

A P A

The Engineered Wood Association

PRODUCT GUIDE



ORIENTED STRAND BOARD

APA

The Engineered Wood Association

DO THE RIGHT THING RIGHT™

Wood is good. It is the earth’s natural, energy efficient and renewable building material.

Engineered wood is a better use of wood. It uses less wood to make more wood products.

That’s why using APA trademarked plywood, oriented strand board and APA EWS glued laminated timbers is the right thing to do.

A few facts about wood.

- **We’re not running out of trees.** One-third of the United States land base – 731 million acres – is covered by forests. About two-thirds of that 731 million acres is suitable for repeated planting and harvesting of timber. But only about half of the land suitable for growing timber is open to logging. Most of that harvestable acreage is open to other uses, such as camping, hiking, hunting, etc. Forests fully cover one-half of Canada’s land mass. Of this forestland, nearly half is considered productive, or capable of producing timber on a sustained yield basis. Canada has the highest per capita accumulation of protected natural areas in the world – areas including national and provincial parks.
- **We’re growing more wood every day.** American landowners plant more than two billion trees every year. In addition, millions of trees seed naturally. The forest products industry, which comprises about 15 percent of forestland ownership, is responsible for 41 percent of replanted forest acreage. That works out to more than one billion trees a year, or about three million trees planted every day. This high rate of replanting accounts for the fact that each year, 27 percent more timber is grown than is harvested. The Canadian forest products industry annually harvests only 4/10 of one percent of the country’s productive forestlands. Canada’s replanting record shows a fourfold increase in the number of trees planted between 1975 and 1990.

▪ **Manufacturing wood is energy efficient.** Wood products made up 47 percent of all industrial raw materials manufactured in the United States, yet consumed only 4 percent of the energy needed to manufacture all industrial raw materials, according to a 1987 study.

Material	Percent of Production	Percent of Energy Use
Wood	47	4
Steel	23	48
Aluminum	2	8

▪ **Good news for a healthy planet.** For every ton of wood grown, a young forest produces 1.07 tons of oxygen and absorbs 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide.

Wood. It’s the right product for the environment.



NOTICE:
The recommendations in this guide apply only to panels that bear the APA trademark. Only panels bearing the APA trademark are subject to the Association’s quality auditing program.



From squeak-free floors to solid wall and roof sheathing, oriented strand board (OSB) is helping to shape how the world builds. OSB is engineered for strength and designed for a variety of applications. For about two decades, OSB has been a proven performer for many residential and nonresidential applications. Its performance has allowed OSB to gain entry into new markets, including materials-handling applications, the structural insulated panel industry, do-it-yourself projects, wood I-joist products, and industrial applications such as furniture, and trailer liners.

This brochure from APA – The Engineered Wood Association describes OSB’s features, uses, quality assurance, and performance. APA began providing a quality assurance program for OSB in 1981 and has led the engineered wood industry in OSB research and quality programs ever since. The APA trademark is the manufacturer’s assurance to you that the OSB panel is produced to APA’s stringent requirements as well as to U.S. and Canadian standard requirements. The APA trademark also assures you that an OSB manufacturer is committed to quality.

