



**WoodWorks**



## **CLT Floor Design: Strength, Deflection and Vibrations**

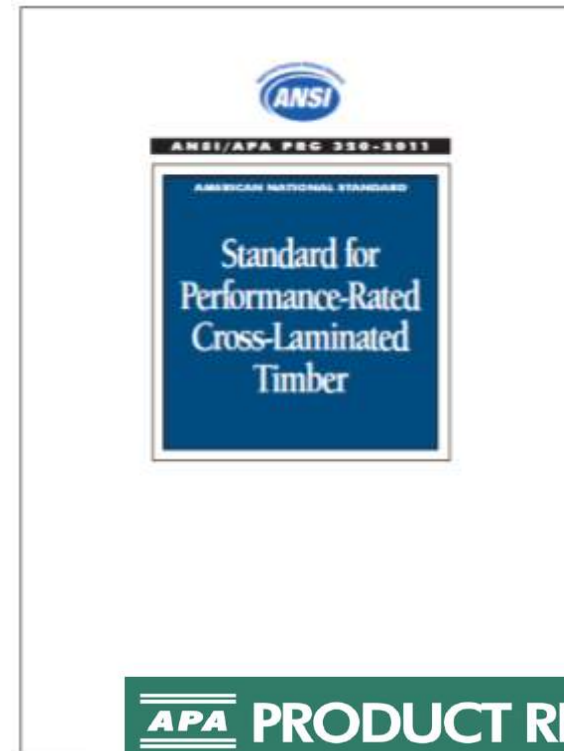
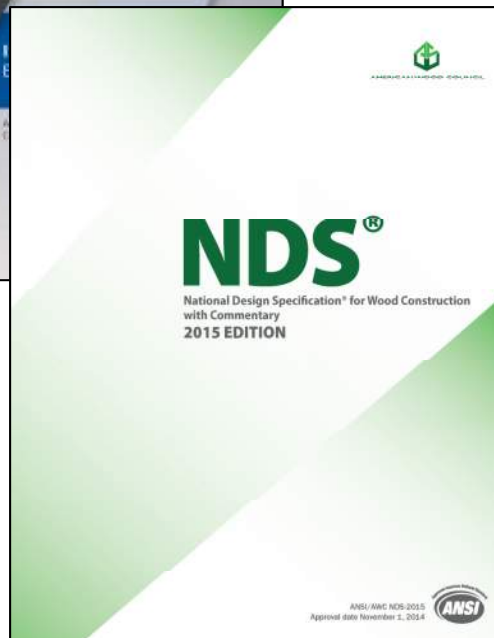
**Toward Taller Wood Buildings  
November 2014**

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Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE  
Senior Technical Director  
Architectural and Engineering Solutions  
WoodWorks – Wood Products Council



# Product Standardization



**Structurlam CrossLam  
Structurlam Products LP**

**PR-L314**  
Issued May 23, 2013

Products: Stru  
Structurlam Pro  
2176 Governm  
Penticton, Britis  
(250) 492-8912  
[www.structurlam.com](http://www.structurlam.com)



**Nordic X-Lam  
Nordic Engineered Wood**

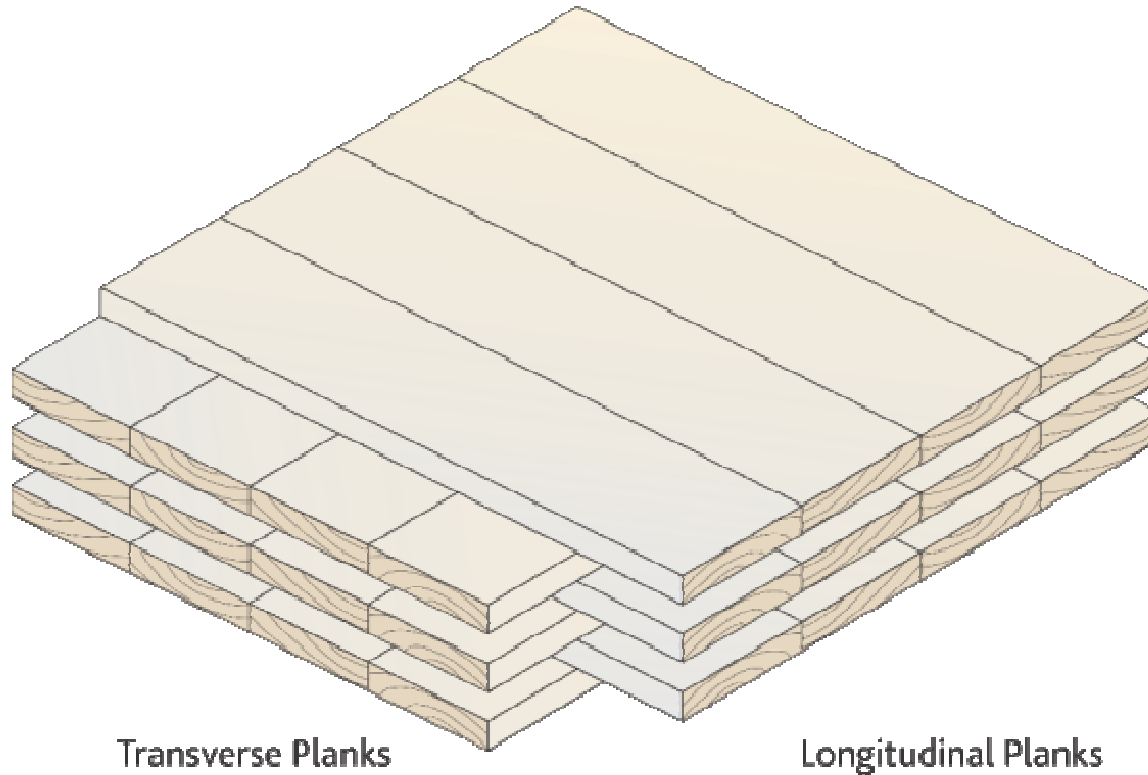
**PR-L306**  
Revised May 23, 2013

Products: Nordic X-Lam  
Nordic Engineered Wood  
1100 Avenue des Canadiens-de-Montréal, Suite 504  
Montreal, Québec, Canada H3B 2S2  
(514) 871-8526  
[www.nordicewp.com](http://www.nordicewp.com)

# CLT Composition

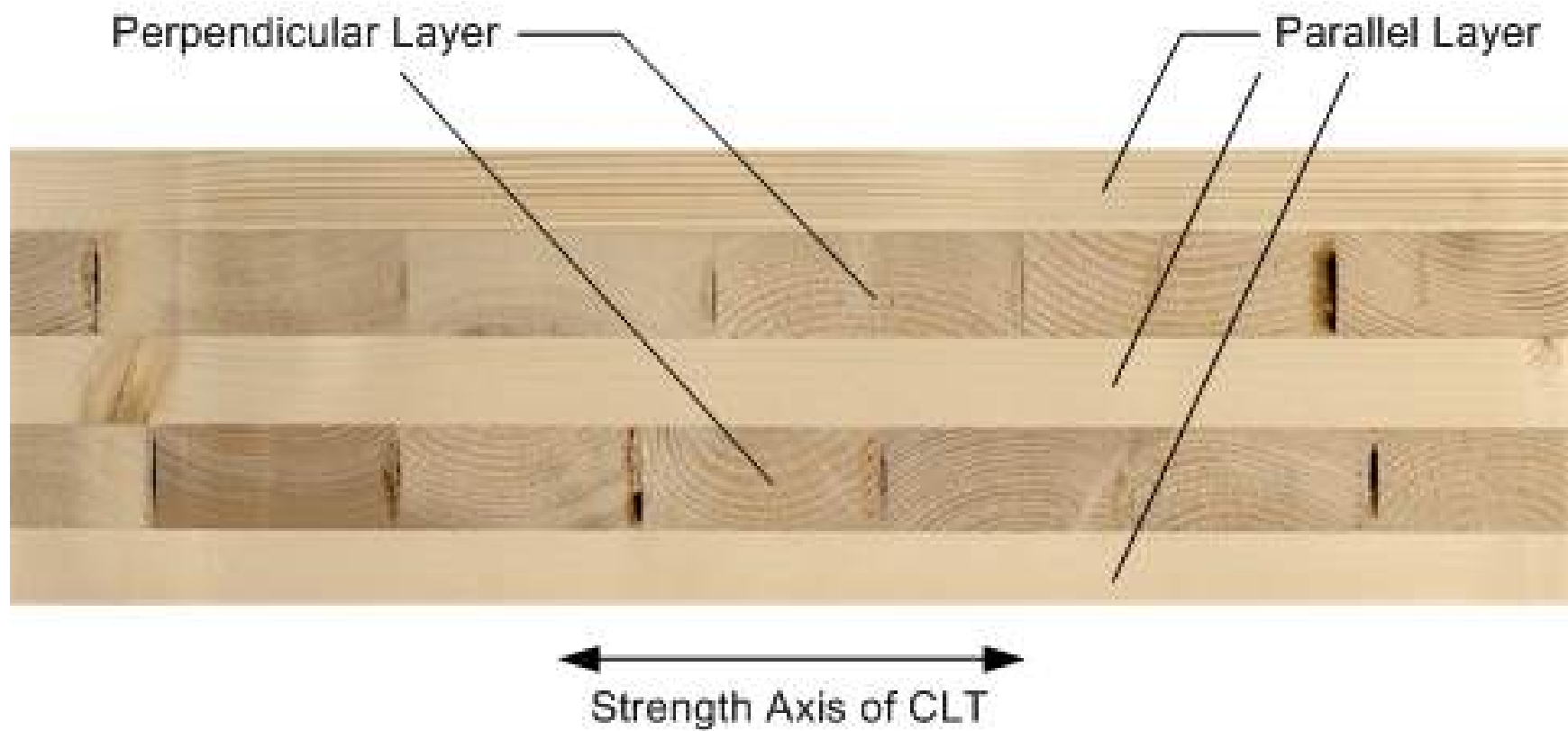
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Planks in alternating directions

