



Technical Bulletin #2

ROOF DECK REQUIREMENTS

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With many builders looking for affordable alternative construction materials, plywood is frequently being replaced by oriented strand board (OSB) for roof sheathing under tile roofs. Since the code requires only that the sheathing be adequate to support the expected loads, the APA span ratings will dictate suitability for use.

When asked about the use of 7/16" plywood or OSB for roof sheathing under our roof tile, we would advise that all of our fastening criteria have been established using only 1/2" or 15/32" CDX plywood. At this time we have done no testing to prove 7/16" sheathing will provide adequate uplift resistance for the fastening of roof tile.

What this means is that 7/16" should not be used if tiles are to be fastened directly to the roof deck. If battens are installed however, the tiles may be fastened to the battens and satisfy the UBC requirement that nails penetrate 3/4 inch or through the sheathing, whichever is less. Fastening requirements are defined in the 1997 UBC Table 15-D-2 or in Table 1B of the RTI/WSRCA Installation Manual (ICBO ER 6034P).

Local building codes may have specific policies or provisions regarding sheathing requirements that should be consulted prior to selection.