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Technical Bulletin (TB-IJ-16)

Subject: Double IB I-Joists Installed at Typical Joist Spacing

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This technical bulletin is intended for use with International Beams Inc. products and offers general guidelines for topics that may not be covered in our literature. Appropriateness of details for a specific project should be evaluated by a qualified designer. This technical bulletin may be periodically updated. Check internationalbeams.com to ensure that you have the most recent version.

International Beams (IB) literature has several details for two-ply I-joist fastening. Detail 1H shows how to fasten two-ply I-joists at point loads up to 1280 pounds (U.S-ASD) or 1620 factored pounds (Canada-LSD). IB double joist construction details indicate continuous filler blocks between joists, or a hybrid condition in the footnotes where a combination of detail 1H and discrete filler blocks at 4'-0" o.c. can be used if there is a point load and no uniformly loaded side load. These details and notes are intended for side-loaded conditions where it is necessary to transfer load from ply-to-ply (from the near I-joist to the far I-joist).

A special condition exists where double I-joists are used as typical joists. In this case, uniformly distributed load transferred directly from the subfloor is the only applied load. This condition may occur when double I-joists are specified because a single member at the specified joist spacing does not meet structural requirements. For various reasons, reduced joist spacing with single I-joists is sometimes not an option. For double IB I-joists used at typical joist spacing, filler blocks between the double joists are not required. However special attention to construction practice must be observed as follows:

- Staggering of subfloor joints is important. The butt joint should not occur directly at the joint between the double I-joists, but should be offset so that subfloor nailing can occur at both subfloor panels at the butt joint.
- Specified subfloor fastening (frequently, code minimum) should occur at each I-joist.
- If the I-joists were designed as glued and nailed (most residential floor systems are), then each I-joist must be properly glued with appropriate subfloor construction adhesive.

This procedure can also be used when an alternate 2000 pound moveable concentrated live load over a 2'-6" x 2'-6" area is specified (for example, a commercial office).