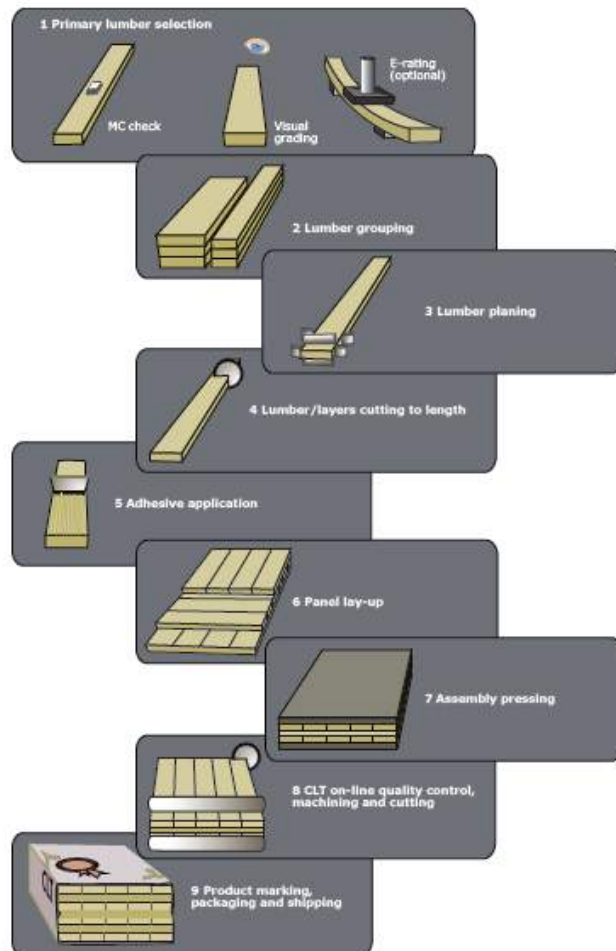


# CLT Composition

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# CLT Product Standard



## ANSI/APA PRG 320

- CLT Stress classes
- Quality Assurance testing
- Identification marking

CLT Grade	CLT Thickness (in.)	Lamination Thickness in CLT Lay-up (in.)							Major Strength Direction			Minor Strength Direction		
		=	⊥	=	⊥	=	⊥	=	$F_b S_{eff,0}$ (lb.-ft./ft.)	$EI_{eff,0}$ ( $10^6$ lb.-in. <sup>2</sup> /ft.)	$GA_{eff,0}$ (lb.-ft./ft.)	$F_b S_{eff,90}$ (lb.-ft./ft.)	$EI_{eff,90}$ ( $10^6$ lb.-in. <sup>2</sup> /ft.)	
E1	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8					4,525	115	0.46	160	3.1	
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8			10,400	440	0.92	1,370	81	
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	18,375	1,089	1.4	3,125	309	
E2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8					3,825	102	0.53	165	3.6	
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8			8,825	389	1.1	1,430	95	
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	15,600	963	1.6	3,275	360	
E3	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8					2,800	81	0.35	110	2.3	
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8			6,400	311	0.69	955	61	

# Product Reports

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## **Structurlam CrossLam Structurlam Products LP**

**PR-L314**

Issued May 23, 2013

Products: Structurlam CrossLam  
Structurlam Products LP  
2176 Government Street  
Penticton, British Columbia, Ca  
(250) 492-8912  
[www.structurlam.com](http://www.structurlam.com)



## **Nordic X-Lam Nordic Engineered Wood**

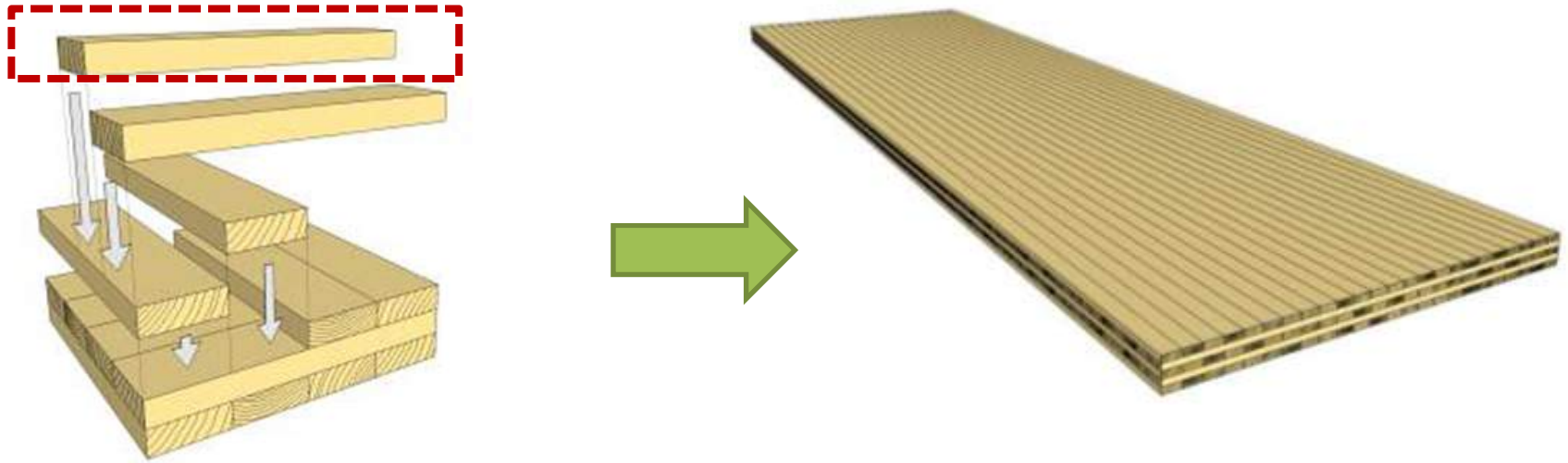
**PR-L306**

Revised May 23, 2013

Products: Nordic X-Lam  
Nordic Engineered Wood  
1100 Avenue des Canadiens-de-Montréal, Suite 504  
Montreal, Québec, Canada H3B 2S2  
(514) 871-8526  
[www.nordicewp.com](http://www.nordicewp.com)

# Structural Composition of CLT

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## **Laminations:** (Per PRG 320-2012)

5/8" to 2" thick.

Machine Stress Rated or Visually Graded Dimensional Lumber or SCL

Dried to 12% Moisture Content before layup.

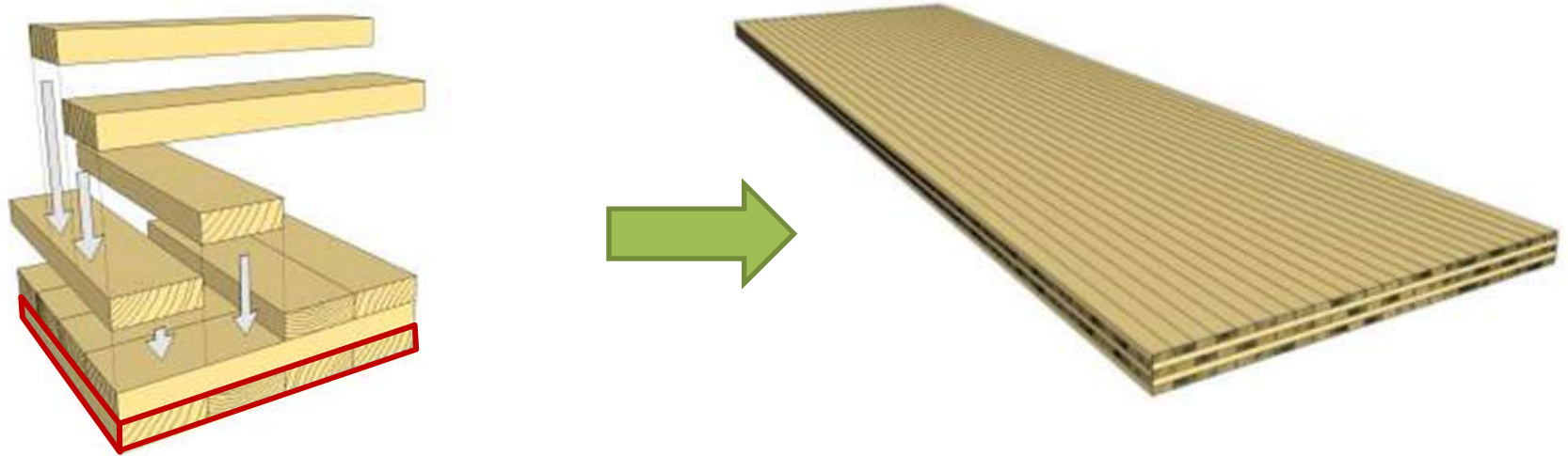
A common NA thickness is 1 3/8" (planed 2x stock)

PRG 320 provides thickness to width requirements of laminations



# Structural Composition of CLT

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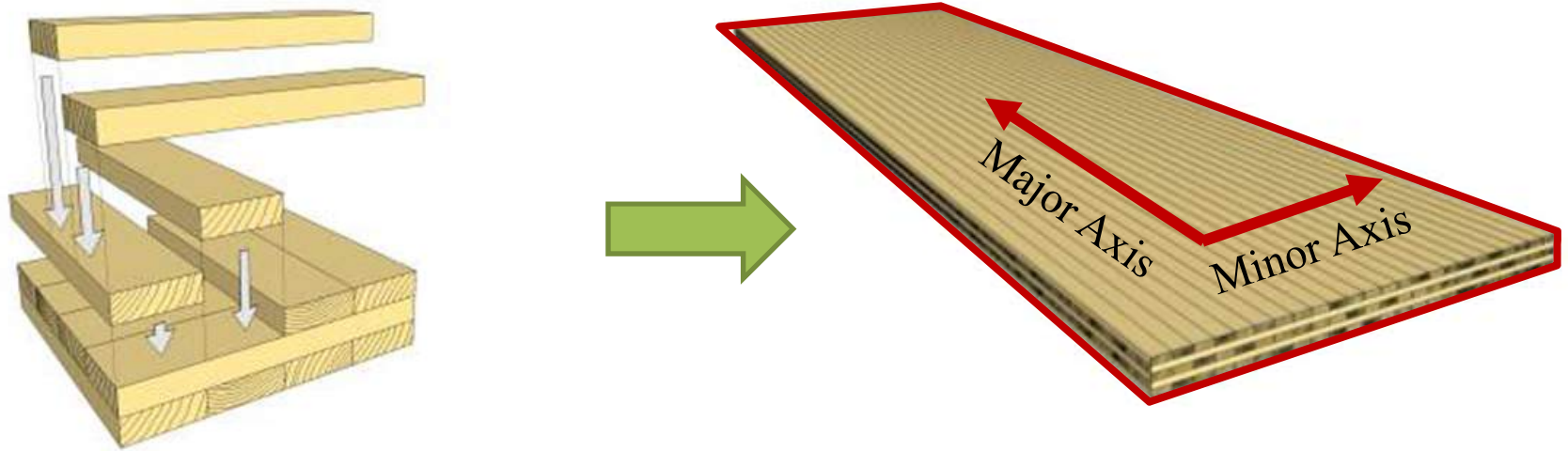
## **Layers:** (Per PRG 320-2012)

- Oriented in orthogonal arrangement
- Odd number of symmetric layers most common
- Double parallel exterior layers permitted
- Unbalanced layup permitted
- Reference glu-lam adhesive standard (AITC 405)



# Structural Composition of CLT

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## **Panels, also known as Billets.**

20 inch max thickness in PRG 320

Up to 8 ft or more wide per manufacturer and shipping

Up to 40 ft or more long per manufacturer and shipping

Major axis: stronger, stiffer, usually long direction

Minor axis: less strong and stiff, usually short direction

# CLT Stress Grades

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Stress Grade	Major Strength Direction	Minor Strength Direction
E1	1950f-1.7E MSR SPF	#3 Spruce Pine Fir
E2	1650f-1.5E MSR DFL	#3 Doug Fir Larch
E3	1200f-1.2E MSR Misc	#3 Misc
E4	1950f-1.7E MSR SP	#3 Southern Pine
V1	#2 Doug Fir Larch	#3 Doug Fir Larch
V2	#1/#2 Spruce Pine Fir	#3 Spruce Pine Fir
V3	#2 Southern Pine	#3 Southern Pine

Non-mandatory in PRG 320. Other stress grades including SCL permitted

# PRG 320 Defined Layups

TABLE A2.

THE ALLOWABLE BENDING CAPACITIES<sup>(a,b,c)</sup> FOR CLT LISTED IN TABLE A1 (FOR USE IN THE U.S.)

