

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING  
AND MECHANICAL OFFICIALS, EVALUATION SERVICES**

**EVALUATION CRITERIA  
FOR**

**STEEL SHEET SHEATHING FOR WOOD AND COLD  
FORMED STEEL LIGHT FRAMED STRUCTURE SHEAR WALLS**

**EC 003-2011**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Purpose:** The purpose of this acceptance criteria is to establish requirements for uncorrugated steel sheathing for use on shear walls of cold-formed steel and wood framing to be recognized in an IAPMO-ES, evaluation report under the 2009 *International Building Code*<sup>®</sup> (IBC), the 2009 *International Residential Code*<sup>®</sup> (IRC), and the 2010 *California Building Code*<sup>®</sup> (CBC), in accordance with the provisions of IBC Section 104.11, IRC Section R104.11 and CBC Section 1.8.7

The development of this criteria is to provide guidelines for calculating and testing the performance of steel sheet sheathing products used in shear walls and to establish code compliance through the proper characterization of element behavior within the scope of item A.13 in Table 12.2-1 of ASCE 7-05.

- 1.2 Scope:** This criteria provides a basis for testing and evaluating uncorrugated steel sheathing for use in light frame shear walls. The sheathing may consist of alternate steel sheet thickness, composite steel systems, alternate fasteners and/or fastening patterns, and may incorporate alternate means and methods of assembly.
- 1.2.1** The steel sheets may be applied on single-sided and double-sided shear wall assemblies. The design of the vertical elements is not a part of the scope of this criteria. The cold-formed steel or wood framing used in the tested assembly shall conform to standard design practices and be engineered in accordance with the applicable sections of the model codes; including Section 2210 and Chapter 23 of both the IBC and CBC. The steel sheathing is to be attached directly to standard cold-formed steel sections or wood framing.
- 1.2.2** The steel-sheathing panels are not to include alternate and proprietary framing members, however the sheathing assembly may include finish materials provided the steel sheet is applied directly to the vertical members. The tested sheathing is intended for use in all seismic design categories and may be applied in a seismic or wind lateral force-resisting system of light-framed construction.

**2.0 REFERENCED STANDARDS**

- 2.1 Standards referenced in this criteria shall be applied consistently with the specific code(s) complied.

2010 CBC	California Building Code®
2009 IBC	International Building Code®
2009 IRC	International Residential Code®
2005 NDS	Wood Construction, American Forest & Paper Association
ASCE/SEI 7-05	Minimum Design Loads for Building and Other Structures, American Society of Civil Engineers
ASTM E 2126-10	Test Methods of Cyclic (Reversed) Load Test of Shear Resistance of Vertical Elements of the Lateral Force Resisting Systems for Buildings, Method A in Section 8.3
S100-07	North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members (AISI-NAS)
S213-07	North American Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Lateral Design, American Iron and Steel Institute
SMMA	Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA) <sup>SM</sup> Product Technical Information, 2001

### 3.0 BASIC INFORMATION

- 3.1 **General:** Each submittal shall include the following information for an evaluation report:
- 3.1.1 **Shear Wall Assembly:** The shear wall shall be limited to the sheathing, fasteners, connectors, and framing members intended for recognition in the evaluation report
- 3.1.2 **Framing Members:** The cold formed steel-framing members used in the tests shall comply with Chapter 2210 of both the IBC and CBC. The wood framing members used in the tests shall comply with Chapter 23 of both the IBC and CBC. Vertical elements, boundary elements and associated framing members not a part of the scope of this criteria shall be consistent with the referenced material chapter of the model code as well as standard design and construction practices.
- 3.1.3 **Steel Sheets:** The sheet steel shall comply with the standard specified for the product for which recognition is sought.
- 3.1.4 **Non-structural Sheathing:** Where the steel sheet is part of a composite material or assembly, the non-structural sheathing shall comply with the standard specified for the product for which recognition is sought.
- 3.1.5 **Steel-Sheathing:** A sheathing assembly consisting of flat uncorrugated steel sheets. The steel sheet may be included as part of a composite assembly.
- 3.1.6 **Holes in Sheathing:** Holes that exceed 10 percent of the panel length, or 5 percent of the panel height, or are within 16 inches of a corner must be tested and the allowable quantities, locations, and sizes reported. The final report shall address proper hole cutting with special attention given to corners of rectangular holes.

