

Engineered Wood Rimboard Specifications

Engineered wood Rimboards may be structural composite lumber (such as Versa-Rim[®], Versa-Lam[®], Versa-Strand[®] 0.8E and BC Rimboard OSB), wood I-joists or wood-based panel products such as oriented strand board or plywood. Rectangular rimboard sections must be at least 1 inch thick. I-joist rimboards must have flanges that are at least 1-1/2 inches wide. The maximum depth for an engineered wood rimboard is 24 inches.

The advent of this engineered wood rimboard acceptance criteria (AC 124) signals the end of 3/4 inch plywood rimboard, which began to fade when engineered wood products specifically designed to serve as rimboards first appeared in the market. The thicker engineered wood rimboard products provide an adequate target for sheathing nailing at the perimeter of floor and roof systems, thus eliminating the need for supplemental blocking panels along every twenty-five feet of bearing wall as well as at the beginning and end of the bay of joists. The added thickness offers the additional benefit of serving as an adequate base for attachment of exterior deck ledgers. The thicker engineered wood rimboard products also preclude the need in practically all cases for supplemental 2x member to transfer uniform vertical loads.

Closure panels at the ends of cantilevers, and cantilever reinforcement details incorporating 3/4 inch wood structural panels (plywood or OSB), are not affected by AC124 and will remain the same as before. However, the use of any product less 1" in thickness is not allowed as a rimboard with Boise I-joists.

AC124 defines a rimboard as: *A continuously supported structural element located at the joist elevation in an end bearing wall or parallel to the joist framing that is the full depth of the joist space and manufactured in minimum continuous 8-foot-long segments for the length of the wall, and which is used for any combination of the following:*

- *Transfer, from above to below, all vertical loads at the rimboard location*
- *Provide diaphragm attachment (sheathing to top edge of rimboard)*
- *Transfer in-plane lateral loads from the diaphragm to the wall plate below*
- *Provide lateral support to the joist or rafter (resistance against rotation) through attachment to the joist or rafter*
- *Provide closure for the ends of joists or rafters*
- *Provide attachment base for siding and/or exterior deck ledger*