CLT Grade	CLT t (in.)	Lamination Thickness (in.) in CLT Layup							Major Strength Direction			Minor Strength Direction		
		=	⊥	=	⊥	=	⊥	=	$F_{bS_{eff,0}}$ (lb-ft/ft)	$EI_{eff,0}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> lb-ft <sup>2</sup> /ft)	$GA_{eff,0}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> lb-ft/ft)	$F_{bS_{eff,90}}$ (lb-ft/ft)	$EI_{eff,90}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> lb-ft <sup>2</sup> /ft)	$GA_{eff,90}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> lb-ft/ft)
E1	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,525	115	0.46	160	3.1	0.61
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	10,400	440	0.92	1,370	81	1.2
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	18,375	1,089	1.4	3,125	309	1.8
E2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	3,825	102	0.53	165	3.6	0.56
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,825	389	1.1	1,430	95	1.1
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	15,600	963	1.6	3,275	360	1.7
E3	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,800	81	0.35	110	2.3	0.44
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	6,400	311	0.69	955	61	0.87
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	11,325	769	1.0	2,180	232	1.3
E4	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,525	115	0.53	180	3.6	0.63
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	10,425	441	1.1	1,570	95	1.3
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	18,400	1,090	1.6	3,575	360	1.9
V1	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,090	108	0.53	165	3.6	0.59
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,800	415	1.1	1,430	95	1.2
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,500	1,027	1.6	3,275	360	1.8
V2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,030	95	0.46	160	3.1	0.52
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,675	363	0.91	1,370	81	1.0
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,275	898	1.4	3,125	309	1.6
V3	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,270	108	0.53	180	3.6	0.59
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	5,200	415	1.1	1,570	95	1.2
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	9,200	1,027	1.6	3,575	360	1.8

For SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 1 ft = 304.8 mm; 1 lbf = 4.448 N

(a) See Section 4 for symbols.

(b) This table represents one of many possibilities that the CLT could be manufactured by varying lamination grades, thicknesses, orientations, and layer arrangements in the layup.

(c) Custom CLT grades that are not listed in this table shall be permitted in accordance with Section 7.2.1.

# Examples of CLT Configurations

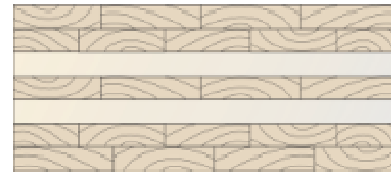
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3-ply 3-layer



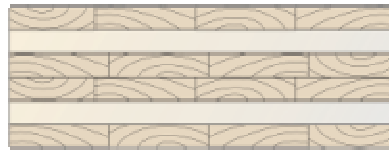
5-ply 3-layer

5-ply 5-layer



7-ply 5-layer

6-ply 5-layer



8-ply 5-layer

9-ply 9-layer



9-ply 7-layer

# Strength

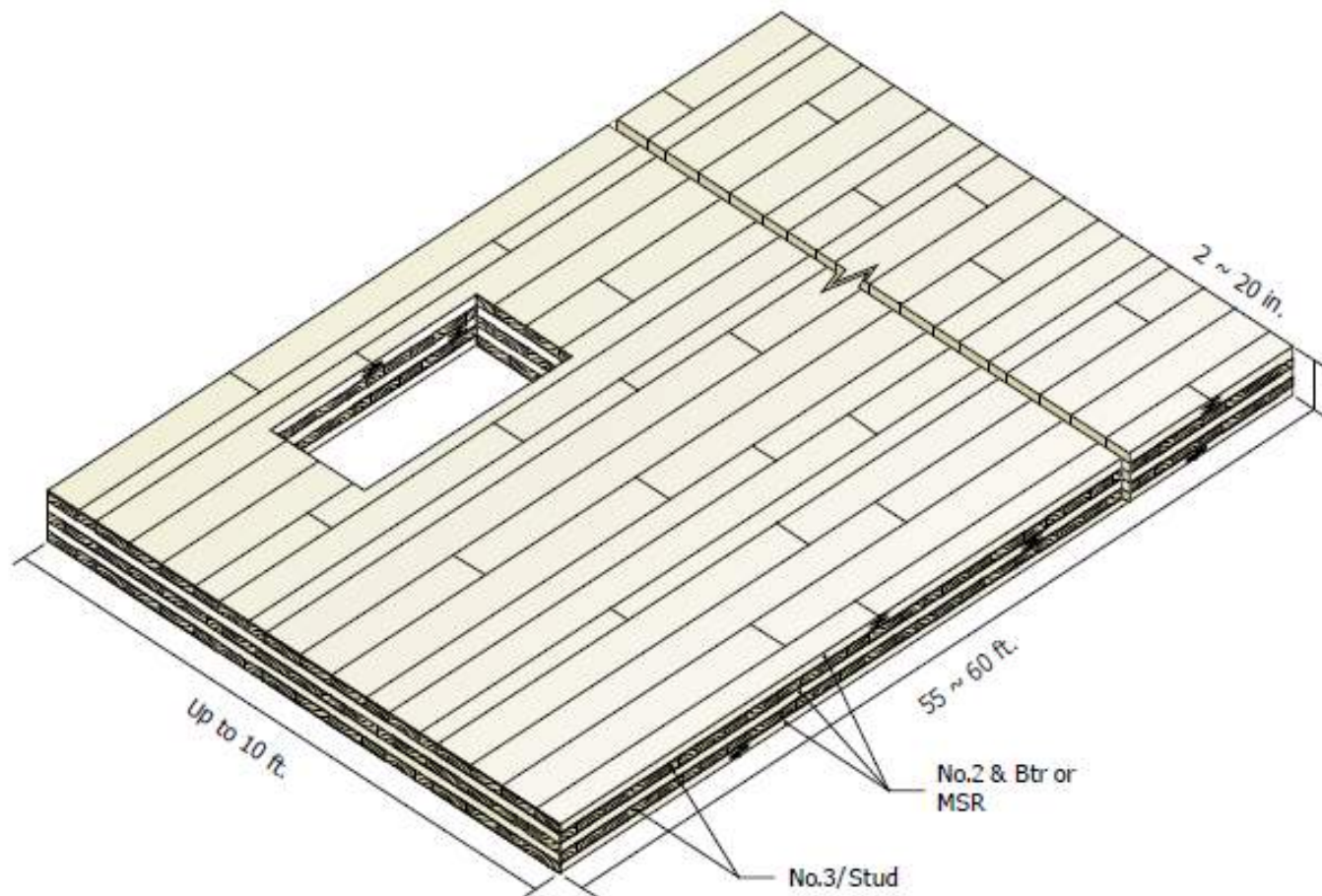
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Photos Courtesy Structurlam

# Floors

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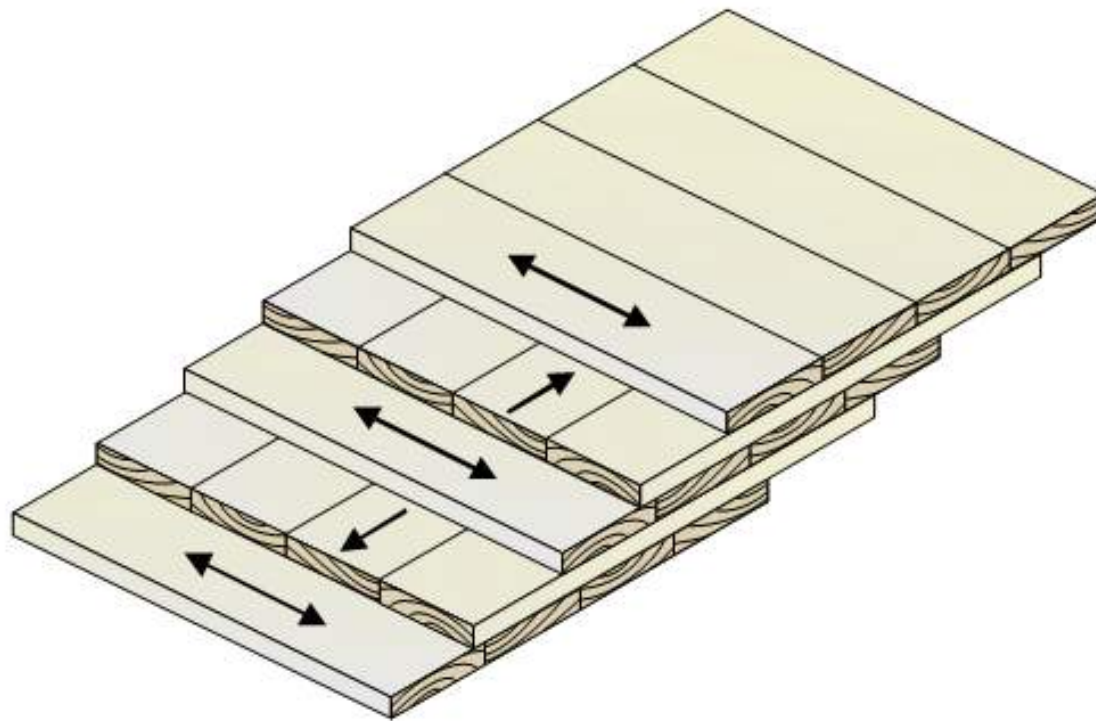




# Structural Section Properties

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Non-homogenous, anisotropic material





# Flexural Strength

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Design Properties based on Extreme Fiber Model:

Flexural Capacity Check:

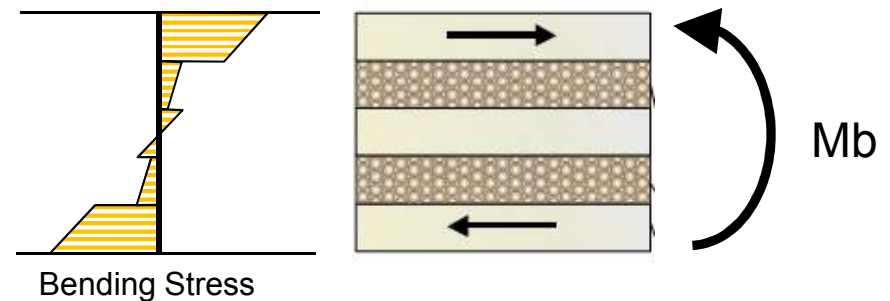
$$M_b \leq (F_b S_{\text{eff}})'$$

$M_b$  = applied bending moment

$(F_b S_{\text{eff}})'$  = adjusted bending capacity

$S_{\text{eff}}$  = effective section modulus

$F_b$  = reference bending design value of outer lamination

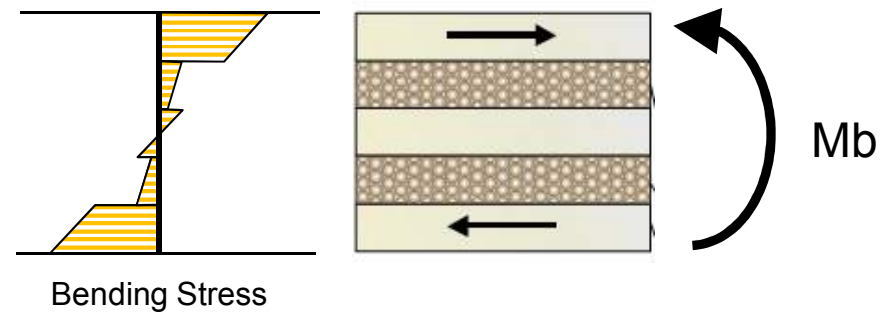


*Reference: NDS 2015 & US CLT Handbook*

# Flexural Strength

Design Properties based on Extreme Fiber Model:

