
STRUCTURAL GLUED LUMBER: 2025 CBC

Disciplines: Structural**History:** Revised 10/21/25 Under 2025 CBC
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Division of the State Architect (DSA) documents referenced within this publication are available on the [DSA Forms](#) or [DSA Publications](#) webpage.

PURPOSE

This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) clarifies requirements and the acceptable use of structural glued lumber (SGL) on projects under DSA jurisdiction.

SCOPE

This IR is applicable to face-glued (including edge-glued) SGL certified in accordance with the Glued Lumber Policy (GLP) published by the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC).

This IR does not apply to end-jointed (i.e., finger jointed) SGL.

This IR does not apply to structural glued-laminated (glulam) timber complying with California Building Code (CBC) Section 2303.1.3 and the special inspection requirements of CBC Section 1705A.5.5. Refer to the BACKGROUND section below for additional discussion of the differences between SGL and glulam. Similarly, the IR does not apply to cross laminated timber complying with CBC Sections 2303.1.4 and 1705A.5.5.

BACKGROUND

SGL is typically manufactured from lumber that is machine stress-rated or visually graded and might not comply with the American Plywood Association's Product Standard for Structural Glued Laminated Timber (ANSI/APA A190.1). The allowable stress design values for SGL are the same as those assigned to the grade of lumber from which it is fabricated but are typically lower than those of glulam members. SGL is graded to the standard lumber grading rules while glulam is rated for the layup combination.

SGL is an alternative to solid sawn lumber, three-inch nominal or larger and is sized, grade stamped and assigned the same design values as solid sawn lumber of the same species and grade. SGL is manufactured by face or edge gluing solid sawn lumber to produce a new piece of structural lumber and is grade stamped according to one of the following grading standards:

- Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) Western Lumber Grading Rules (WLGR).
- Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB) WCLB Rule No. 18: Standard Grading Rules for West Coast and Imported Softwood Lumber (PLIB-18).

1. ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

SGL must be certified and grade stamped by a certifying agency (e.g., WWPA or PLIB) accredited by ALSC in accordance with the GLP.

1.1 Grading and Qualification

1.1.1 SGL must be graded according to the GLP and Voluntary Product Standard PS 20, American Softwood Lumber Standard. SGL must comply with the grading standards of the certifying agency (e.g., WLGR or PLIB-18).

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1.1.2 SGL must be qualified by the certifying agency in accordance with the GLP. The certifying agency shall follow its certification and quality control procedures as submitted to and accepted by the ALSC in accordance with GLP Section 9.1.

1.2 Inspection

1.2.1 The certifying agency shall inspect the SGL plant a minimum of twelve times per year, at regular intervals in accordance with GLP Section 8.6. The inspection reports must be retained and made available to DSA upon request.

1.2.2 Special inspection of project-specific members during fabrication is not required provided the SGL plant has a valid certification from the certifying agency in compliance with GLP.

2. CONDITIONS OF USE

The use of SGL on projects under DSA jurisdiction shall comply with this section.

2.1 Design

2.1.1 SGL is only permitted in dry conditions and must be protected from weather exposure during construction.

2.1.2 SGL must be assigned the same structural design values as solid sawn lumber or timber of the same species and grade.

2.2 Construction Documents

2.2.1 When SGL is intended for use on a project, either as the primary specification or as an alternative, it must be explicitly stated in the construction documents in all locations where structural materials are specified (e.g., general notes of the construction drawings, specifications, etc.).

2.2.2 When SGL is specified on a project, the construction documents must require the material supplier to be certified in accordance with the GLP and the material be grade stamped accordingly. The construction documents must require the material supplier to submit to the school district evidence of this certification.

2.2.3 When SGL is not specified on the construction documents but is proposed for use during the construction phase of a project, the substitution must be submitted to and approved by DSA as a construction change document (CCD). Refer to *IR A-6: Construction Change Document Submittal and Approval Process* for additional information on CCD requirements.

REFERENCES:

2025 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24
Part 2: California Building Code (CBC), Sections 1705A.5.5, 2303.1.3, and 2103.1.4.

This IR is intended for use by DSA staff and by design professionals to promote statewide consistency for review and approval of plans and specifications as well as construction oversight of projects within the jurisdiction of DSA, which includes State of California public schools (K-12), community colleges and state-owned or state-leased essential services buildings. This IR indicates an acceptable method for achieving compliance with applicable codes and regulations, although other methods proposed by design professionals may be considered by DSA.

This IR is subject to revision at any time. Please check DSA's website for currently effective IRs. Only IRs listed on the webpage at www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/publications at the time of project application submittal to DSA are considered applicable.