequent published resistance values derived from this testing form the basis for our wind uplift code compliance. The SBCCI will not allow us to use those values for OSB substrate without the proper test data.

Some code jurisdictions in Florida are allowing comparable OSB thickness to plywood for roof deck use. While this may produce a structurally sound roof tile installation, the specific resistance values required for code compliance are as yet unknown.