

June 18, 2010
AFM061710-32

Todd Bergstrom, Ph.D.
V.P. Technology
AFM Corporation
17645 Juniper Path, Suite 260
Lakeville, MN 55044

RE: SIP SHEARWALL THICKNESS

Dear Mr. Bergstrom:

The Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) shearwall assembly evaluated in NTA Assembly Report AFM031809-18 utilizes 4x6 #2 DF solid sawn lumber splines and chords and has a foam core thickness of 5.5-inches. This assembly design shear strength may also be applied to shearwall assemblies of similar construction that utilized thicker SIP panels and deeper solid sawn lumber splines and chords.

Like conventional shearwalls, the strength and behavior of SIP shearwalls is dictated by the edge fastening of the structural sheathing. Accordingly, thicker shearwall assemblies must be constructed using fasteners installed as specified for the 6.5-inch thick assembly and the solid sawn lumber splines and chords must have a depth equal the core thickness of the thicker panel so that no gap exists between the spline/chord and facing. The foam core of the SIP, which serves to brace the structural sheathing against shear buckling, will provide equivalent shear performance for core thickness greater than the 5.5-inch thickness specified in the report.

If you have any additional questions or comments regarding this matter please contact me at your convenience at (574) 773-7975.

Respectfully,

Eric J. Tompos, P.E., C.B.O.
NTA, Inc.