CONTENTS

Product Features 4

Quality Assurance 6

OSB Applications
and Common Sizes 7

Span Ratings 9

OSB Storage and Handling . . . 11

APA Provides Quality
Assurance and More 11

PRODUCT FEATURES

OSB is made from real wood

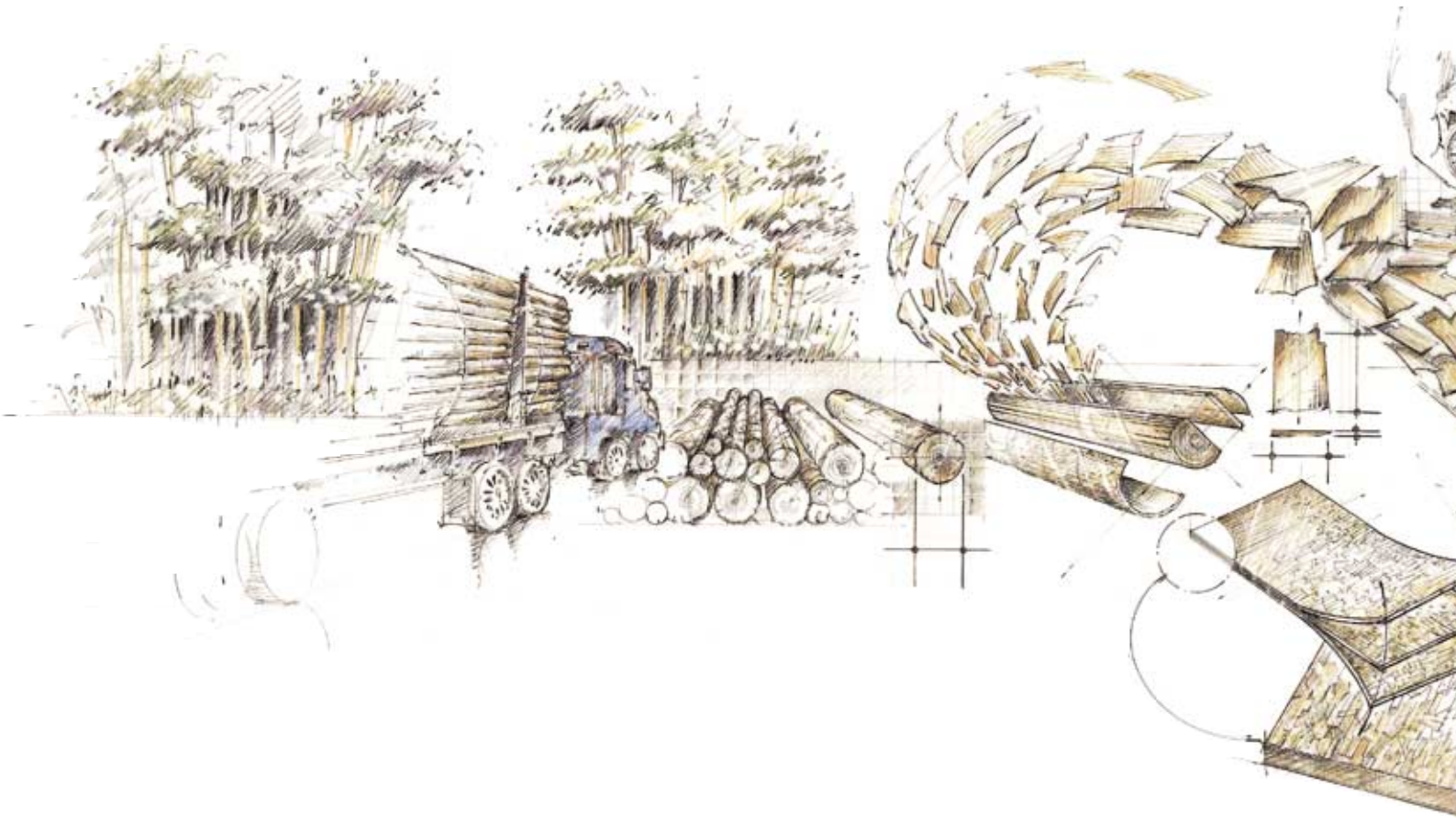
OSB is manufactured in a cross-oriented pattern similar to plywood to create a strong, stiff structural panel. OSB is composed of thin rectangular-shaped wood strands arranged in layers at right angles to one another, which are laid up into mats that form a panel. OSB is bonded with fully waterproof adhesives. Most panels are also treated with a sealant on the panel edges to guard against moisture penetration during shipment. As an added feature, panels are often textured on at least one side to provide a slip-resistant surface.

OSB uses the wood resource very efficiently, in part because sheathing panels can be made using smaller, younger fast-growing tree species such as aspen and southern yellow pine. Plus, about 85-90 percent of a log can be used to make high quality structural panels, and the remainder – bark, saw trim, and sawdust – can be converted into energy, pulp chips or bark dust.