Flexural Capacity Check (**ASD**)



$$(F_b S_{eff})' = C_D \underbrace{C_M C_t C_L}_{\text{Commonly } 1.0} \underbrace{(F_b S_{eff})}_{\text{From Manufacturer*}}$$

per NDS

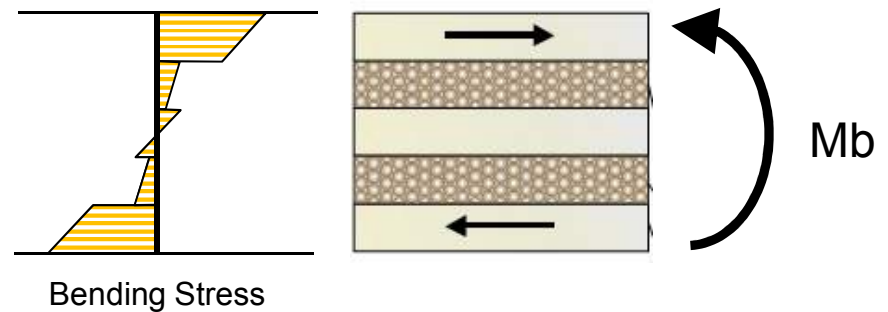
$$M_b \leq C_D (1.0) (F_b S_{eff})$$

*Reference: NDS 2015 & US CLT Handbook*

# Flexural Strength

Design Properties based on Extreme Fiber Model:

Flexural Capacity Check (**LRFD**)



$$(F_b S_{eff})' = \underbrace{C_M C_t C_L}_{\text{Commonly 1.0}} \underbrace{(F_b S_{eff})}_{\text{From Manufacturer}} \underbrace{K_f \phi \lambda}_{\text{per NDS 2015 \& CLT Handbook}}$$

$$M_b \leq (1.0) (F_b S_{eff}) (2.54)(0.85) \lambda$$

per  
NDS 2015  
& CLT  
Handbook

*Reference: NDS 2015 & US CLT Handbook*

# Design Example: Flexure

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Select acceptable CLT section

**Given:**

16 foot span floor

40 psf live load, 40 psf total dead load.



**Assume:**

one-way spanning action in major axis of CLT

ASD Dead + Live Flexural Demands:

$$M_b = w L^2 / 8 = (40+40\text{psf}) (16\text{ft})^2 / 8 = 2560 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

# Design Example: Flexure

Try 5 ply, (6 7/8 in thick) CLT Grade V2 Section

TABLE A2.

THE ALLOWABLE BENDING CAPACITIES<sup>(a,b,c)</sup> FOR CLT LISTED IN TABLE A1 (FOR USE IN THE U.S.)

		Lamination Thickness (in.) in CLT Layup							Major Strength Direction			Minor Strength Direction		
CLT Grade	CLT t (in.)	=	⊥	=	⊥	=	⊥	=	$F_b S_{eff,0}$ (lbf-ft/ft)	$EI_{eff,0}$	$GA_{eff,0}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> lbf/ft)	$F_b S_{eff,90}$ (lbf-ft/ft)	$EI_{eff,90}$	$GA_{eff,90}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> lbf/ft)
										(10 <sup>6</sup> lbf-in. <sup>2</sup> /ft)			(10 <sup>6</sup> lbf-in. <sup>2</sup> /ft)	
V1	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8					2,090	108	0.53	165	3.6	0.59
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8			4,800	415	1.1	1,430	95	1.2
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,500	1,027	1.6	3,275	360	1.8
V2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8					2,030	95	0.46	160	3.1	0.52
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8			4,675	363	0.91	1,370	81	1.0
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,275	898	1.4	3,125	309	1.6

Reference: ANSI/APA PRG 320-2012

# Design Example: Flexure

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## ASD Flexural Capacity:

Dead + Live load,  $C_D = 1.0$

$$\begin{aligned}(F_b S_{eff})' &= C_D (1.0) (F_b S_{eff}) \\ &= 1.0 (1.0) (4675 \text{ lb-ft/ft}) \\ &= 4675 \text{ lb-ft/ft}\end{aligned}$$

$$M_b = 2560 \text{ lb-ft/ft} \leq F'_b S_{eff} = 4675 \text{ lb-ft/ft}$$

**Flexural Strength OK**



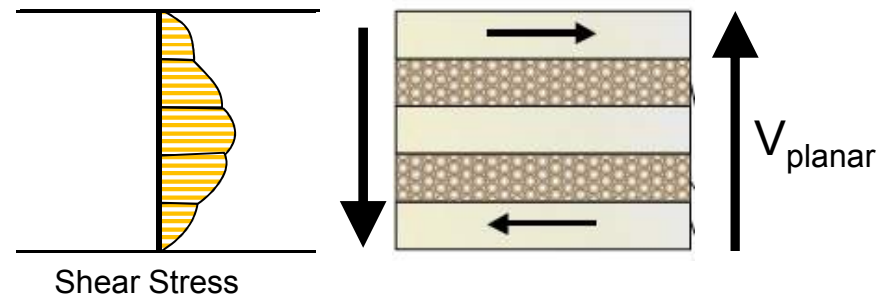
# Shear Strength

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Design Properties based on Extreme Fiber Model:

Shear Capacity Check:

$$V_{\text{planar}} \leq F_s (Ib/Q)_{\text{eff}}'$$



$$V_{\text{planar}} = \text{applied shear}$$

$$F_s (IbQ_{\text{eff}})' = \text{adjusted shear strength}$$

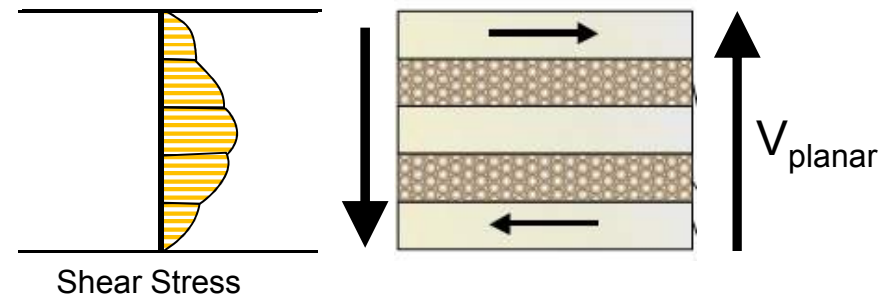
*Reference: NDS 2015 & US CLT Handbook*



# Shear Strength

Design Properties based on Extreme Fiber Model:

Shear Capacity Check (ASD):



$$F_s(IbQ)_{eff}' = \underbrace{C_M C_t}_{\text{Commonly 1.0}} \underbrace{(F_s(IbQ)_{eff})}_{\text{From Manufacturer for Standard Sections}} = C_M C_t \underbrace{V_s}_{\text{From Manufacturer for Standard Sections}}$$

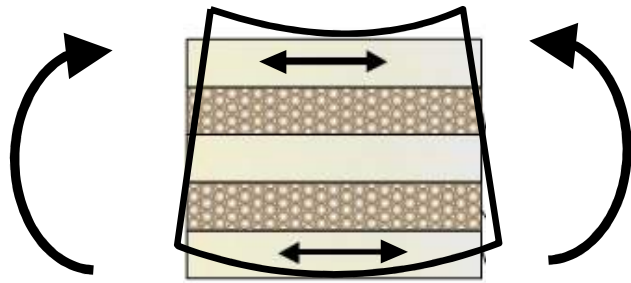
$$V_{planar} \leq (1.0) V_s$$

*Reference: NDS 2015 & US CLT Handbook*

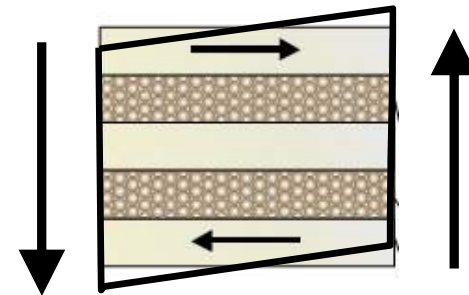
# Stiffness & Deflection

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## Major Axis Stiffness

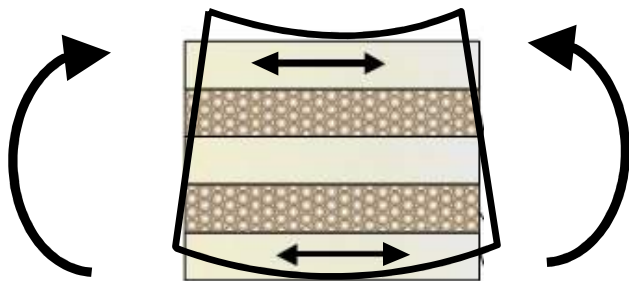


$$EI_{\text{eff},0}$$

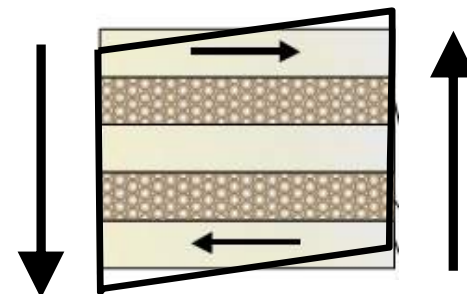


$$GA_{\text{eff},0}$$

## Minor Axis Stiffness



$$EI_{\text{eff},90}$$



$$GA_{\text{eff},90}$$

# Structural Material Assumptions

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Assumptions Used in CLT Handbook and ANSI/APA PRG 320-2012 to develop section properties.

