



Flame Spread Classifications and Corresponding Surface Treatments

A flame spread rating is used to assess the surface flammability of building materials and interior finish products. Flame spread is the measure of the rate in which flame travels across the surface of a material. The U.S. national building codes specify three classifications of building areas, dependent upon the fire hazard severity. These classifications are dependent upon the fire severity in a particular building area. A specific material is allowed in an area if its flame spread rating meets the individual classification standard. Flame spread classification is applicable only to exposed building products within the interior of a structure.

Class I or A represents areas where the fire risk is most severe, for example an exitway for a public assembly area that does not have sprinklers. Plywood and lumber that are fire-retardant treated are allowed in this most severe classification.

VERSA-LAM[®] qualifies in the Class II or B classification. Thus, VERSA-LAM may be installed in areas within this classification, such as exit corridors in business, educational, multi-family and hotel structures. VERSA-LAM may also be used in Class III or C areas, which include all residential areas and in specific rooms of most all other structures (excluding hospitals and institutions). Most all other wood products fall into this category, including structural panels, solid-sawn lumber, BCI[®] and AJS[®] joists, Boise Cascade Rimboard[®] and BOISE GLULAM[®] beams and columns.

Boise Cascade engineered wood products shall **not** be pressure-treated to achieve a higher flame spread classification; such treatment voids the product warranty. There are several spray or paint-on products that can be used on wood to provide a Class A flame spread rating. These types of products may be used on Boise Cascade engineered wood products without affecting the joist or beam's structural design values. Boise Cascade has not tested any of these products to substantiate any of the flame spread rating claims, such the fire treatment is the responsibility of the manufacturers of these products. Refer to each product's corresponding ICC evaluation report for flame spread information. Such treatment may only be applied by spraying, brushing or rolling; immersion or pressure treatments are not allowed.