OSB manufacture

In the first phase of OSB manufacture, logs are debarked and cut to a uniform length. The logs are then turned into strands or wafers. The strands are dried with heat in a large rotating drum which is screened to grade for strands that are

the correct size. The dried strands are sprayed with liquid or powder resin and then transported in layers on a conveyer system to a forming line, where the layers are cross-oriented into mats. For face layers, the strands generally run along the panel, while for core layers, the strands are randomly oriented or run across the panel. The mats are trimmed to a workable size and then moved to a press where the wood strands and glue are bonded together under heat and pressure to create a structural panel. Finally, the panels are cut to size. Panels can be manufactured in many sizes simply by altering the cutting pattern.



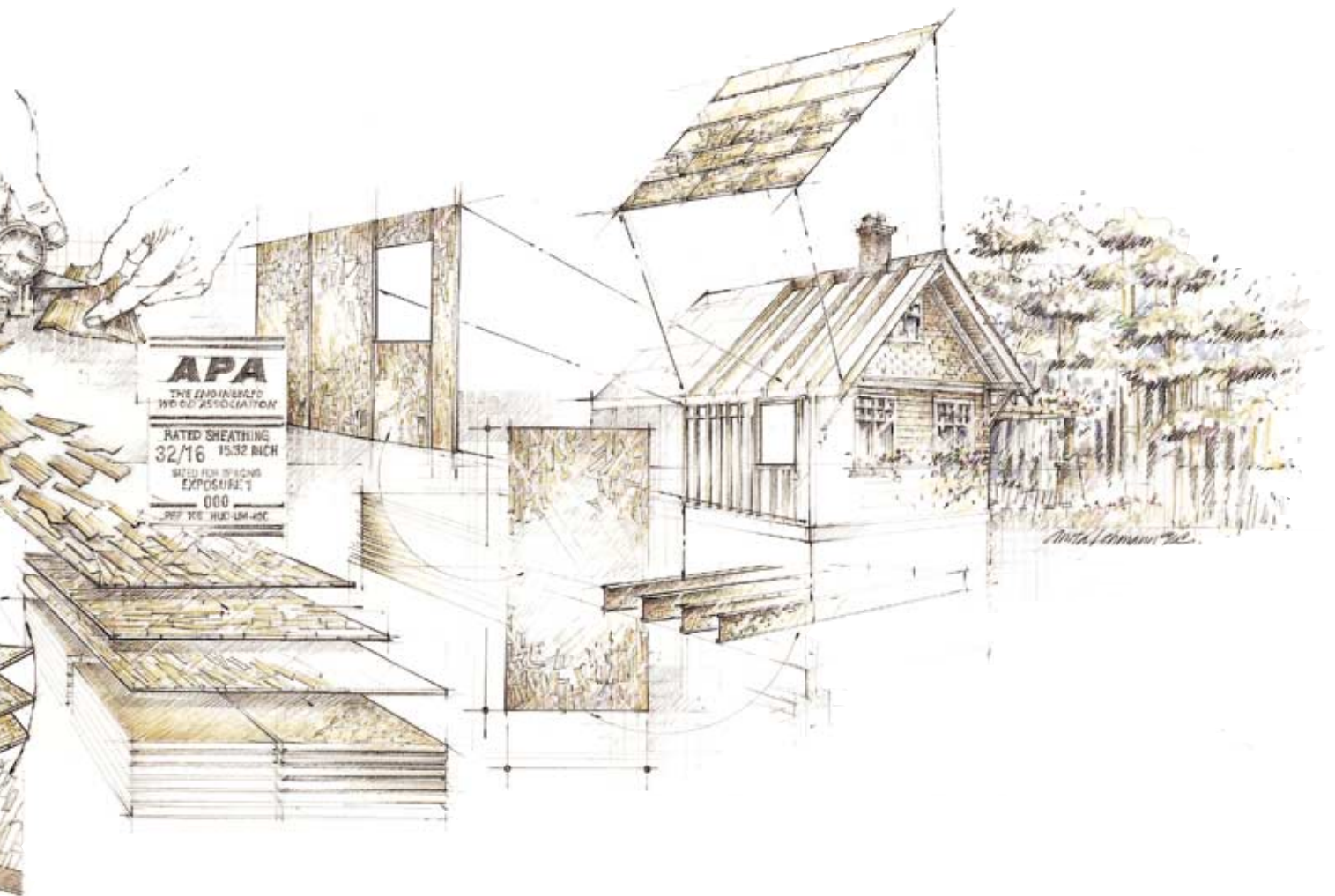
OSB is engineered to perform

Over a decade of laboratory tests and use in the field have proven that OSB is an excellent performer. Performance begins when the panel leaves the manufacturer. The panels remain flat and square during storage and transportation, so they arrive at the jobsite flat and easy to install; tongue-and-groove panels effortlessly fit together. Relative to their strength, OSB panels are light in weight and easy to handle and install. Frequently, the panels are textured or splatter-coated on one side to increase traction on the panel surface. This is especially useful when the panels are used for roof sheathing, because the

textured surface provides better footing for workers. OSB is designed to withstand exposure to the weather during construction.