- 3.1.7 Attachment of Panels to Framing:** Panels attached to framing members shall be dry. Panels must be fastened to the framing with the steel sheet facing framing member. Sheets may lap on individual framing stud with joint space between sheets of 0" to 1/8". No overlap on sheets at vertical or horizontal joints is allowed. Each sheet must be attached to framing members with independent fasteners along each edge of each sheet as well as in the field. Fastener spacing will be determined by the Engineer of Record.
- 3.2 Packaging and Identification:** A description of the method of packaging and field identification of the steel-sheathing shall be provided. Identification provisions shall include the evaluation report number.
- 3.3 Testing Laboratories:** Testing laboratories shall meet the requirements for compliance with the International Accreditation Service (IAS) ISO/IEC Standards 17025 or accredited independent agency recognized by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement or ANSI. Testing at a non-accredited laboratory may be permitted by IAPMO ES, provided the testing is conducted under the supervision of an accredited laboratory and the supervising laboratory issues the test report.
- 3.4 Test Reports:** Test reports shall be submitted to IAPMO-ES for approval.
- 3.5 Product Sampling:** Sampling of the shear wall components for tests under this criteria shall be approved by IAPMO ES.

## 4.0 TESTING AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Wall Properties

- 4.1.1 Aspect Ratio:** The tested wall assemblies shall have dimensions and height to width (H:W) aspect ratios consistent with the intended use. The tested aspect ratio shall be the maximum recognized in the evaluation report for each model tested. Tests shall be performed at a maximum aspect ratio of 2¼:1. Alternatively, values may be reported using a smaller tested aspect ratio provided the ratio is not smaller than 1:1.
- 4.1.2 Panel Sizes:** The minimum panel width and maximum panel height shall be tested and be consistent with the approval being sought. All splice conditions shall be reported.
- 4.2 Boundary Conditions:** All forces transferred to the tested sheathing shall be through the designated fasteners. The tested sheathing shall not be allowed to bear upon the base or other members of the test assembly. All boundary conditions shall be documented to the satisfaction of IAPMO.
- 4.3 Boundary Elements:** All boundary elements shall be calculated and shown to be in conformance with the appropriate material chapter of the model code. All framing members and boundary elements shall be reported and shall be shown to not control the failure of tested assembly to the satisfaction of IAPMO.

### 4.4 Data Analysis

- 4.4.1** Shear design values for the wall assemblies may be based on the average of the test values if variation limits set forth in Section 4.3 are satisfied. Otherwise, the lowest of the test values shall be used.
- 4.4.2** Load values for both Allowable Stress Design (ASD) and Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) shall be based on the first cycle backbone (envelope) curve. The actual design capacities shall be determined as outlined in Section 3.3.4.
- 4.4.3** The seismic design coefficients and factors listed in ASCE/SEI 7, Table 12.2-1 for light-frame walls sheathed with wood structural panels, steel sheets or steel-sheathing rated for shear resistance shall apply to the use of design loads under both the IBC and CBC, subject to the all limitations contained herein. Additionally an analysis comparing test results to those obtained from similar code-based assemblies of both steel sheet and wood structural panel shear walls shall be submitted to the satisfaction of IAPMO. The analysis shall compare the envelope of measured strength versus peak strength and the tested sheathing product shall fit favorably within the envelope of behavior resulting from code-based assemblies of similar aspect ratio and of similar light-frame construction.

#### **4.5 2009 IBC and 2010 CBC Design Strength**

- 4.5.1 Allowable Stress Design (ASD):** The available ASD strength of a shear wall assembly shall be taken as the lesser of the allowable strength based on lateral displacement and the peak strength of the wall assembly.

