

Laminated Finger-Joined Lumber (LFL)

In the Fall of 2021, the City of Cambridge Building Division became aware of the use of laminated finger-joined lumber (LFL) as structural members in buildings. LFL was being used in Part 9 residential buildings as a substitute to built-up dimensional lumber and other pre-engineered wood products such as LVL's.

Currently the use of LFL is not a prescriptive solution in the Ontario Building Code (OBC), or the National Building Code of Canada, unless identified with a grade stamp in accordance with NLGA special product standards SPS-1, "Fingerjoined Structural Lumber", or SPS-3, "Fingerjoined Stud Lumber – Vertical Use Only" (as described in A-9.23.10.4.(1) of Appendix A to the OBC).

The City was accepting LFL that was not grade marked with SPS-1 or SPS-3 (with conditions); however, effective immediately (today) the City will no longer be accepting the use of LFL as a structural member in buildings unless the LFL is:

- SPS-1/SPS-3 grade stamped
- Has obtained a valid CCMC Evaluation
- Has obtained a valid BMEC Authorization
- Has obtained a Ministers Ruling, or
- Until these products are prescriptively permissible through the OBC.

For Building Permits which have been previously issued with LFL lumber specified, the LFL specified will be accepted provided the framing inspection has been approved within 6 months (March 19, 2024).

As always thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions, please contact us.

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