



# Fingerjoined Lumber For Dwellings

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

## **9.23.10.4. Continuity of Studs**

(1) Wall studs shall be continuous for the full storey height except at openings and shall not be spliced except by finger-jointing with a structural adhesive. (See Note A-9.23.10.4.(1))

### **A-9.23.10.4.(1) Fingerjoined Lumber**

The NLGA “Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber” referenced in 9.3.2.1. refers to two special product standards SPS-1 “Fingerjoined Structural Lumber,” and SPS-3 “Fingerjoined Stud Lumber - Vertical Use only,” produced by NLGA. Materials identified as conforming to these standards is considered to meet the requirements in this Sentence for joining with a structural adhesive.

Lumber Fingerjoined in accordance with SPS-3 should be used as a vertical end loaded member in compression only, where sustained bending or tension loading conditions are not present, and where the moisture content of the wood will not exceed 19%. Fingerjoined lumber may not be visually regarded or remanufactured into a higher stress grade even if the quality of the lumber containing finger joints would otherwise warrant such regarding.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The use of Fingerjoined Structural Lumber is permitted as long as the lumber is properly graded and stamped.

Note: the Fingerjoined lumber must be marked SPS-1 or SPS



**Lumber grade** – Common grades of visually graded lumber include:

- SEL STR (Select Structural)
- No. 1, No. 2
- No. 3 / Stud / Const (may just have the grade number alone)

**Accredited Grading Agency logo / certification mark**– In this case, this is the Maritime Lumber Bureau.

**Mill identification** – Firm name, brand, or mill number. This allows lumber to be traced back to the place of origin.

**Seasoning or Moisture Content**  
 These may include:

- MC-(number) (percentage moisture content – MC-15, for example, means the lumber had a maximum moisture content of 15% when it was produced)
- KD (Kiln Dried to a maximum moisture content of 19% – this may also include a lesser moisture content number, such as KD-15)
- S-DRY (19% maximum moisture content at time of surfacing)
- S-GRN (more than 19% maximum moisture content, or unseasoned)

**Grading Rules**  
 When lumber is graded to the National Lumber Grading Authority rules, the stamp will include NLGA.

**Wood species or species combination** – There are stamp identifications for 28 separate species, and 8 species combinations. For specifics of species combinations, see NLGA's Standard Grading Rules. Common designations are:

- S-P-F (Spruce – Pine – Fir)
- Hem-Fir(N) (Western Hemlock – Amabilis Fir)
- D.Fir-L(N) (Douglas Fir – Western Larch)
- N. Species (includes red cedar and certain pines, balsams and poplars)

*Note: The Canadian and U.S. versions may have a different mix of species, with different structural ratings. An 'S' identifies U.S. species groups, while an 'N' identifies Canadian ones.*

**Phytosanitary treatment**

- HT (Heat treated to the international standards for core temperature and length of time sufficient to kill a series of pests)

*(This is often combined with kiln drying of lumber, to produce a stamp reading KD-HT)*