- 4.5.1.1 Lateral Displacement:** The available ASD seismic and wind strength shall be determined on the basis of the provisions in ASCE/SEI 7, Sections 12.2.1 and 12.8.6, as referenced in both the IBC and CBC Section 1613.1

The maximum inelastic response displacement  $\Delta_m$  shall be limited to the smaller of the code-specified allowable seismic story drift  $\Delta_a$  in accordance with Table 12.12-1 of ASCE/SEI 7 and the lateral displacement  $\Delta_{VPEAK}$  corresponding to the peak strength of the shear wall assembly.

Using the  $C_d$  value in accordance with Section 3.3.3 of this criteria, and an importance factor  $I$  equal to 1.0 regardless of the importance factor used in the design of the overall structure, the available Strength Level Design (Load and Resistance Factor Design—LRFD) response displacement,  $\Delta_s$ , shall be calculated in accordance with ASCE/SEI 7, Section 12.8.6, as  $\Delta_s = \Delta_m/I/C_d$ .

Using the first-cycle backbone curve defined in Section 3.3.2, the shear wall strength  $V_s$  corresponding to  $\Delta_s$  shall be determined.  $V_s$  defines the available LRFD strength of the wall assembly.

In accordance with the seismic load combinations in ASCE/SEI 7, Section 2.4.1, the drift-based available ASD strength of the shear wall assembly  $V_{ASD}$  shall be determined as 0.7 times the available LRFD strength  $V_s$ .

The lateral displacement  $\Delta_{V_{ASD}}$  corresponding to the available ASD strength  $V_{ASD}$  shall be derived from the first-cycle backbone curve and  $\Delta_{V_{ASD}}$  shall be included in the evaluation report.

**4.5.1.2 Peak Strength:** Using the first-cycle backbone curve defined in Section 3.3.2, the available seismic and wind ASD strengths shall be determined as the peak strength  $V_{PEAK}$  of the wall assembly divided by a factor of safety of 2.5 for seismic design and 2.0 for wind design. The lateral displacement  $\Delta_{V_{ASD}}$  corresponding to each (seismic and wind) available ASD strength  $V_{ASD}$  shall be derived from the first-cycle backbone curve and  $\Delta_{V_{ASD}}$  shall be included in the evaluation report.

**4.5.2 Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD):** The available LRFD (Strength Level Design) strength shall be determined as the lesser of the strengths based on lateral displacement and the peak strength of the shear wall assembly.

**4.5.2.1 Lateral Displacement:** The available LRFD seismic and wind strength shall be determined as the strength  $V_s$  in accordance with Section 3.3.4.1.1.3 of this criteria. The lateral displacement  $\Delta_s$  corresponding to  $V_s$  (Section 3.3.4.1.1.3 of this criteria) shall be included in the evaluation report.

**4.5.2.2 Peak Strength:** Using the first-cycle backbone curve defined in Section 3.3.2, the available seismic and wind LRFD strength shall be determined as the peak strength  $V_{PEAK}$  of the wall assembly multiplied by a resistance factor  $\Delta = 0.55$  for seismic design and  $\Delta = 0.60$  for wind design. The lateral displacement  $\Delta_s$  corresponding to each (seismic and wind) available LRFD strength  $V_s$  shall be derived from the first-cycle backbone curve and  $\Delta_s$  shall be included in the evaluation report.

## 5.0 TEST METHODS

**5.1 Steel Sheet:** The base-steel thickness (uncoated) of the sheet steel used in the sheet steel panels shall be measured and reported. Base-steel thickness is the thickness of the steel exclusive of any coating, such as galvanization. The yield strength and ultimate tensile strength of the sheet steel shall be measured. The measured strengths shall meet the minimum specified strengths for the particular steel grade when tested in accordance with ASTM A370.

### 5.2 Test Setup

**5.2.1** The bottom track/plate of the wall assembly shall be attached to a fixed base in such a manner that in-plane displacement of the sheathing is not restricted.

