

Oregon
Interpretive Ruling 93-41
CONNECTION FRACTURE OF SURFACE SHEATHING ON WOOD DIAPHRAGMS

Requested By: PPPI MANUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

QUESTION

May occasional sheathing connectors be slightly overdriven in the construction of wood diaphragms?

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

1993 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Section 2513(a).

BACKGROUND

No structural element is better than its connections, and no connection is better than its fasteners. The common nail is a magnificent device for resisting earthquakes and lateral force. Great care should be taken to not overdrive nails in structural sheathing. Overdriven nails are typically installed by careless nail-gun operators. The Home Builders Association fears arbitrary interpretation of this code section by building inspectors.

Reference: SCAB minutes of 11/27/79

FINDINGS

The last paragraph of Section 2513(a) states "Diaphragm sheathing nails or other approved sheathing connectors shall be driven flush but shall not fracture the surface of the sheathing."

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The Structural Code Advisory Board ruled by interpretation:

It is not intended by this requirement minor indentation, such as caused by hammer blows, or occasional slightly overdriven nails, shall be cause for rejection. Rather, it is to provide the building official authority to disallow nailing which clearly jeopardizes the design shear strength of the connections, such as excessive splitting of the wood or fasteners consistently overdriven substantially beyond flush.

Interpretive Ruling 93-41 replaces PPPI-4054.

(signed September 28, 1993)

John Talbott, Chairman
Structural Code Advisory Board

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed October 1, 1993)

Gary J. Wicks, Administrator
Building Codes Agency