

Applicability Of APA Trademarks On Engineered Wood Products Surface-Coated With Fire Protective Coatings

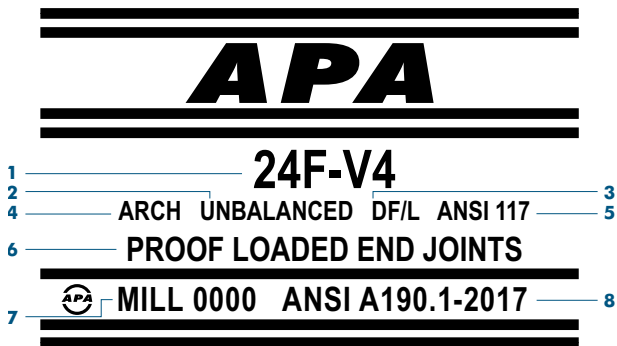
Over the last several years, APA staff has received inquiries concerning the use of fire protective coatings on the surface of engineered wood products trademarked by APA. Given the proprietary nature of almost all fire coatings, it is APA's position that the APA trademark is applicable only to the base product and does not apply after the application of the fire protective coating. Certification and inspection of such fire protective coatings are outside the scope of APA. The performance characteristics of the APA-trademarked engineered wood product after application of the proprietary fire protective coatings are the responsibility of the fire protective coating company and its certification agency. This position applies to both field-applied and factory-applied systems.

Q&A CONCERNING THE FIRE PROTECTIVE COATINGS:

1. **Is the APA trademark still valid after application of a fire protective coating?** The APA trademark applies to the base engineered wood products. The structural and fire performance characteristics of the engineered wood products after application of a fire protective coating should be obtained from the company providing the fire protective coating. In some cases, structural performance may be assessed by APA (see Question 4 below).
2. **Can a fire protective coating company reapply in the field 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 fire protective coating in an APA member's factory?** APA may approve the application of the APA trademark only when the application of the fire protective coating is performed in a member's manufacturing facility audited by APA. However, APA requires the structural properties of the finished engineered wood products be evaluated for compliance with applicable standards. Even so, APA is not accredited for testing or auditing the fire performance of the fire protective coating. As a result, APA cannot make fire performance claims on engineered wood products with fire protective coatings.
5. **Will APA evaluate engineered wood products that incorporate a factory-applied fire protective coating as part of the APA member production process at the member mill?** The response to Question 4 applies.
6. **What is the APA requirement when a mark of the fire protective coating is applied on the APA-trademarked engineered wood products?** The APA certification is delineated by the "double bars" shown on an APA trademark (see Figure 1). Any information outside of the "double bars" is beyond the scope of the APA certification. APA requires any marks, including a fire-coating mark or notation, be placed 6 inches or more away from the visible APA trademark to avoid any implication that the additional information is a part of the APA certification. There should not be any inference, implicit or explicit, that the finished product has been approved by APA.

Figure 1. Examples of APA trademarks.

A. GLULAM



1. Combination symbol.
2. Unbalanced layout.
3. The species or species group of lumber used.
4. Designation of appearance classification.
5. Applicable design and manufacturing specification.
6. Indicates the member has the required laminations proof loaded.
7. Mill number.
8. Identification of ANSI A190.1, the *Standard for Wood Products – Structural Glued Laminated Timber*.

B. STRUCTURAL COMPOSITE LUMBER



1. Qualified SCL grade (usually represented by design values).
2. APA mill number.
3. Product evaluation reports.
4. Standard specification for LVL.

C. I-JOIST



1. Date
2. APA manufacturer logo
3. Product depth and designation
4. APA mill number
5. Product evaluation reports

We have field representatives in many major U.S. cities and in Canada who can help answer questions involving APA trademarked products. For additional assistance in specifying engineered wood products, contact us:

APA HEADQUARTERS: 7011 So. 19th St. ▪ Tacoma, Washington 98466 ▪ (253) 565-6600 ▪ Fax: (253) 565-7265

APA PRODUCT SUPPORT HELP DESK: (253) 620-7400 ▪ E-mail: help@apawood.org

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DISCLAIMER: *The information contained herein is based on APA – The Engineered Wood Association’s continuing programs of laboratory testing, product research, and comprehensive field experience. Neither APA nor its members make any warranty, expressed or implied, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the use, application of, and/or reference to opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations included in this publication. Consult your local jurisdiction or design professional to assure compliance with code, construction, and performance requirements. Because APA has no control over quality of workmanship or the conditions under which engineered wood products are used, it cannot accept responsibility for product performance or designs as actually constructed.*

