



Technical Bulletin

OSB PANEL MARKING

Beginning in August 2008, the NAHB Research Center will be updating its certification mark on OSB panels from manufacturers in its PS2 product certification programs.

The structural panel industry has consistently produced products that meet thickness tolerances specified in Voluntary Product Standard PS2 issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). PS2 thickness tolerances have been used successfully for many years and the standard has been referenced frequently in state and national building codes. However, earlier this year, the California Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) began "red tagging" structural plywood panels at the retail distribution level. The product tagged by DMS was found to be out of compliance for thickness when interpreted according to the dimensional tolerances specified in NIST Handbook 130, as there are discrepancies between NIST 130 tolerances and PS2 tolerances. Those discrepancies have made it necessary for the panel industry to change their certification marks to comply with California regulations. Over the next several months, structural plywood and OSB producers will be changing their certification marks.

The change in the mark is to ensure the dimensional information stamped on the panels is consistent with the NIST 130 Handbook, which defines tolerances for dimensional measurements such as panel thickness. Previous stamping protocol was to include the nominal thickness dimension required by PS2. Since the thickness tolerances specified in PS2 and NIST 130 are inconsistent with each other, products stamped with the PS2 thickness may be tagged as not complying with the NIST 130 requirements.

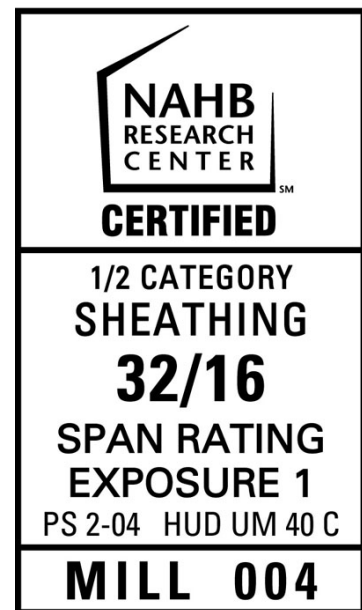
The new stamp format (as shown to the right) incorporates the following attributes:

- Panels will now be stamped with a thickness category (e.g., 1/2 Category) rather than a dimension (e.g., 1/2"). The category will correspond with the nominal thickness dimension that was previously included on stamps.
- A thickness measurement in decimal inches (e.g., 0.483 IN.) will be added to the stamp as well. This decimal dimension will be consistent with the NIST 130 requirements.
- **The products themselves will not change and will be consistent with PS2 specifications and requirements.**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has determined that the new stamp format is consistent with NIST 130 labeling requirements.

Elements of the new certification mark:

THICKNESS 0.483 IN.



Questions? Contact:
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