

Important Fire Safety Information Regarding Fire Rated Building Assemblies and Components of Fire Rated Assemblies

Certain Georgia-Pacific products are specified and acceptable for use as components in fire rated building assemblies, although the products themselves are not fire rated products and are not certified or labeled as having fire resistance or endurance characteristics. Such products include, but are not limited to, ½" DensShield® Tile Backer and Wood I Beam™ Joists.

Fire rated building assemblies are assemblies consisting of specified components and found, based on standards established by third party organizations, to provide certain levels of fire resistance, usually measured in time periods such as one-hour, two-hours, etc. when tested in a laboratory setting under certain controlled conditions and pursuant to certain procedures. The fact that a particular fire rated assembly has met specified test criteria related to fire resistance or endurance characteristics does not mean that any particular component of the assembly is fire rated or has fire resistance characteristics.

Because actual fires vary both from lab conditions and from fire to fire based on a wide variety of factors -- such as the amount, nature and distribution of available fuel and ventilation, as well as the size, configuration, and other characteristics of the compartment in which the fire occurs -- fire tests are not representative of actual fire conditions. Fire test results should be regarded as only one among a variety of factors used to assess the potential of an assembly to perform for the designated time in case of a fire. An assembly having a "one-hour" fire rating, for example, will not necessarily withstand the effects of an actual fire for one hour.

In the event of an actual fire, you should immediately take any and all action necessary for your safety and the safety of others without regard for any fire rating of any product or assembly.

Fire test standards often do not contain specific details for construction of the test furnaces or equipment to be used. Since test furnaces and equipment are subject to variation due to individual characteristics of construction, design and control, including, but not limited to, ventilation, atmospheric conditions, and general thermal tendencies, test results are typically not fully repeatable or reproducible from one laboratory to another. Test regimens and the manner in which the assembly is constructed may also vary.

Given the very different circumstances that may exist from one fire to another, the differences between conditions in an actual fire and the laboratory test conditions, and the inherent variability of fire tests, passing a fire test in a controlled laboratory setting does not mean that an assembly itself will necessarily provide "one-hour fire protection," "two-hour fire protection," or any other specified fire protection in an actual fire. It also does not mean that any given component of a fire rated assembly will provide "one-hour fire protection," "two-hour fire protection," or any other specified fire protection in an actual fire.

The current version of this document and any modification or amendment thereto supersede all prior versions of this document. The most current version of this document may be found at the Georgia-Pacific website (gp.com/safetyinfo) and is otherwise available upon request.

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