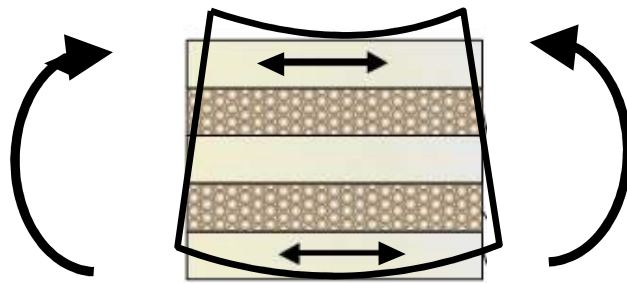
Given lumber for a lamination with modulus of elasticity for bending in major strength direction,  $E_0$ , assume:

- $E_{90} = E_0 / 30$
- $G_0 = E_0 / 16$
- $G_{90} = G_0 / 10 = E_0 / 160$

*Reference: US CLT Handbook & PRG 320*

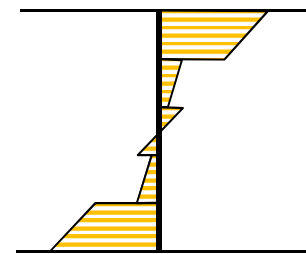
# Flexural Stiffness

## Shear Analogy Method



$EI_{eff}$

$$EI_{eff} = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \cdot b_i \cdot \frac{h_i^3}{12} + \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \cdot A_i \cdot z_i^2$$



Bending Stress

$$S_{eff} = \frac{2EI_{eff}}{E_1 h}$$

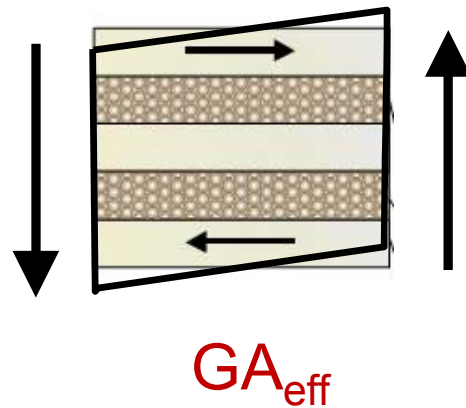
$$(Ib/Q)_{eff} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n/2} E_i h_i z_i}$$

Reference: US CLT Handbook Chapter 3

# Shear Stiffness

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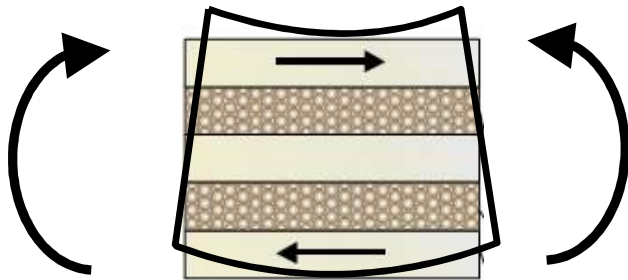
## Shear Analogy Method



$$GA_{\text{eff}} = \frac{a^2}{\left[ \left( \frac{h_1}{2 \cdot G_1 \cdot b} \right) + \left( \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{h_i}{G_i \cdot b_i} \right) + \left( \frac{h_n}{2 \cdot G_n \cdot b} \right) \right]}$$

*Reference: US CLT Handbook Chapter 3*

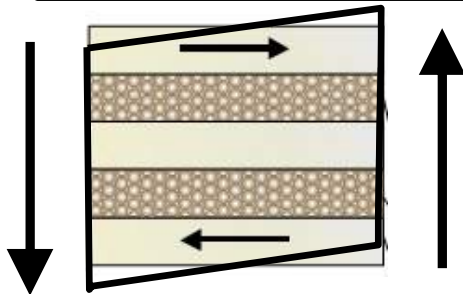
# Flexural Stiffness



$$EI_{eff} = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \cdot b_i \cdot \frac{h_i^3}{12} + \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \cdot A_i \cdot z_i^2$$

Important to develop properties of  
new CLT Sections.

Not to use standard CLT Sections

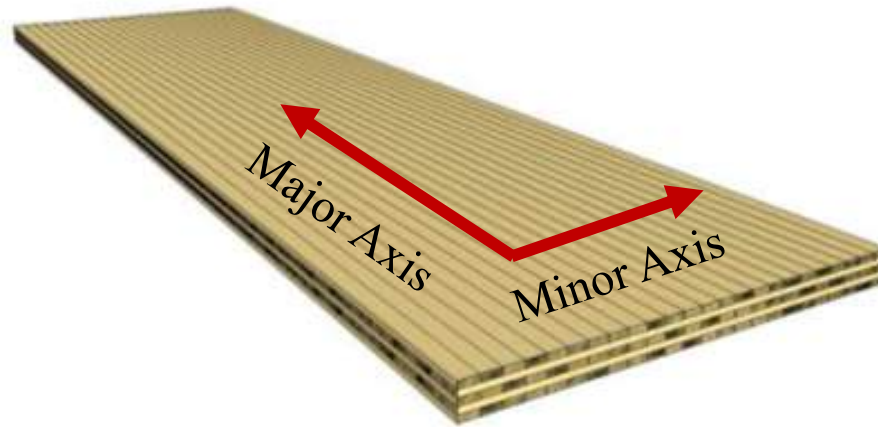


$$GA_{eff} = \frac{a^2}{\left[ \left( \frac{h_1}{2 \cdot G_1 \cdot b} \right) + \left( \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{h_i}{G_i \cdot b_i} \right) + \left( \frac{h_n}{2 \cdot G_n \cdot b} \right) \right]}$$

$GA_{eff}$

# Structural Section Properties

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Flexural Strength:  $F_b S_{\text{eff},0}$

$F_b S_{\text{eff},90}$

Flexural Stiffness:  $EI_{\text{eff},0}$

$EI_{\text{eff},90}$

Shear Strength:  $V_{s,0}$

$V_{s,90}$

Shear Stiffness:  $GA_{\text{eff},0}$

$GA_{\text{eff},90}$

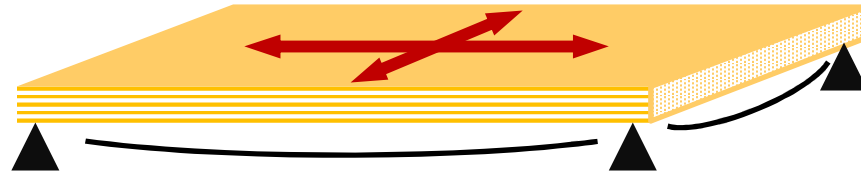
Values in **RED** provided by CLT manufacturer

*Reference: PRG 320 and CLT Product Reports*



# Deflection Calculations

---



General Purpose, 2 Way, Plate Action

Flexural Stiffness

$$EI_{\text{eff},0}$$

$$EI_{\text{eff},90}$$

Shear Stiffness:

$$5/6 GA_{\text{eff},0}$$

$$5/6 GA_{\text{eff},90}$$

5/6 from  $A' = 5/6 A$  for rectangular sections

# Deflection Calculations

---



General Purpose: 1 Way, Beam Action

Stiffness:  $EI_{\text{eff},0}$      $5/6 GA_{\text{eff},0}$



Can model multiple spans, cantilevers, etc.

# Example Deflection Calculations

---

## Example Calculation:

Uniform loading on one way slab:

Beam Analysis using

Flexural Stiffness:  $EI_{\text{eff},0}$

Shear Stiffness:  $5/6 GA_{\text{eff},0}$

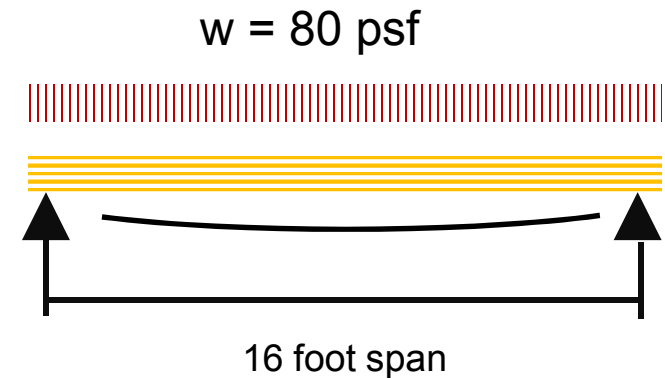
Maximum Deflection @ Mid-Span

$$\Delta_{\text{max}} = \frac{5}{384} \cdot \frac{wL^4}{EI_{\text{eff}}} + \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{wL^2}{5/6 GA_{\text{eff}}}$$

Design Example:

$$= 0.161 \text{ in} + 0.02 \text{ in} = 0.183 \text{ in}$$

$$= L / 1050$$

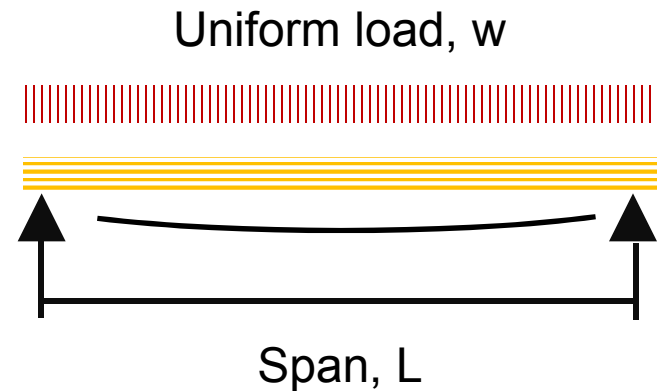


# Deflection Calculations

## Simplified Beam Deflections:

Given load pattern and support conditions:

$$\Delta_{\max} = \frac{5}{384} \cdot \frac{wL^4}{EI_{\text{eff}}} + \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{wL^2}{5/6 GA_{\text{eff}}}$$



Find **Apparent** Flexural Stiffness,  $EI_{\text{app}}$ , such that

$$\Delta_{\max} = \frac{5}{384} \cdot \frac{wL^4}{EI_{\text{app}}}$$

→

$$EI_{\text{app}} = \frac{EI_{\text{eff}}}{1 + \frac{11.5EI_{\text{eff}}}{GA_{\text{eff}}L^2}}$$

Reference: US CLT Handbook

# Deflection Calculations

---

## Simplified Beam Deflections

For single span, simple loading patterns, Apparent Flexural Stiffness,  $EI_{app}$ , to determine maximum (mid-span) deflection:

$$EI_{app} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{1 + \frac{K_s EI_{eff}}{GA_{eff} L^2}}$$

US CLT Handbook

$$EI_{app} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{1 + \frac{16K_s I_{eff}}{A_{eff} L^2}}$$

NDS 2015

For Major Axis Spans:

$$I_{eff} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{E_o}$$

$$A_{eff} = GA_{eff} / G_o$$

$$G_o = E_o / 16$$

*Reference: US CLT Handbook & NDS 2015*

# Deflection Calculations

---

## Simplified Beam Deflections

For single span, simple loading patterns, Apparent Flexural Stiffness,  $El_{app}$ , to determine maximum (mid-span) deflection:

$$El_{app} = \frac{El_{eff}}{1 + \frac{K_s El_{eff}}{GA_{eff}L^2}}$$

$$El_{app} = \frac{El_{eff}}{1 + \frac{16K_s I_{eff}}{A_{eff}L^2}}$$

Apparent Flexural Stiffness depends on **Load Pattern** and **Support Conditions**

Loading	End Supports	Ks
Uniform	Pinned	11.5
	Fixed	57.6
Midspan Line	Pinned	14.4
	Fixed	57.6

# Deflection Calculations

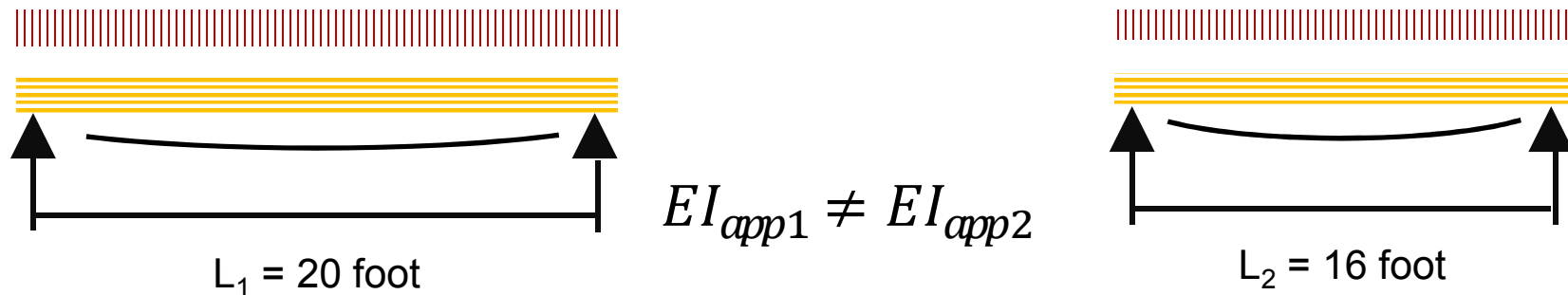
## Simplified Beam Deflections

For single span, simple loading patterns, Apparent Flexural Stiffness,  $EI_{app}$ , to determine maximum (mid-span) deflection:

$$EI_{app} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{1 + \frac{K_s EI_{eff}}{GA_{eff} L^2}}$$

$$EI_{app} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{1 + \frac{16K_s I_{eff}}{A_{eff} L^2}}$$

