Pressure and Topical Applications and Treatments

Chemicals or processes involved with topical applications and treatments, including but not limited to fire coatings, may be detrimental to wood strength and/or corrosive to metal connectors. In addition, pressurized applications and treatments may cause excessive swelling and/or cupping in wood I-joists and laminated veneer lumber.

Boise Cascade has not evaluated the effects of any pressure or topical applications or treatments on its AJS® Joist, BCI® Joist and Versa-Lam® products.

Determining the effects of pressure or topical applications and treatments, as well as all performance claims, is the responsibility of the coating manufacturer and/or treater. ICC-ES® AC14 *Acceptance Criteria for Prefabricated Wood I-joists* is a relevant reference when evaluating the effects of fire coatings on wood I-joists and metal connectors.

Boise Cascade contracts with APA-The Engineered Wood Association for certification of our AJS® Joist, BCI® Joist and Versa-Lam® products. APA has published a Technical Topics (TT-126) on *Applicability of APA Trademarks on EWP Surface-Coated with Fire Protective Coatings* indicating, unless specifically approved, the APA trademark does not apply after the application of a fire protective system (see page 2).

Boise Cascade will honor warranty claims on its products which arise from non-conformities due to manufacturing. For the complete warranty, please see Boise Cascade's sales terms and conditions at www.bc.com/terms-conditions/sales-terms-and-conditions/.

This technical note supersedes all previous technical note publications and policy letters regarding the application of pressure or topical applications and treatments, including but not limited to fire coatings, on Boise Cascade products.

APA Policy on Fire Protective Systems

March 7, 2017

Over the last several years, APA staff has received inquiries concerning the use of fire protective systems on prefabricated wood I-joists and other engineered wood products.

Fire protective systems include coatings, chemical treatments, laminates and other products designed to improve wood products' response to fire. Given the proprietary nature of almost all fire protective systems, it is APA's position that the APA trademark is applicable only to the base product and does not apply after the application of the fire protective system. Certification and inspection of such fire protective systems are outside the scope of APA. The performance characteristics of the wood product after application of the proprietary fire protective systems are the responsibility of the fire protective system company and its certification agency. This position applies to both field-applied and factory-applied systems.

Q&A Concerning the Fire Protective Systems:

1) ***Is the APA trademark still valid after application of a fire protective system?*** The APA trademark applies to the base product. The structural and fire performance characteristics of the product after application of a fire protective system should be obtained from the company providing the fire protective system. In some cases structural performance may be assessed by APA (see Question 4 below).

2) ***Can a fire protective system company reapply the APA trademark that came on the base product?*** No. APA trademarks are licensed and protected, and the application of APA trademarks is subject to license agreements, membership requirements, auditing, and ongoing evaluation.

3) ***Are there any instances when APA will approve the reapplication of the APA trademark in the field?*** No. Certification of products in the field is outside the scope of APA activities.

4) ***Will APA approve the application of the APA trademark to a wood product with a fire protective system in an APA member's factory?*** APA may approve the application of the APA trademark only when application of the fire protective system is performed in a member's manufacturing facility audited by APA. However, APA requires the structural properties of the finished wood product be evaluated for compliance with applicable standards. Even so, APA is not accredited for testing or auditing the fire performance of the fire protective system. As a result, APA cannot make fire performance claims on products with fire protective systems.

5) ***Will APA evaluate products that incorporate a factory-applied fire protective system as part of the APA member production process at the member mill?*** The response to Question 4 applies.

7011 South 19th Street • Tacoma, Washington 98466-5333 • Phone: (253) 565-6600 • Fax: (253) 565-7265 •
www.apawood.org