

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: Cross-laminated timber is now permitted within the exterior walls of Type IV buildings where protected by one of three specified materials.

2015 CODE: **602.4.2 Cross-Laminated Timber in Exterior Walls.** Cross-laminated timber complying with Section 2303.1.4 shall be permitted within exterior wall assemblies with a 2-hour rating or less, provided the exterior surface of the cross-laminated timber is protected by one of the following:

1. Fire-retardant-treated wood sheathing complying with Section 2303.2 and not less than $\frac{15}{32}$ inch (12 mm) thick;
2. Gypsum board not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) thick; or
3. A noncombustible material.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Cross-laminated timber (CLT) has been used extensively in Europe for the last two decades as large-section structural timber. This large-section, engineered wood product is now defined in the code, ANSI/APA PRG 320 is referenced in Section 2303.1.4, and the newly developed consensus manufacturing standard has been added as a referenced standard to Chapter 35. Under the Type IV provisions of Chapter 6, CLT is now permitted within exterior walls required to be of noncombustible construction, much in the same manner as fire-retardant-treated wood.

Exterior surface materials are regulated where CLT is used in the exterior walls of Type IV buildings. The CLT must be covered on the exterior side with minimum $\frac{15}{32}$ -inch-thick fire-retardant-treated wood sheathing, minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick gypsum board, or noncombustible materials.



Cross-laminated timber construction.

602.4.2

Cross-Laminated Timber in Exterior Walls

This excerpt is taken from ***Significant Changes to the International Building Code®, 2015 Edition.***



Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.

Photo courtesy of Nordic Wood Structures