Apparent Flexural Stiffness depends on **Span Length**





# Creep Factor

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Deformation to Long Term Loads

$$\Delta_T = K_{cr} \Delta_{LT} + \Delta_{ST} \quad \text{NDS Eq 3.5-1}$$

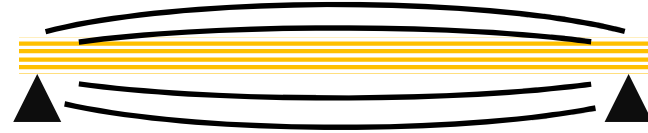
$\Delta_{ST}$  Deflection due to short-term loading

$\Delta_{LT}$  Immediate deflection due to long term loading

$K_{cr}$  2.0 for CLT in dry service conditions

*Reference: US CLT Handbook & NDS 2015*

# Floor Vibration



Occupant perception of vibration is a highly recommended design consideration.

**One approach: CLT Handbook, Chapter 7**

Calculated natural frequency of simple span:

$$f = \frac{2.188}{2L^2} \sqrt{\frac{EI_{app}}{\rho A}}$$

Where:

$EI_{app}$  = apparent stiffness for 1 foot strip, pinned supported, uniformly loaded, simple span ( $K_s = 11.5$ ) (lb-in<sup>2</sup>)

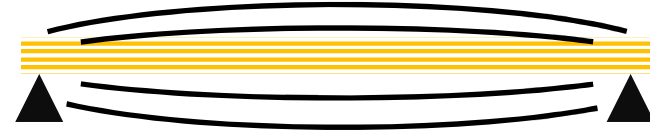
$\rho$  = specific gravity of the CLT

$A$  = the cross section area (thickness x 12 inches) (in<sup>2</sup>)

*Reference: US CLT Handbook, Chapter 7*

# Floor Vibration

---



CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 recommends,

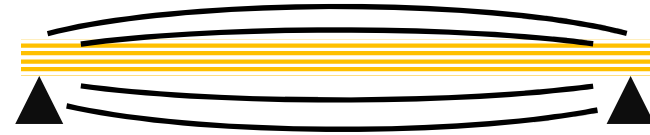
$$f = \frac{2.188}{2L^2} \sqrt{\frac{EI_{app}}{\rho A}} \geq 9.0 \text{ Hz}$$

and

$$\text{Max span } L \leq \frac{1}{12.05} \frac{(EI_{app})^{0.293}}{(\rho A)^{0.122}}$$

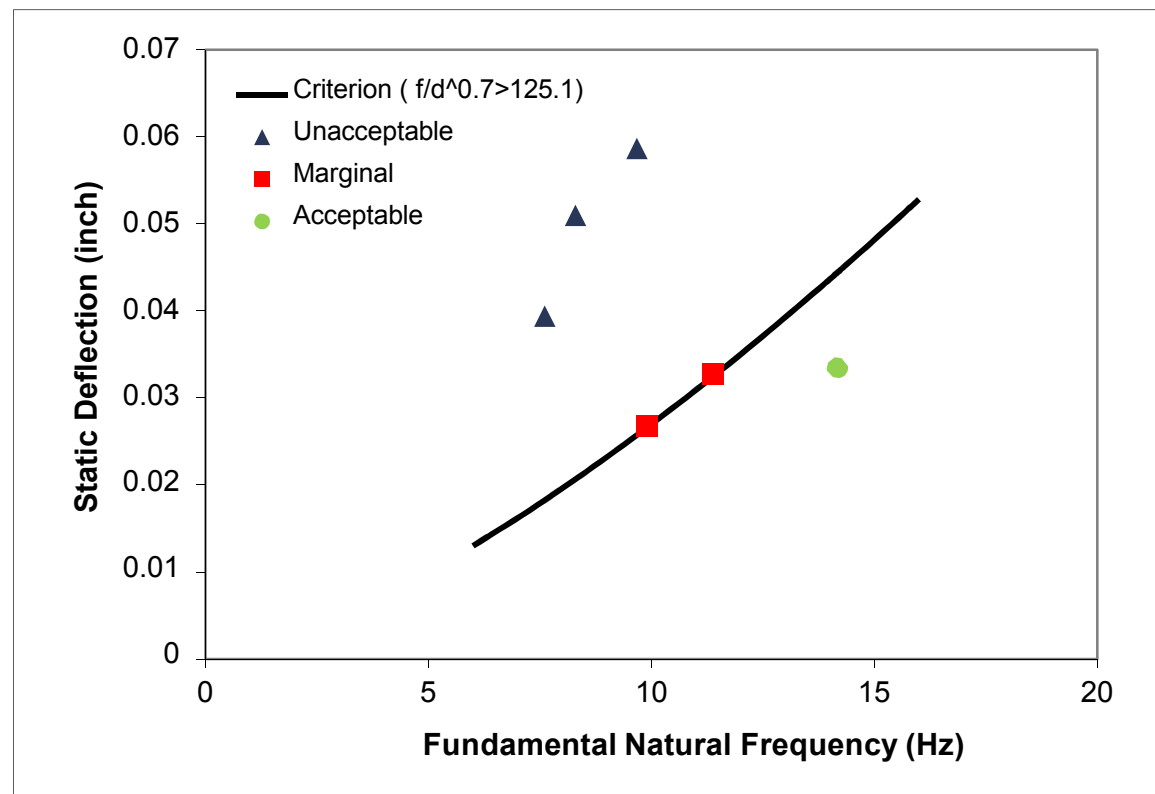
*Reference: US CLT Handbook, Chapter 7*

# Floor Vibration



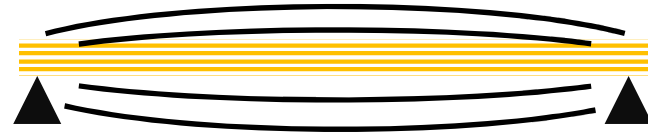
*CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 Recommendations*

## Experimental Verification – Results



Research by Lin Hu, et al. at

# Floor Vibration



CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 method:

Natural frequencies above 9 Hz and:

$$\text{Max span } L \leq \frac{1}{12.05} \frac{(EI_{app})^{0.293}}{(\rho A)^{0.122}}$$

$EI_{app}$  depends on  $L$ , so an iterative calculation required.

$$EI_{app} = \frac{EI_{eff}}{1 + \frac{K_s EI_{eff}}{GA_{eff} L^2}}$$

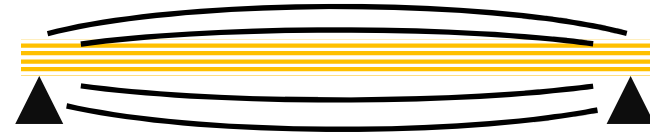
Only depends on CLT section properties, so...

Values calculated and provided by CLT Manufactures

16ft span example: V2 Grade 5 ply (6 7/8 in)  $L_{max} = 16.7$  feet.

*Reference: US CLT Handbook, Chapter 7*

# Floor Vibration



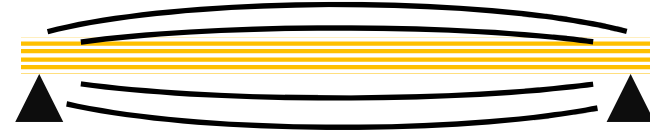
*CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 Recommendations*

Continuous multi-span floor



- $L_2$  is the longest span
- Use the design method to determine  $L_2$  assuming it is a single span floor

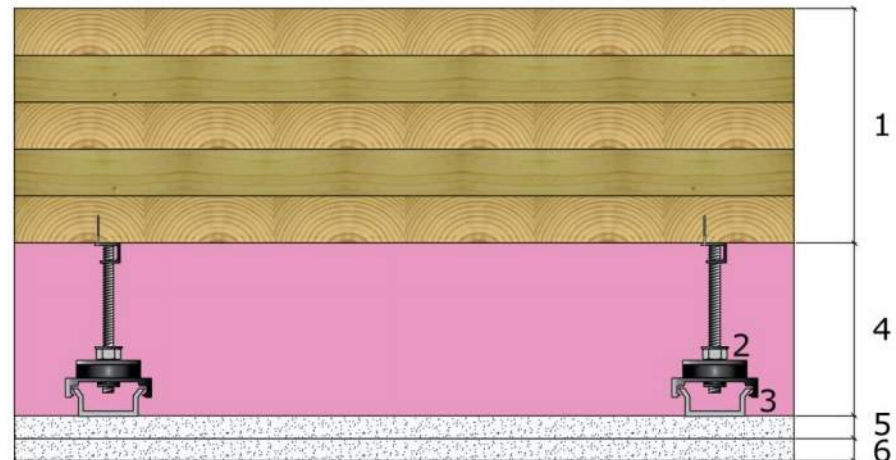
# Floor Vibration



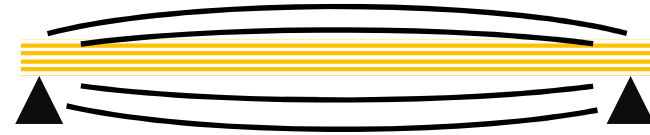
*CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 Recommendations*

With Suspended Ceiling

Use the design method **without** including the mass and stiffness of the drywall



# Floor Vibration



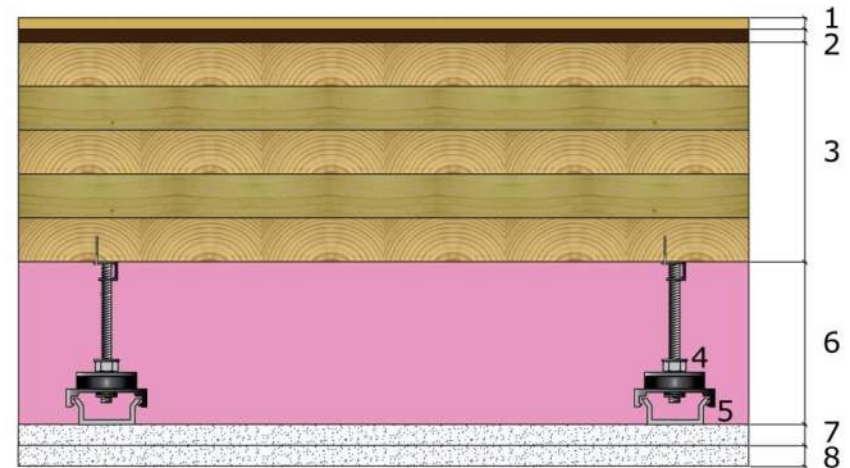
## *CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 Recommendations*

