



11/22/19

OX Engineered Products Response to APA Advisory SP-1186

OX Engineered Products, LLC (“OX”) manufactures performance building products for the North American market providing several sheathing and building envelope functions including Thermo-ply Structural Sheathing, OX-IS Structural Insulated Sheathing, and other insulated sheathing products intended for light-frame construction. OX building products have been used successfully in these and many other applications for several decades.

Recently, the APA has published a “Product Advisory SP-1186” in their November 22, 2019 “APA Update” attacking competing structural sheathing products. The first APA advisory, SP-1172, which has essentially identical information, was published in October of 2015 and reissued in July of 2018. Hence, APA repeats its opinions, with the intent that repetition makes the market believe it is true. This advisory is merely an attempt to constrain competition in an area where OSB had previously held the market advantage and is now losing share to competitive products.¹

Design values listed in OX’s Technical Evaluation Reports, by law, utilizes existing code supported provisions such as established risk factors². OX adheres to the ICC model building codes (IBC 104.11) using code compliant equivalency testing. This testing establishes OX design properties in direct comparison to legally defined OSB design values, so that OSB and all competing products are using the same design value basis.³ OX believes competition is always in our customers’ best interests.

In review of APA Advisory SP-1186, OX maintains the following critiques of the APA claims:

1. The APA is not a code body, nor an ANSI ISO/IES accredited product certification body.⁴
2. Missing in APA’s advisory is a tremendous amount of testing and analysis that has been performed with respect to OSB.⁵
3. This notice illustrates tested deflections to be 9 inches or greater (Figures 5 and 6), which intentionally distorts sheathing performance. Typical wall performance will never see these extreme deformations. This was done to make test photos appear worse than actual performance.
4. Tested assemblies utilize a steel beam to lead the top plate which also distorts reliable test results and does not follow the test provisions of ASTM E564.
5. The APA is attacking all competitive structural sheathing in this latest notice, amplifying the intentional defamation of their competitive industry to maintain market share.

This latest notice is the APA’s biased representations which are merely intended to confuse the market regarding OX Engineered Products structural sheathing and intended to aid the APA’s membership. OX Engineered Products utilizes certified 3rd party testing and sealed professional specialty engineering to evaluate and confirm products meet or exceed code compliance requirements for all applications. For additional information please visit our website at www.oxengineeredproducts.com and the information provided in the links below.

Sincerely,

Daniel Darling
Technical Manager, OX Engineered Products

Chris Sauline
Chief Operating Officer, OX Engineered Products

¹ <https://www.sbcmag.info/news/2018/jul/through-attorney-apa-responds-threat-osb-market-share>

² <http://www.sbcmag.info/news/2015/oct/why-sbca-sbcri-publishing-investigative-reports>

³ <http://www.sbcmag.info/news/2018/jul/why-benchmark-and-equivalency-testing-are-so-important>

⁴ <https://www.ansi.org/Accreditation/product-certification/DirectoryListingAccredited?menuID=1&prgID=1>

⁵ <http://www.sbcmag.info/news/2018/jul/apa-president-addresses-standard-osb-equivalency-factors>