OSB's performance continues long after the panel is put to use. The panels exhibit excellent fastener-holding capability, even when nailed close to the panel edge. OSB resists deflection, delamination and warping because the wood and adhesives work together to create a strong, dimensionally stable panel. OSB panels are made of real

wood, a natural insulator which provides excellent protection against heat loss and condensation. Many OSB panels are manufactured in large dimensions, minimizing the number of joints that can "leak" heat and admit airborne noise into the structure. In addition, the panels resist racking and shape distortion under high wind and earthquake forces.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

OSB panels that bear the APA trademark are manufactured under APA's rigorous quality assurance program, and are recognized by the major U.S. and Canadian building codes, as well as many international building codes. Each panel is "performance rated," which means the panel meets the performance requirements necessary for its end-use application.

Standards recognition in the United States

Most North American OSB panels are manufactured in conformance with Voluntary Product Standard PS-2 or APA PRP-108 performance standards. Panels, similar to those described in the representative trademarks in Figure 1, are evaluated for their performance in specific end-use markets. Panel applications described in PS-2 and APA PRP-108 include floors, walls, and roofs. These standards are recognized in the major model building codes in the United States: 1) National Building Code, 2) Uniform Building Code, 3) Standard Building Code, and the International Building Code* and International Residential Code*, or by National Evaluation Service Report NER-108.

* Scheduled for publication in the year 2000.

