

# **ALTERNATE BUILDING MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS**

## **PURPOSE**

This information bulletin clarifies the code approval requirements for building materials and products used in construction as specified in the current California Building Code (CBC), California Residential Code (CRC), and California Existing Building Code (CEBC) as amended by the City of Los Angeles, referenced here as codes.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Approved Listing Agency** Any agency approved by the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) which is in the business of listing and labeling and which makes available at least an annual published report of such listings in which specific information is included that the product has been tested to recognized standards and found to comply. (CBC 202)

**Approved Product Certification Agency** – Any agency which is accredited under ISO/IEC Standard 17065, *Conformity Assessment-Requirements for Bodies Certifying Products, Processes and Services*, by a US or Canada based accreditation body that is signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) with ISO/IEC 17065 in its Level 3 scope and that accredits bodies certifying building materials and products. Approved product certification agencies can be found through the following links:

[https://www.iasonline.org/?post\\_type=ias\\_certificate&orderby=org&order=ASC&s=&global=&service=13573&keyword=&number=&org=&city=&state=&country=&zip=&status=accredited](https://www.iasonline.org/?post_type=ias_certificate&orderby=org&order=ASC&s=&global=&service=13573&keyword=&number=&org=&city=&state=&country=&zip=&status=accredited)

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

**Label** - An identification applied on a product by the manufacturer that contains the name of the manufacturer, the function and performance characteristics of the product or material, and the name and identification of an approved agency and that indicates that the representative sample of the product or material has been tested and evaluated by an approved agency (see Section 1703.5, “Manufacturer’s designation” and “Mark”). (CBC 202)

**Labeled** - Equipment, materials or products to which has been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above labeled items and whose

labeling indicates either that the equipment, material or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose. (CBC 202)

**Listed** - Equipment, materials, products or services included in a list published by an organization that has been approved by LADBS and concerned with evaluation of products or services that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services and whose listing states either that the equipment, material, product or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.(CBC 202)

## **REQUIREMENTS**

All building materials and products shall be recognized for use and as prescribed by the codes.

### **MATERIAL/PRODUCT CERTIFICATION REPORTS**

The LADBS “approves” building materials/products by:

- Accepting product labels and listings by LADBS approved listing agencies, or
- Accepting product certification reports by an accredited product certification agency

**Note:** For building components that are part of a building lateral force resisting system (LFRS), the Evaluation Report, by an approved product certification agency, shall indicate compliance with the seismic and wind requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

A product certification report, by an accredited product certification agency, is evidence that a product has met the code requirements/standards.

A product certification report for materials/products shall be based on the current model codes based on plan submittal dates. For example, building permit applications filed after January 1, 2023, are required to comply with the 2021 IBC as modified by the 2022 CBC.

Product certification reports shall bear the mark of the accreditation body with which the issuing certification agency is accredited.

### **MATERIAL/PRODUCT LISTING AND LABELING**

Certain materials/products are required, by the codes, to be “listed” or “labeled”. These materials/products do not require a product certification report by an approved product certification agency, so long as the manufacturer of these products provides code compliance proof as follows:

- When the codes require the material/product to be “listed”, a listing by a City of Los Angeles approved listing agency is required.
- When the codes require the material/product to be “labeled”, the product shall be labeled by a City of Los Angeles approved listing agency.

#### **FABRICATOR APPROVAL**

Product approval from an accredited product certification agency does not waive fabricator approval requirements per Section 1704.2.5 of the 2022 California Building Code as amended by the City of Los Angeles.

**Table 1 – Examples of Materials/Products That Require a Product Certification Report**

Product Certification Report Required <sup>2</sup>	Product Certification Report and Compliance with LA City Amendments <sup>1</sup>
Joist Hangers Open Web Truss I-Joist Rebar Mechanical Splice LVL - Laminated Veneer Lumber PSL – Parallel Strand Lumber Truss Plates Skylights Gypsum sheathing Suspended ceilings meeting prescriptive requirements specified in IB 2011-040 Non-Shrink Grout. Plastic Composite Decking & Guardrails Glass Guardrails Insulating Concrete forms Preservative treatment of wood for decay and termite protection Glass fiber lath (not used in shear walls) Shot pins (no diaphragm connection) Mortar/grout admixture Clay/concrete roofing tiles Cold Formed Steel Joist Hangers Interior non-load bearing partitions (no in-plane shear) Cold formed Steel Studs Fiberglass Pool/Spa Fire Retardant Treated Wood Access Floors Roof Pedestals supporting non-combustible tile Low profile pedestals Fire Classification Roofing/Walking Deck	Metal/Steel Deck Fiber reinforcement for concrete/masonry strengthening Expansion Bolt (concrete/masonry) Adhesive Anchor (concrete/masonry) Concrete Screw Anchor Walk-in-cooler (over 400 sf.) Pre manufactured shear Wall Prefab Shear panel – truss plate Shrinkage compensating device Moment Frame Connection Curtain Wall Connectors in plane Shot Pins for diaphragm connection Shear Wall Panels Sill plate connector (bent strap) Hold down Helical Foundation Pier for Remedial Repair Exterior Insulation and Finishing System (EIFS) Shear Resistor Rails Shear Connector Studs (Welded Studs) Veneer anchors Wood Screws Nails Sandwich panel curtain wall Headed Rebar for reduced lap splice Post Tensioning Anchor System

1. For building components that are part of a building lateral force resisting system (LFRS), the product certification report, by an approved product certification agency, shall show compliance with the seismic and wind requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code
2. These materials/products are valid for use when code compliance is proven with a current product certification report by an approved product certification agency.