With lightweight topping (<20 lb./ft.<sup>2</sup>) and drywall

- Lightweight topping examples:

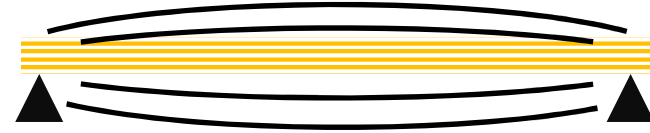
- Wood panel
- Gypsum board
- Cement fibreboard

- Use proposed design method without including the mass and stiffness of the drywall and the topping





# Floor Vibration



*CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 Recommendations*

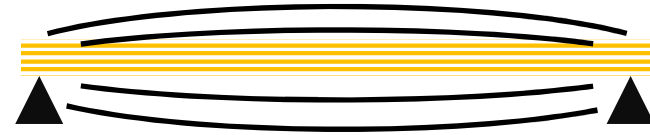
With heavy topping (  $>20$  lb./ft.<sup>2</sup> )

## *Preliminary Recommendations*

- Use the design method without including the mass and stiffness of the heavy topping to determine the span
- Reduce the bare floor stiffness and mass by 10%



# Floor Vibration



Occupant perception of vibration a recommended design consideration

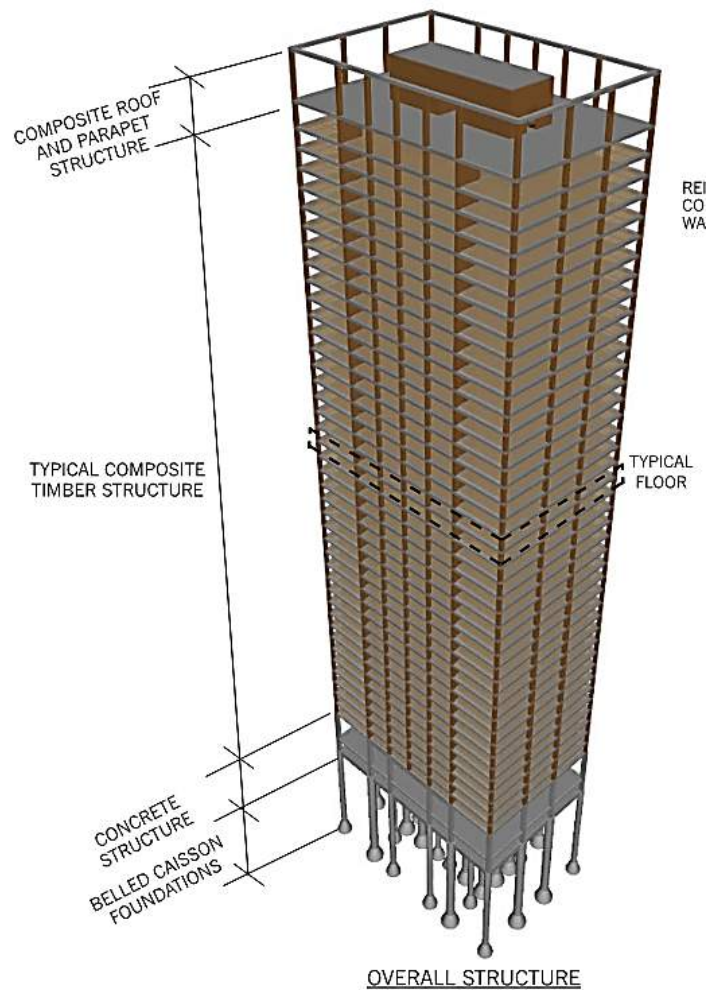
**CLT Handbook, Chapter 7** recommends natural frequencies above 9 Hz and:

$$\text{Max span } L \leq \frac{1}{12.05} \frac{(EI_{app})^{0.293}}{(\rho A)^{0.122}}$$

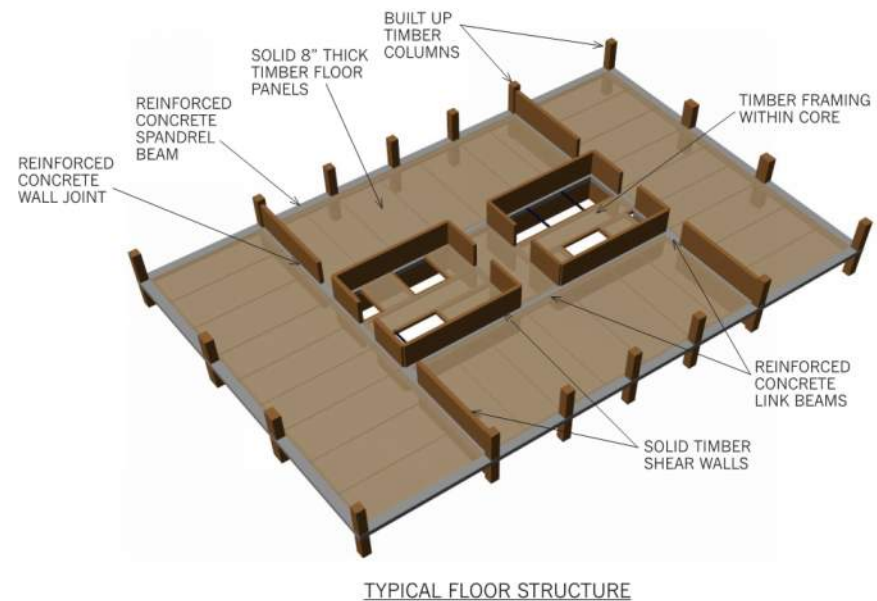
Limitations:

- Potential advantages of topping slab stiffness not taken into account
- Potential advantages of multiple spans or other restraining details
- Long spans can be uneconomical to keep natural frequency above 9 Hz.

# SOM Timber Tower

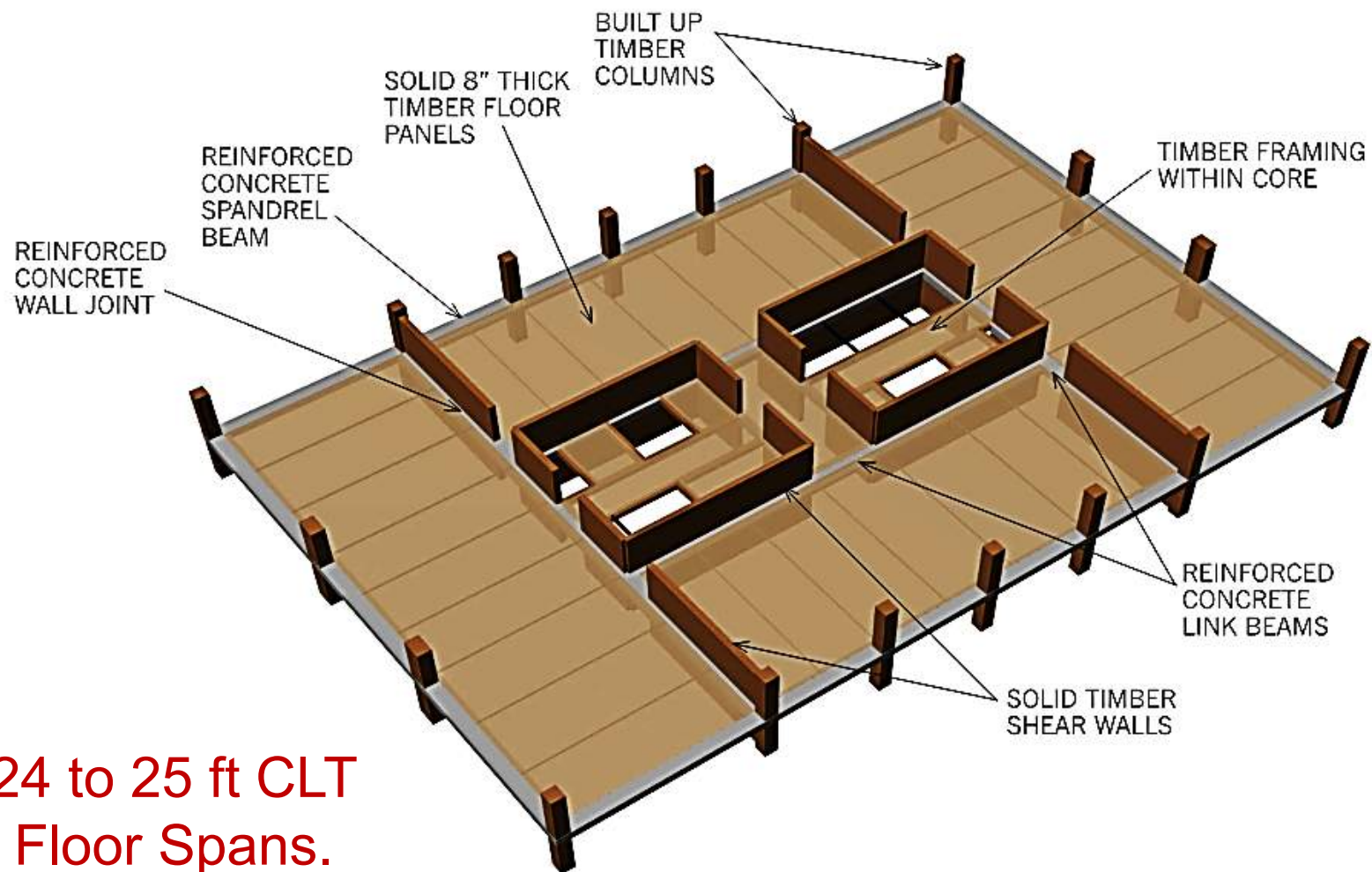


## Prototype Building



Source: *SOM Timber Tower Research Project*, May 2013

# SOM Timber Tower



TYPICAL FLOOR STRUCTURE

24 to 25 ft CLT  
Floor Spans.  
6.5 to 8.5 Hz Range

# Alternative Vibration Criteria

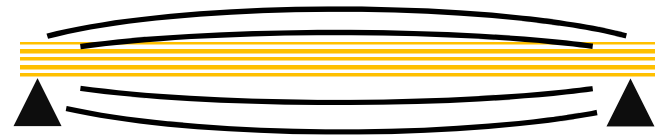
---

Long spans can be designed using **CLT Handbook Criteria**:

Keep Fundamental Frequency  $> 9$  hz

Idealized as Single Span, Simply Supported Panels

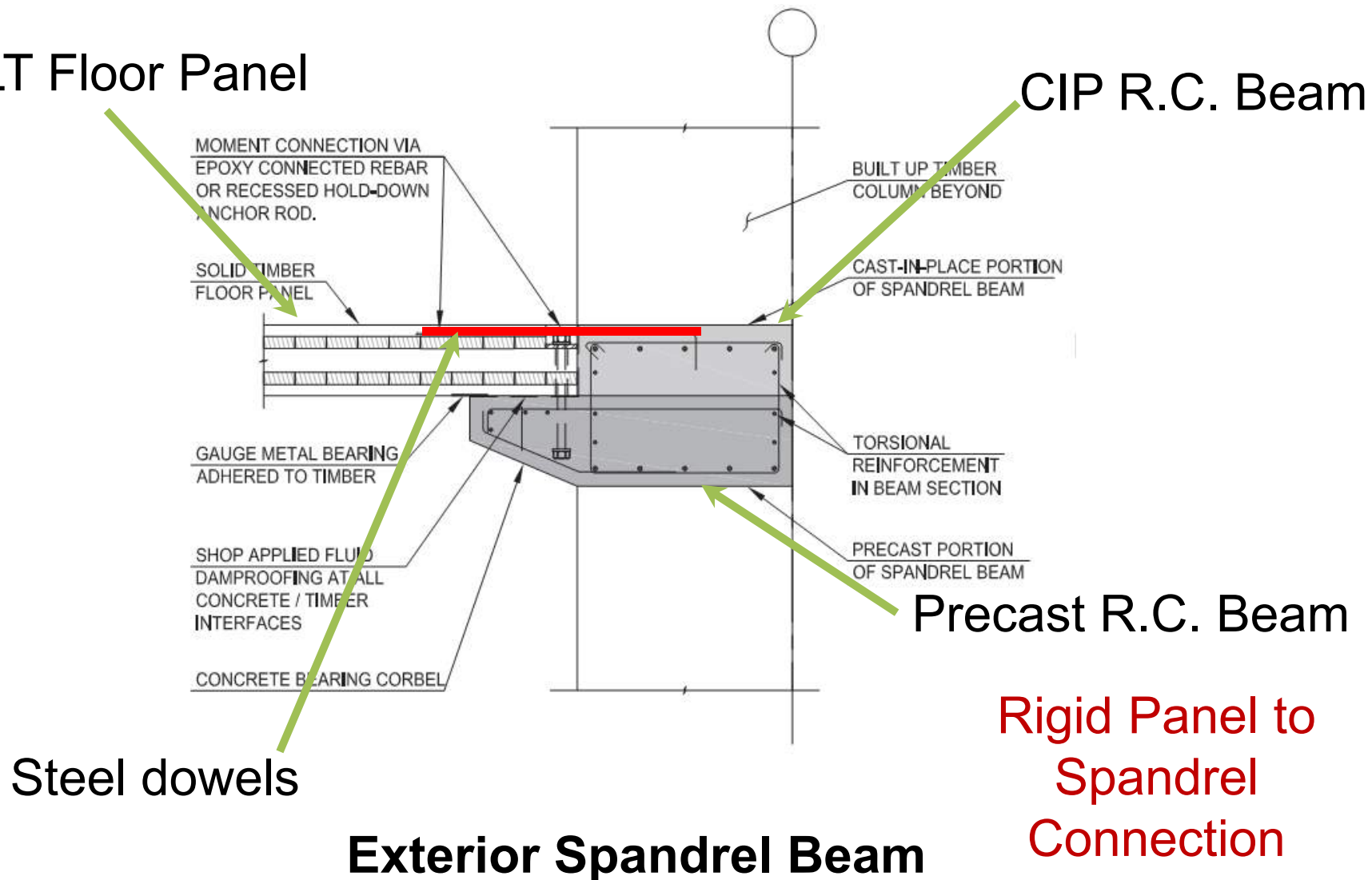
24 foot spans result in ~12 inch thick or greater CLT floors.



# SOM Timber Tower

CLT Floor Panel

CIP R.C. Beam



# Alternative Vibration Criteria

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Alternative: Use acceptance criteria which address low frequency floors and alternative support configurations.

*Calibration of dynamic modeling  
with physical testing valuable*



# Alternative Vibration Criteria

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SOM Timber Tower used:

AISC Design Guide 11, Velocity Criteria (Chapter 6)

Acceptance Criteria selected:

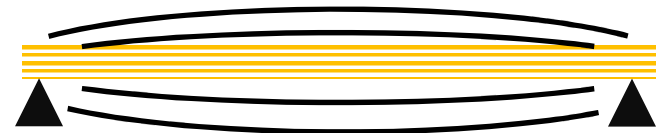
$\leq 16,000 \mu\text{-in/sec}$  w/ moderate walking in living areas

$\leq 8,000 \mu\text{-in/sec}$  w/ slow walking pace in sleeping areas.

AISC DG 11 suggests approximate velocity limit of human perception  
 $8,000 \mu\text{-in/sec}$  at 8 Hz and above.

AISC Design Guide 11 not for dynamic modeling of CLT floors

*SOM Timber Tower Resulted in 8" Thick Floor*

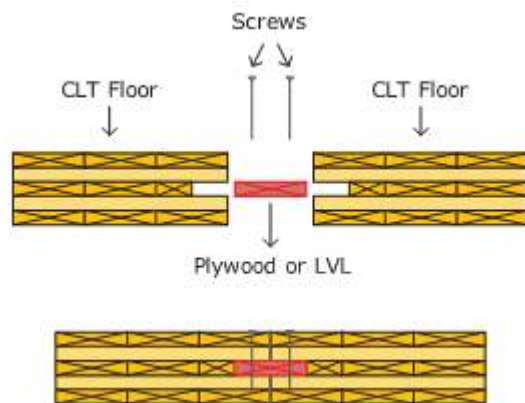




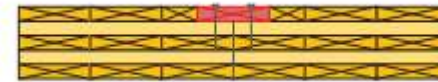
# Connection Styles

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## Floor Panel to Floor Panel



Interior Spline



Single Surface Spline



Double Surface Spline

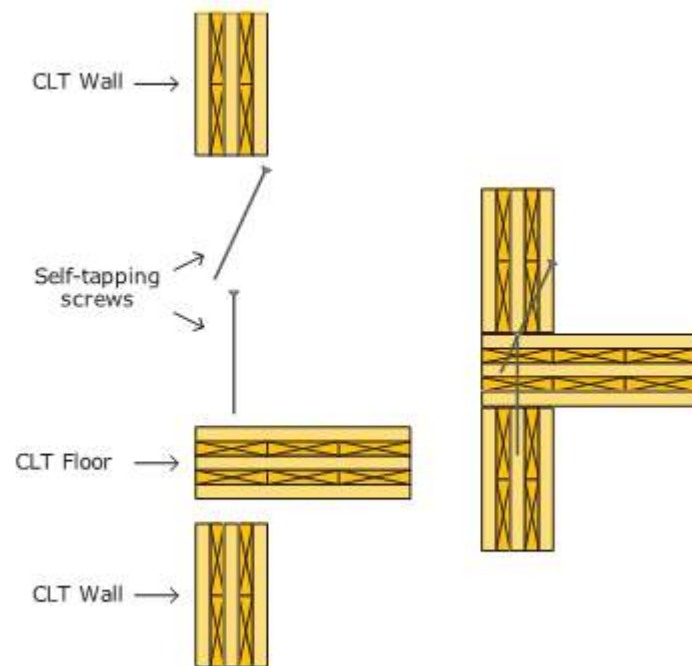


Half Lap

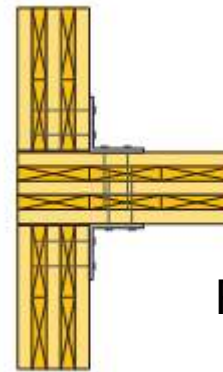
# Connection Styles

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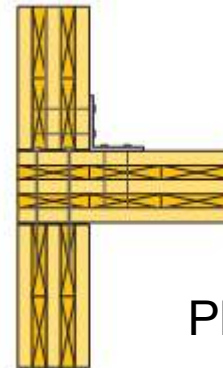
## Floor Panel to Wall



Platform Frame  
With Only Screws



Platform Frame with  
Double Brackets

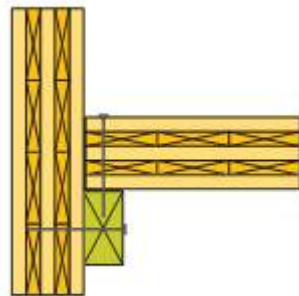
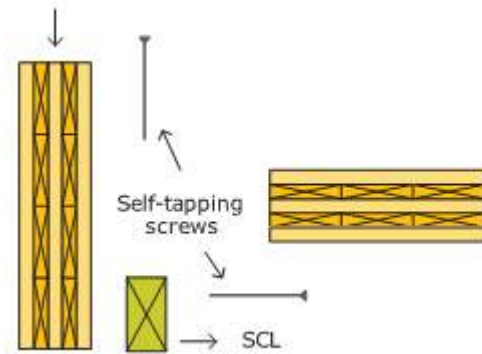


Platform Frame with  
Single Brackets

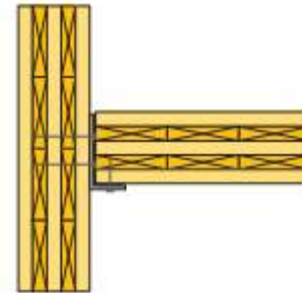
# Connection Styles

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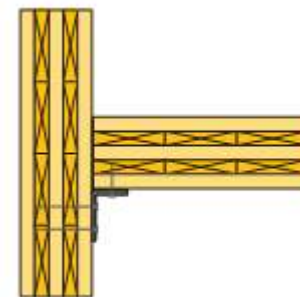
## Floor Panel to Wall



Balloon Frame  
With Supporting  
Ledger



Platform Frame with  
Hidden Bracket



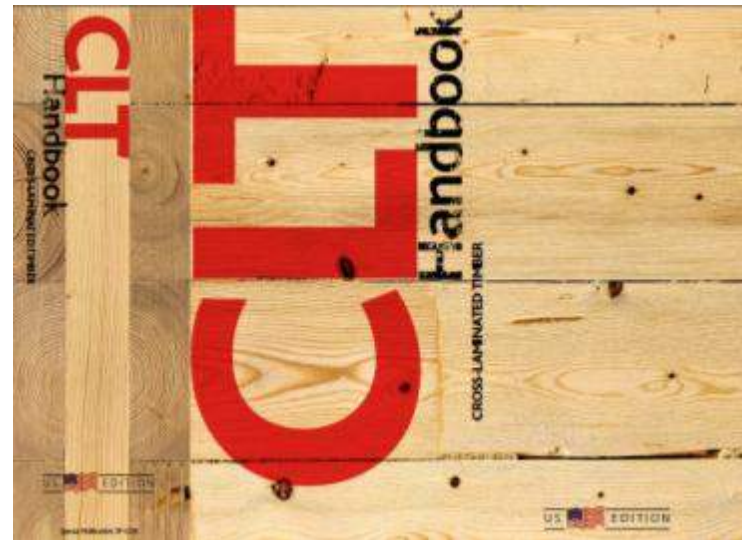
Platform Frame with  
Bracket

# US CLT Handbook

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- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Introduction  | 9. Sound          |
| 2. Manufacturing | 10. Enclosure     |
| 3. Structural    | 11. Environmental |
| 4. Lateral       | 12. Lifting       |
| 5. Connections   |                   |
| 6. DOL and Creep |                   |
| 7. Vibration     |                   |
| 8. Fire          |                   |

[www.masstimber.com](http://www.masstimber.com)





**WoodWorks**



## **CLT Floor Design: Strength, Deflection and Vibrations**

**Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE**

[Scott.Breneman@WoodWorks.org](mailto:Scott.Breneman@WoodWorks.org)

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# Questions?

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**Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE**  
**Scott.Breneman@woodworks.org**

Project Assistance also available  
at [help@woodworks.org](mailto:help@woodworks.org)