FIGURE 1

TYPICAL APA TRADEMARK

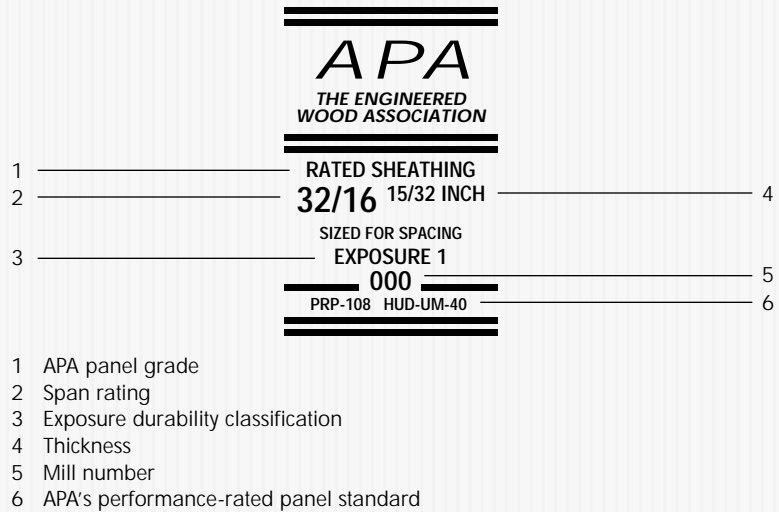
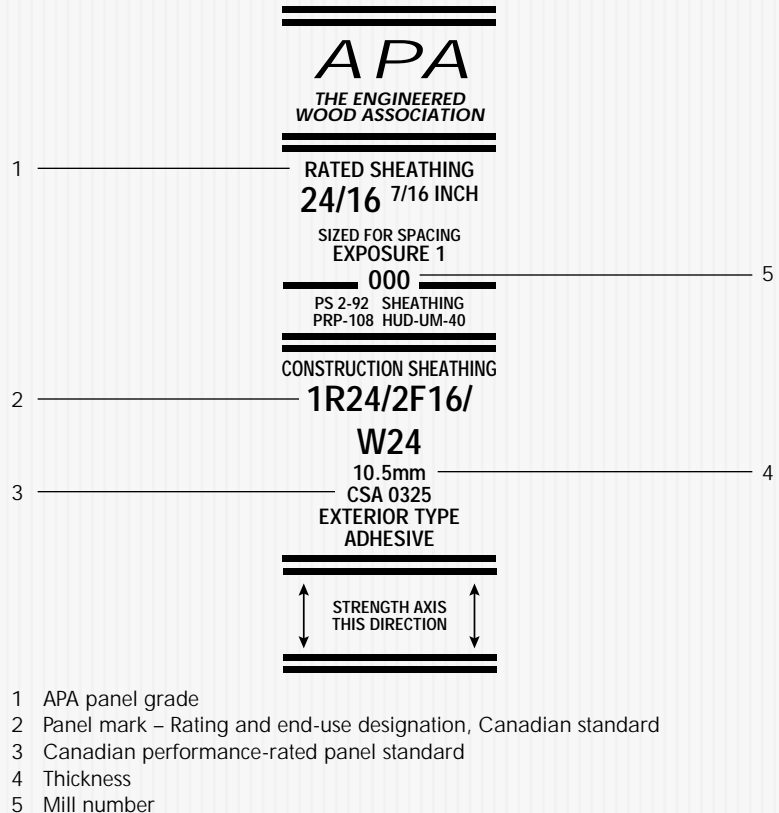


FIGURE 2

TYPICAL APA TRADEMARK, CONFORMING TO CSA-O325



Standards recognition in Canada

Many North American OSB panels are manufactured in conformance to the requirements of CAN/CSA-O325.0-92 Construction Sheathing. The panel trademark shown in Figure 2 is representative of the marks APA applies to OSB manufactured in accordance with the Canadian standard. OSB panels manufactured to the CAN/CSA-O325.0-92 standard are recognized in the National Building Code of Canada and other provincial codes for use in flooring, wall, and roof construction.

Performance standards

A performance standard sets performance requirements for a product based on that product's intended end use. The advantage of a wood structural panel performance standard is that it provides a common baseline of performance for all panel types, regardless of the manufacturing method. By placing emphasis on product performance rather than on manufacturing method, you – the consumer – stand to benefit.

A performance standard sets requirements based on a panel's end use, while a prescriptive standard defines minimum manufacturing requirements. The objective of a performance standard is to provide flexibility in manufacturing while assuring that a product will satisfy the requirements of the intended use.

Performance standards help to encourage more efficient use of resources because panel producers have more freedom to use innovative manufacturing techniques that use greater percentages of each log and allow for the utilization of a wide range of species.

The wood products industry was not the first to use performance standards and testing. The electronics, automo-

tive, and aircraft industries all use performance standards for a variety of parts and products. Panels manufactured under APA performance standards are rated for three end uses: sheathing for floors, walls, and roofs (APA Rated Sheathing); single-layer flooring (APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor); and exterior siding (APA Rated Siding).

The three basic criteria for qualifying OSB products under APA performance standards are: structural adequacy, dimensional stability, and bond durability. Performance criteria in each of these categories were established by building code requirements and through tests of panel products with known acceptance in the marketplace. These tests assure that panels possess the structural requirements necessary for uniform load, concentrated load, shear wall, diaphragm, and other demanding end-use applications. A partial list of typical tests includes: linear expansion, racking, uniform load, concentrated static load, impact resistance, direct fastener withdrawal, and lateral fastener strength.

OSB APPLICATIONS AND COMMON SIZES

OSB is most commonly used for traditional applications such as sheathing for roofs and walls, subfloors, and single-layer flooring. Its superior performance has allowed OSB to gain popularity in a variety of other areas, including: structural insulated panels, the webs for wood I-joists, materials-handling applications, furniture, and a variety of do-it-yourself projects.