**5.2.2** The bottom track/plate of the wall assembly shall be adequately connected to the fixed base so as to exceed the expected shear transfer requirements.

**5.2.3** Hold-downs and boundary elements shall be installed at each end of the wall assembly. The capacity of the hold-downs shall exceed the anticipated peak strength of the wall assembly.

**5.2.4** A loading plate connected to the wall assembly top plate shall be used to distribute the applied load along the top of the wall. The loading plate shall be attached to the wall assembly in such a manner that in-plane displacement of the sheathing is not restricted.

**5.2.5** Each test assembly shall be instrumented to measure the following displacements at the locations indicated:

1. Lateral in-plane displacement at the top of wall
2. Uplift and compression displacement at each end of wall
3. Base slip
4. Applied racking loads shall be measured. Hold-down load measurement is optional
5. Test equipment shall be capable of recording racking loads and displacements at a minimum rate of 50 readings per cycle

### **5.3 Test Procedure**

**5.3.1** A minimum of three identical wall assemblies of a given construction shall be tested. The average of the three test results may be used if each of the three values is within 15 percent of the average, otherwise, the lowest of the three test values shall be used. Alternatively, the average of five or more identical tests may be used, regardless of variations.

**5.3.2** Racking shear loads shall be applied to the top of the wall assembly, displacing the top of the wall in accordance with the displacement schedule described in Section 4.4.

### **5.4 Cyclic Load Test Protocol**

**5.4.1 In-plane Cyclic Shear Load Tests:** To comply with this criteria, in-plane cyclic shear tests in accordance with Section 1.3.6 are required.

**5.4.2 Termination of Loading History:** The loading history defined in Section 4.4.1 of this criteria shall be continued until the resistance of the wall assembly decreases to 50 percent of the peak assembly strength.

## **6.0 EVALUATION REPORT RECOGNITION**

**6.1** The product identification label shall include the manufacturer's name and address, the evaluation report number, as required by IAPMO. The product identification label shall be visible on the product.

**6.2** The approved products shall be limited to use within height limits and seismic categories (IBC & CBC) permitted for the equivalent seismic performance coefficients and factors systems listed in ASCE / SEI 7, Table 12.2-1, for light frame shear walls.

**6.3** When the approved product is installed in jurisdictions governed by the IBC and CBC, periodic inspections shall be in accordance with the code requirements for the applicable type (wood or cold-formed steel) of light-framed construction.

**6.4** Tested products may be used to resist seismic and wind loads. For seismic design, the limitations for light frame shear walls sheathed with wood structural panels or steel sheets, as defined in ASCE/SEI 7, Table 12.2-1, shall apply.

- 6.5 Repair of Damaged Panels:** All structural panels laminated to gypsum sheathing must be installed with the gypsum panels dry. After installation of panels follow manufacturer's procedure referenced in evaluation report to repair any damaged gypsum board.
- 6.6** The final test report shall indicate if the product has been specifically tested in conjunction with fire-treated lumber and shall be limited to the manufacturer and product tested. Alternatively, the final report may indicate that the product was not tested in conjunction with fire-treated lumber and shall indicate that the Building Official and Design Professional of Record shall incorporate the appropriate reduction recommended by the manufacturer.
- 6.7** The evaluation report shall clearly indicate that the product application is limited to use in light-framed wood and cold-formed steel construction complying with the code.
- 6.8** Included in the allowable load tables are the product model number, height, seismic & wind allowable in-plane shear, drift; boundary requirements, including screw quantities and foundation anchorage where applicable, and any other pertinent information to the satisfaction of IAPMO.
- 6.9** The allowable load tables in the evaluation report will not include a 1.33 increase intended for transient loading. The evaluation report shall state that the 1.33 increase for transient load shall not be applied to allowable shear loads for these products.
- 6.10** The evaluation report shall indicate that the use of this product in conventional construction is outside its scope.

**Adopted: August 2009**  
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