

WOOD STRUCTURAL PANEL IDENTIFICATION

From time to time, people ask about the various panel identification markings (or lack thereof) on wood structural panels, particularly as applied to industrial applications. The following is intended to answer these common questions.

APA trademarked panels are produced by manufacturers whose production is subject to the quality testing and inspection program of *APA - The Engineered Wood Association*, a nonprofit trade association founded in 1933. With panels so marked, the manufacturer assures that the panels conform to the grade designation as defined by the product or performance standard indicated in the trademark. *APA* end-use recommendations apply only to products carrying the *APA* trademark.

Shop-cutting panels are marked "Shop-cutting panel - all other marks void." Such panels may have been trademarked originally as conforming to a standard but have been subsequently rejected as not conforming to a standard grade because of deficiencies, other than adhesive bond quality. Blistered plywood panels are not considered as falling within the category of "shop-cutting" panels. "Shop" is *not* a grade. *APA* recommendations do not apply to these panels, and they are not recognized for construction applications governed by building codes.

"Mill-certified" panels are panels that have not been subject to testing and inspection by a quality testing agency such as *APA*, and therefore do not carry a quality testing agency trademark. The performance attributes of such panels are unknown to *APA*. Contact would need to be made with the manufacturing mill for information.

Other agency-trademarked panels are panels that have been produced under the testing program of an agency other than *APA*. Again, the performance attributes of such panels are unknown to *APA*. Contact the manufacturing mill or the testing agency for information.

APA recommends that you always insist on panels bearing the mark of quality - the *APA* trademark. Your *APA* panel purchase or specification is your highest possible assurance of quality and an investment in the many trade services and programs that *APA* undertakes on your behalf. For a list of the 122 plywood and OSB mills manufacturing *APA* trademarked products, contact us at the address, phone or fax shown below.

Technical Services Division
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Because APA has no control over quality of workmanship or the conditions under which engineered wood products are used, it cannot accept responsibility of product performance or designs as actually constructed. Consult your local jurisdiction or design professional to assure compliance with code, construction, and performance requirements.