



**Home Innovation**  
RESEARCH LABS™

ATTACHMENT OF HEAVY CLADDINGS  
OVER FOAM WITH AND WITHOUT  
DRAINAGE GAPS

Project Results and Conclusions

*Prepared For*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research by Home Innovation Research Labs was conducted with support from the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory. Additional funders include the National Association of Home Builders, Construction Technology and Research Sub Committee (CTRSC) and the American Chemistry Council.

The aim of this research was to identify alternate and/or expanded design and installation guidance for the application of heavyweight claddings such as stucco and adhered masonry veneers over rigid foam insulation on light-frame walls and potentially provide the basis for follow-on qualification testing to support a future code proposal.

Wall samples were tested in the lab for deflection and cracking due to gravity loading. The baseline set of specimens was designed to inform potential calibration of the TR-12 dowel equations for the unique case of cementitious claddings which include minimal penetration of the fastener through the material and transfer of the cladding load to the fastener via an embedded lath substrate. Three fastener types were tested: staples, nails and screws. Additional lines of inquiry introduced drainage gaps into the wall assembly and tested the effect of foam thickness and lath type. Test matrix details subsequent to the baseline set were adjusted in response to demonstrated performance and to more fully explore opportunities for highly constructible or effective configurations.

### Summary of Results

1. A modified TR-12 dowel equation produced estimated capacities within approximately 20% of measured performance for most configurations.
2. The gravity load performance of heavyweight cementitious claddings appears to have a strong system effect or fastener group effect – a “community effect” – (not directly dependent on the dowel characteristics) whereby the per fastener capacity can be increased by more frequent, uniform distribution.
3. Power-driven staples are a promising approach to fastening lath to wall substrates to support heavyweight cementitious cladding. More numerous fasteners appear to transfer the failure mode from individual points of connection to a diffuse mechanism that relies on the systemic performance of the embedded lath/stucco combination, which may explain the stronger-than-expected performance of staples in the configurations with no stud penetration and the slightly weaker-than-expected performance of screws (limited to 16-in. o.c. lateral frequency).
4. As expected, the addition of a washer improved performance. The method of using power-driven screws and nails in combination with washers increased installation speed. The additional strength attained by using a washer varied significantly across configurations, apparently due to the interaction between the nail/screw head and the washer.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CI	Continuous insulation—generally a rigid or semi-rigid board insulation material installed exterior to the wall cavity.
CZ	Climate Zone, as defined by the International Energy Conservation Code
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene, a type of rigid foam sheathing
FPIS	Foam Plastic Insulating Sheathing (FPIS) – a rigid foam board typically made from extruded polystyrene (XPS), expanded polystyrene (EPS) or Polyisocyanurate (PIC) and used to provide a layer of continuous insulation for house walls or other components. In this report, FPIS generally refers to rigid foam installed as continuous insulation exterior to the wood sheathing, or in place of the wood sheathing.
High-R	Building Industry reference to wall systems with high thermal resistance, exceeding energy code minimum requirements
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code
IRC	International Residential Code
o.c.	On center – the measurement for lumber with dimension, e.g., studs, whose 1-1/2-in. width means that 16-in. o.c. installation leaves a 14-1/2-in. stud bay.
OSB	Oriented Strand Board, a manufactured wood structural panel sheathing product
psf	Pounds per square foot, a measure of weight for heavyweight cementitious claddings
psy	Pounds per square yard, a measure of weight for diamond mesh stucco netting or lath
R-value	Quantitative measure of resistance to conductive heat flow ( $h \cdot F \cdot ft^2 / Btu$ )
U-value	Quantitative measure of thermal conductance: $Btu / (h \cdot F \cdot ft^2)$ (the inverse of R-value)
SPF	Spruce-pine-fir (SPF) lumber, a high-grade framing lumber that can include any one of these three types of trees
WRB	Water-Resistive Barrier or Weather-Resistant Barrier (WRB) is a material providing a drainage surface to protect the wall assembly from rainwater.
WSP	Wood Structural Panel — the layer of wood sheathing (plywood or OSB) that provides shear and racking strength when properly attached to wall framing
XPS	Extruded Polystyrene, a type of rigid foam sheathing

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## BACKGROUND

### Introduction

Since 2012, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) has required an R-5 or R-10 layer of continuous insulation (CI) under the prescriptive compliance path for all residential above-grade wood-frame walls in climate zones 6, 7, and 8. CI is one of two prescriptive solutions for climate zones 3 through 5. In addition to increased R-value, CI can provide the benefit of improved moisture management by maintaining a warmer cavity in the winter and reducing vapor drive from the exterior in the summer.