OSB panels manufactured in North America are typically 4 x 8 feet in size. Metric panel sizes are also available from some manufacturers in

1.25 x 2.50 meters. Panels for use as exterior siding are also available in narrow lap widths of 6 inches (152 mm) or 8 inches (203 mm) and 16-foot (4.88 m) lengths. Because OSB is typically manufactured in large sizes, many manufacturers can custom-make panels in almost any size by simply altering the cutting pattern. Most OSB manufacturers make oversized panels, up to 8 x 24 feet, which are typically used for panelized roof systems or modular floors. In operations where oversized panels can be handled, they provide the advantage of reducing the total number of panels required to do a job, and thus speed installation time and cost.

OSB can be manufactured with square edges or with tongue-and-groove edges. Panel surface treatments may include texturing or sanding. Overlaid OSB for use as exterior siding also may be surface textured or grooved.

Exposure classifications

APA Performance Rated oriented strand board panels have a designated exposure classification, which identifies the panel's resistance to moisture exposure. Panels are classified into the following two groups:

Exterior panels have a fully waterproof bond and are designed for applications subject to permanent exposure to the weather or to moisture.

Exposure 1 panels have a fully waterproof bond and are designed for applications where long construction delays may be expected prior to providing protection. Approximately 95 percent of Performance Rated Panels are manufactured with this designation.



OSB for sheathing

OSB APA Rated Sheathing is intended for subflooring, wall sheathing, and roof sheathing. APA Rated Sheathing/Ceiling Deck can also be made using OSB; it is made so that one surface has an overlay, texturing, or grooving.

Common thicknesses for sheathing panels are: 5/16" (7.9 mm), 3/8" (9.5 mm), 7/16" (11.1 mm), 15/32" (11.9 mm), 1/2" (12.7 mm), 19/32" (15.1 mm), 5/8" (15.9 mm), 23/32" (18.2 mm), and 3/4" (19.0 mm).

OSB for flooring

OSB APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor is intended for single-layer flooring under carpet and pad. APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panels often have tongue-and-groove edges.

Common thicknesses for flooring panels are: 19/32" (15.1 mm), 5/8" (15.9 mm), 23/32" (18.2 mm), 3/4" (19.0 mm), 7/8" (22.2 mm), 1" (25.4 mm), and 1-1/8" (28.6 mm).



OSB for industrial and do-it-yourself applications

OSB is also widely used in industrial applications. It can be used for mezzanine floors and shelving in commercial and industrial structures. OSB also is used in furniture, reels, trailer liners, recreational vehicle floors, roofs and components. Industrial specifiers are encouraged to talk with APA mills about their particular panel needs.



SPAN RATINGS

Span Ratings for panels used in the United States

The Span Ratings in the trademarks on Performance Rated Panels denote the maximum permitted center-to-center spacing of supports, in inches, over which the panels should be installed in normal construction.

For APA Rated Sheathing and Sturd-I-Floor, the Span Rating applies when the long panel dimension is across supports, unless the strength axis is otherwise identified. The Span Rating for APA Rated Siding panels is for vertical installation; for lap siding, the rating applies with the long dimension across supports.

For APA Rated Sheathing, the Span Rating looks like a fraction, such as 32/16. The left-hand number denotes the maximum spacing of supports (in inches) when the panel is used for roof sheathing, and the right-hand number denotes the maximum spacing of supports when the panel is used for subflooring.

Sheathing panels with roof Span Ratings of 24 or greater may be used vertically or horizontally as wall sheathing over studs at 24 inches on center (o.c.). Those with roof Span Ratings of less than 24 may be used vertically or horizontally over studs at 16 inches o.c.

APA Rated Sheathing may also be manufactured specifically for use as wall sheathing. These panels are identified with Span Ratings of Wall-16 or Wall-24.

APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panels are designed specifically for single-floor (combined subfloor-underlayment) applications under carpet and pad and are manufactured with Span Ratings of 16, 20, 24, 32, and 48 oc.

