

What You Need To Know About Building Structural Product Approval



**User's Guide Update
May 6, 2009**

**City of Tampa
Construction Services Center**

The implementation of the new Florida Product Approval system on October 1, 2003 is causing a lot of confusion to everyone affected by the new law. This has, in turn, caused different interpretations by local jurisdictions as to what has to be done at the local level. This update will hopefully assist our customers by further answering your questions, and showing examples of what information is to be shown on the plan sheets, and when they should be shown.

If my site plan was approved prior to April 5, 2004, and the building plans are submitted after April 5, 2004, do the product approval requirements apply?

Yes. Product approval applies to exterior components of the building, and the information must be placed on the building plans.

If my permit was issued prior to April 5, 2004, and I am making revisions to the plans, do the revisions have to comply with the product approval requirements?

Yes. Although the products for the approved plans would not be affected, the products for any revised plan sheets submitted after the effective date of a regulation are required to comply with the regulation.

My building plans were approved prior to April 5, 2004, but the permits have not been issued. If I submit supplemental plans to the project, do the supplemental plans have to comply with the product approval requirements?

Yes. Although the products for the approved plans would not be affected, the products for any supplemental plans submitted after the effective date of a regulation are required to comply with the regulation.

How do I find out if the product has been approved?

You can go to the Department of Community Affairs web site at www.floridabuilding.org. Click on the Product Approval link on the left side of the page, and then click on organization or product search, and be sure to check for approved products only. Once you find your product, you can save the page that shows the approval as an electronic copy. You can also save the installation instructions or evaluation report that shows how the product is to be installed.

Is the Approved Products List being placed on the plan sheets sufficient to meet the product approval requirements?

Yes, a list will be sufficient to meet the requirements. The list should have the Product Category, Sub Category, Manufacturer, Approval Number and Expiration Date. Only the products that will be used on the project need to be on the list. Products that are not part of the project should not be included. (Refer to attachment 1, for a list sample).

What if we do not know manufacturers that will be used at the time of plan submittal?

Just provide the product approval information on those manufacturers that you contemplate using for the initial plan submittal, and only submit product approval information on those products. Do not submit product approval information on manufacturers that you may or may not be using. This clutters up the plans, increases the drawing size, and makes it difficult for everyone in trying to understand which products are actually being used.

What happens if the product being installed at construction is different from what was approved on the drawings?

If this happens, the inspector will decide on what he will require. He may require you to provide the product approval information and installation instructions on the product that is being installed, prior to making the inspection, to determine if what is being installed is appropriate for its intended use.

Attachment 1

Approved Products List

State of Florida Product Category	Sub Category	Manufacturer	Approval No.	Expiration Date
Structural Component	Wood Connector	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Structural Component	Concrete Lintel	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Panel Walls	EIFS System	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Panel Walls	Curtain Wall	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Doors	Wood Entrance	First Manufacturer's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Doors	Wood Entrance	Second Manufacturer's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Windows	Double Hung	First Manufacturer's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Windows	Double Hung	Second Manufacturer's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Windows	Sliders	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Roofing	Roofing Tile	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09
Shutters	Roll-Up	Manufacture's Name	FL1234	01/31/09

This list would continue for each category of covered products.

Example

This information must be provided on a drawing sheet as part of the drawings.