



May 2019

RE: equivalency of structural plywood certified by PFS·TECO

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding equivalency of structural plywood that is certified by PFS·TECO, when compared to plywood certified by other accredited agencies, including APA of Tacoma, WA. This letter explains that structural plywood that is certified by PFS·TECO is equivalent to and interchangeable with plywood certified by other accredited agencies, provided the standard, thickness, span rating, and grade are the same for all panels, in a given application.

When using structural plywood in roof, wall, and floor sheathing applications, the plywood must meet the requirements of the applicable building code(s). In the United States, the International Residential Code (IRC) or International Building Code (IBC) are adopted and recognized in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and other territories. Both the IRC and IBC require plywood, when used for structural purposes, to conform to U.S. Department of Commerce Voluntary Product Standards PS 1, *Structural Plywood*, or PS 2, *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels*, and to be identified by the mark of an approved third-party certification and inspection agency.

PFS·TECO is one such approved certification and inspection agency and is the second largest certifier of wood structural panels in North America. To certify wood structural panels (including structural plywood) according to various product standards and the requirements of the model building codes, PFS·TECO maintains accreditations through the International Accreditation Service, having demonstrated compliance with the following:

- ISO/IEC 17020, *General Criteria for the Operation of Various Bodies Performing Inspection*, and
- ISO/IEC 17025, *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*.

Information about these and other accreditations can be found on the [Accreditations page](#) of our website.

Plywood that is stamped with the TECO TESTED® certification mark are recognized for quality and accepted for use in construction throughout the United States and Canada. Reiterating what is stated above, panels certified to PS 1 and PS 2 by PFS·TECO are interchangeable with those certified by other accredited third-party agencies, provided that the thickness, span rating, and grade are the same for all panels, in a given application.

If you require additional information, please call us at (608) 839-1013 or visit our website at [www.PFSTECO.com](http://www.PFSTECO.com)

Respectfully,

  
Steve G. Winistorfer, PE  
Senior Vice President  
Building Products Division