APA Rated Siding is produced with Span Ratings of 16 and 24 oc. Both panels and lap siding may be used direct to studs or over non-structural sheathing (Sturd-I-Wall construction) or over nailable panel or lumber sheathing (double wall construction).

Building precisely at Span Ratings will meet minimum code requirements. For structures that will exceed minimum code requirements, specify panels with Span Ratings greater than the spacing of supports.

Allowable uniformly distributed live load at maximum span for APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor and APA Rated Sheathing is 100 psf live load for floors plus 10 psf dead load (65 psf total load for Sturd-I-Floor 48 oc) and 30 psf snow load for roofs (35 psf for Rated Sheathing 48/24 or greater) plus 10 psf dead load. Higher live load levels can be achieved by placing supports closer than the maximum span indicated on the APA Rated Sheathing or Sturd-I-Floor trademarks. Refer to APA's *Design/Construction Guide: Residential and Commercial* for these live load capacities.

Span Ratings for panels used in Canada

The Span Ratings in the trademarks on Performance Rated Panels denote the maximum recommended centre-to-centre spacing of supports, in inches,

over which the panels should be installed. The Span Rating, also referred to as "panel mark," applies when the long panel dimension runs across the supports, unless the strength axis is otherwise identified.

APA Rated Sheathing and APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panels intended for use in Canada are marked with one or more Span Ratings to show maximum support spacings for subfloors, roofs, and/or walls. Span Ratings for floors and roofs include a number and letter to indicate the end use, followed by a two-digit number, or span mark, representing the maximum allowable span in inches. An "F" in the Span Rating represents floors, while the "R" signifies roofs. In the case of floors, the prefix "1" indicates that the panel is designed for use as a single-layer floor (no separate underlay required under carpet and pad); a "2" indicates that an additional layer of panel-type underlay is required. For example, 2F16 is a Span Rating for a two-layer subflooring system (subfloor with underlay to be added), where supports are spaced a maximum of 16 inches on centre.

For roofs, the prefix "1" indicates that no additional edge support is required at maximum span; a panel with a "2" will require edge support such as panel clips at maximum span. A Span Rating of 2R24, therefore, represents use for roof applications with panel clips where supports are spaced a maximum of 24 inches on centre.

APA Rated Sheathing Span Ratings for walls include the letter "W" to identify end use followed by a two-digit number,

indicating the maximum support spacing. For example, a Span Rating of W16 appears on panels for use where the maximum spacing of wall framing members is 16 inches on centre.

Building at the indicated Span Ratings will ensure that minimum code requirements are met. For structures that will exceed minimum code requirements, specify panels with Span Ratings greater than the spacing of supports.

Allowable uniformly distributed live load at maximum span for APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor and APA Rated Sheathing is 4.8 kPa (100 psf) for floors plus 0.5 kPa (10 psf) dead load (3.1 kPa [65 psf] total load for Sturd-I-Floor 1F48) and 1.4 kPa (30 psf) for roofs (1.7 kPa [35 psf] for Rated Sheathing 2R48) plus 0.5 kPa (10 psf) dead load. Higher live load levels can be achieved by placing supports closer than the maximum span indicated on the APA Rated Sheathing or Sturd-I-Floor trademarks. Refer to APA's *Design/Construction Guide: Residential and Commercial*, Form E30, or to the *Residential Construction Guide, Canadian Edition*, form CE R200 (English) or Form CF R200 (French) for these live load levels.

PANEL MARKS FOR CONSTRUCTION SHEATHING PRODUCTS

Manufactured under Canadian Standard CAN/CSA-O325.0-92

TABLE 1

END-USE MARKS

For Panels Marked	Assumed End Use
1F	Subflooring (single-layer)
2F	Subflooring used with panel-type underlay
1R	Roof sheathing used without edge support
2R	Roof sheathing used with edge support
W	Wall sheathing

TABLE 2

PANEL MARKS

End Use Marks	Span Marks					
	16	20	24	32	40	48
	Recommended Framing Member Spacing					
	400 mm (16 in.)	500 mm (20 in.)	600 mm (24 in.)	800 mm (32 in.)	1000 mm (40 in.)	1200 mm (48 in.)
1F	1F16	1F20	1F24	1F32	*	1F48
2F	2F16	2F20	2F24	*	*	*
1R	1R16	1R20	1R24	1R32	1R40	1R48
2R	2R16	2R20	2R24	2R32	2R40	2R48
W	W16	W20	W24	*	*	*

* Not covered in CSA-O325

Note: (1) Multiple panel marks may be used on panels qualified for more than one end use, e.g., 1R24/2F16/W24 or 2R48/2F24.

