

Important Fire Safety Information Regarding
HRA Finger-Jointed Lumber Products
Standards, Testing and Certification

Georgia-Pacific HRA (Heat-Resistant Adhesives) Finger-Jointed Lumber Products are manufactured for use as one component of an assembly/system (such as a wall) where a fire resistance rating is required in a residential, commercial, or other structure by an applicable building code. HRA finger-jointed lumber products are required by standards established by the American Lumber Standard Committee to be joined with adhesives which have provided at least one-hour fire resistance when tested in specified building assemblies/systems in a laboratory setting under certain controlled conditions and pursuant to certain American Forest & Paper Association procedures, which include ASTM E 119 fire test procedures.

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/system to perform as part of a structure. Even if HRA finger-jointed lumber or an assembly in which it is utilized is referred to using terms like "one-hour" or "has a one-hour fire rating," this does not mean that either a particular assembly/system incorporating HRA finger-jointed lumber or any given piece of HRA finger-jointed lumber will 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 may also vary.

Fire tests do not assess individual materials or products for their fire-resistance characteristics. Because fire tests typically are conducted on building assemblies/systems and not just on individual components, the ability of a particular product to pass a specific fire test may well depend on factors other than the fire resistance of the product itself. These factors include, but are not limited to, the other components used to construct the building system being tested and the manner in which the system is constructed.

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 or certifying or labeling a product as having a one-hour, two-hour, HRA, or other fire resistance rating and hence as acceptable for use in certain fire-rated assemblies/systems, does not mean that either a particular assembly/system incorporating the product or that any given piece of the product 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 piece of a product will pass a fire test.

Once a third party organization has certified that a finger-jointed lumber product manufactured by a particular company is joined by a heat-resistant adhesive, and therefore may be stamped HRA, and once that third party organization has obtained approval from the American Lumber Standard Committee for use of an HRA stamp on the company's product, the company is not required to conduct periodic fire tests as long as the company follows the procedures established by that third party organization to ensure that its product is manufactured in compliance with certain quality control procedures.

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.

Effective Date: 11/28/2007

Supersedes Date: 06/21/2007