



TECHNICAL POLICY

G – 02 Fire Stopping of Wood Bar Joist

Original Issue: October 2002
Revised: April 2006

The following materials and methods are to be used when a fire barrier is applied to wood bar joist or trusses in lieu of providing sprinkler protection in combustibile concealed spaces.

- BOTH sides of the joist shall be completely covered (including gusset plates, metal fasteners and all members) with any of the following materials:
 1. ½ inch gypsum board
 2. ½ inch cement fiber board
 3. ½ inch plywood
 4. ½ inch particle board
- These materials shall be attached to the joist with the appropriate screws or nails. All joints shall be tightly butted together.
- Penetrations of the fire barrier are to be filled with an appropriate fire stopping material.
- The contractor must contact the fire inspector for a visual inspection of the sprinkler piping and the fire barriers prior to the ceiling being installed.
- NFPA -13 allows compartmentalization of combustibile concealed spaces formed by composite wood joist instead of protecting those areas with sprinklers.

(see the exceptions to the section titled “Concealed Spaces Not Requiring Sprinkler Protection” in NFPA -13).

- This policy allows wood bar joist to be upgraded to provide an equivalent level of protection to the composite wood joist.
- Both sides of the joist need to be completely covered because fire experience has shown that wood joist fail early in fires due to failure of the gusset plates.