OSB STORAGE AND HANDLING

OSB panels require proper storage and handling. Always protect ends and edges, especially tongue-and-groove products, from physical damage. When moving bundles of panels with a forklift, place the bundles on pallets or lumber bunks to avoid damaging them with fork tines. When transporting panels on open truck beds, cover the bundles with a tarp.

Whenever possible, store the panels under a cover. Keep sanded or other appearance-grade panels away from high traffic areas. If moisture absorption is expected, cut the steel band on the bundles to prevent damage.

When storing panels outside, stack them on a level surface on top of stringers or other blocking. Use at least three stringers. Never leave panels in contact with the ground. Cover the stack with plastic or a tarp. Make sure the bundle is well ventilated to prevent mildew.

APA PROVIDES QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MORE

APA – The Engineered Wood Association is a nonprofit trade association whose member mills produce approximately 70 percent of the structural wood panel products manufactured in North America.

Founded in 1933 as the Douglas Fir Plywood Association and widely recognized today as the voice of the structural wood panel industry, APA performs numerous functions and services on behalf of panel product users, specifiers, dealers, distributors, schools, universities, and other key groups.

Among the most important of these functions is quality auditing. The APA trademark appears only on products manufactured by APA member mills and is the manufacturer's assurance that the product conforms to the standard shown on the trademark. For OSB, that standard may be an APA performance standard, Voluntary Product Standard PS 2-92 Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels, or CAN/CSA-O325.0-92 Construction Sheathing. APA maintains five quality testing laboratories in key producing regions, and a 37,000-square-foot research center at Association headquarters in Tacoma, Washington.

But quality validation is only one of APA's many functions. The Association also:

- Operates the most sophisticated program for basic panel research in the world.
- Maintains an international network of field representatives to assist panel product users, specifiers, dealers, distributors, and other segments of the trade.

- Conducts informational buyer and specifier seminars and provides dealer and distributor sales training.
- Publishes a vast inventory of literature on panel grades, applications, design criteria, and scores of other topics.
- Advertises and publicizes panel product systems and applications in national trade and consumer magazines.
- Works to secure acceptance of structural wood panel products and applications by code officials, insuring agencies and lending institutions.
- Develops and maintains industry performance and product standards.
- Conducts in-depth market research and development programs to identify and penetrate new panel markets.
- Works in conjunction with other wood product industry organizations on solutions to problems of common concern.

Always insist on panels bearing the **mark of quality** – the APA trademark. Your APA panel purchase or specification is your highest assurance of quality. It is also an investment in the many trade services and programs that APA undertakes on your behalf.



ORIENTED STRAND BOARD P R O D U C T G U I D E

We have field representatives in most major U.S. cities and in Canada who can help answer questions involving APA trademarked products. For additional assistance in specifying APA engineered wood products, get in touch with your nearest APA regional office. Call or write:

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(Offices: Antwerp, Belgium; Bournemouth, United Kingdom; Hamburg, Germany; Mexico City, Mexico; Tokyo, Japan.) For Caribbean/Latin America, contact headquarters in Tacoma.

The product use recommendations in this publication are based on APA – The Engineered Wood Association's continuing programs of laboratory testing, product research, and comprehensive field experience. However, because the Association has no control over quality of workmanship or the conditions under which engineered wood products are used, it cannot accept responsibility for product performance or designs as actually constructed. Because engineered wood product performance requirements vary geographically, consult your local architect, engineer or design professional to assure compliance with code, construction, and performance requirements.

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