

BULLETIN: SPECIAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURAL GLUED LAMINATED TIMBER

PURPOSE: To provide clarification whether or not all structural glued laminated timber (GL) 5-1/8 inch maximum width and 18 inch maximum depth with a maximum clear span of 32 feet is exempt from special inspection per the exception noted in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, Section 1705A.5.4.

DISCUSSION: The California Building Code adopts the ANSI A190.1: Structural Glued Laminated Timber as the reference standard for the fabrication and quality control of glued laminated members. ANSI A190.1 defines non-custom members as “members that are not manufactured for an individual job specification.” ANSI A190.1 also adopts by reference AITC 200: Manufacturing Quality Control Systems Manual which further defines that “non-custom members are those manufactured to a standard specification for distribution as stock or general inventory items.” Suppliers exist that provide stock or general inventory GLs for purchase by distributors, contractors or other 3rd parties who provide to jobsites. Custom members defined by ANSI A190.1 are “members that are manufactured for an individual job specification.” Members that are manufactured to specifications on DSA approved contract documents may not be manufactured and marked as non-custom.

Therefore, only members manufactured and marked in accordance with ANSI A190.1-12, Section 13.1¹ for non-custom members, and sourced from stock or general inventory by the contractor, may be exempt from special inspection in accordance with the exception. The project design professional must specify in the construction documents the members that may be non-custom and sourced from stock or general inventory. Any member that does not meet these criteria is a custom member and shall require special inspection regardless of size.

These requirements will be enforced on all plans and specifications being approved after the issuance date of this Bulletin, including projects currently being reviewed. For approved contract documents of projects pending start of construction (including letting of contracts) or projects under construction, special inspection requirements will be enforced as required on the approved project construction documents.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, Section 1705A.5.4

1. Updates reference to Section 6.1.1 from previous version of ANSI A190.1 as indicated in Section 1705A.5.4, Part 2, 2016 California Code of Regulations.