These new energy code requirements have presented complexities with respect to the use of traditional stucco and masonry veneer claddings due to their heavier weight on the longer-length fasteners which pass through the non-structural foam layer. This study by Home Innovation Research Labs (HI) tested the gravity connection of various configurations of stucco and adhered masonry veneer claddings over foam plastic insulation consistent with IECC code-minimum R-5 or R-10 continuous insulation levels and measured deflection with respect to the stud framing.

### Objectives

The purpose of this study was to measure the structural performance of a wide range of attachment methods for stucco and masonry veneer claddings installed over foam and to expand and/or optimize the available installation guidance. The effect of the cladding attachment as part of the whole-wall assembly was evaluated, in addition to single-fastener behavior. Conclusions were drawn about single fastener behavior in order to inform methods for prediction and design. Multiple installation methods were tested to confirm performance ranges and determine whether current IRC and manufacturers' installation requirements could be modified to reduce installation time, materials and/or cost while still providing necessary structural performance. The effect of several components was studied, including:

- Fastener type, gauge, frequency and pattern, including the effects of washers
- Lath type, gauge, and stucco base coat embedment depth (due to self-furring lath features)
- Stucco weight, thickness
- Drainage gap locations and thicknesses

### Goals

Test results were analyzed to develop recommendations for alternate and/or additional heavy cladding attachment methods:

- IRC – for the possible development of code language to recommend updates to IRC prescriptive heavy-cladding attachment requirements.
- ASTM standards – provide data to update stucco standardized specification and installation requirements.
- Manufacturers – provide results and analysis to manufacturers and industry stakeholders to support manufacturer installation instructions and expanded fastening options in coordination with warrantable attachment methods.

## Current Guidance

Two ASTM Standard Specifications guide installation of cementitious claddings over light-frame wood walls: C926 “Application of Portland Cement-Based Plaster” and C1063 “Installation of Lathing and Furring to Receive Interior and Exterior Portland Cement-Based Plaster.” These standards do not address the use of a layer of rigid foam exterior continuous insulation behind the cladding.

Several manufacturers have developed guidance for proprietary one-coat and adhered stone systems installed over foam. Code guidance for the application of heavyweight claddings over foam can be found in IRC Section R703 “Exterior Covering” for several weight categories of claddings over foam up to 4-inches thick. IRC Table R703.15.1 (Figure 1) shows limited prescribed solutions for installation of heavyweight claddings over foam plastic sheathing, considered to be conservative by some, and potentially resulting in unnecessary expense and uncertainty. For conventional 3-coat stucco applications (11 psf cladding weight) and heavier applications like adhered masonry veneers (18 psf and 25 psf cladding weight categories), these provisions have some conditions that are more flexible than current stucco industry standards (e.g., allow greater fastener spacings of 8 and 12 inches, although this is limited by other portions of the code and industry standards that limit lath fastener spacings to 6” or 7”oc vertically along studs per traditional practice). But, other portions of Table R703.15.1 may be considered limiting or conservative because the permitted thickness of an intervening layer of foam sheathing is very limited or requires a designed solution for cases where no thickness of foam sheathing would otherwise be permitted.

The minimum and maximum cladding weights under consideration for this project are 4.5 psf to approximately 30 psf, to encompass targeted cladding types which typically meet the “heavyweight” definition.

**TABLE R703.15.1  
CLADDING MINIMUM FASTENING REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECT ATTACHMENT  
OVER FOAM PLASTIC SHEATHING TO SUPPORT CLADDING WEIGHT<sup>a</sup>**

CLADDING FASTENER THROUGH FOAM SHEATHING	CLADDING FASTENER TYPE AND MINIMUM SIZE <sup>b</sup>	CLADDING FASTENER VERTICAL SPACING (inches)	MAXIMUM THICKNESS OF FOAM SHEATHING <sup>c</sup> (inches)							
			16" o.c. Fastener Horizontal Spacing				24" o.c. Fastener Horizontal Spacing			
			Cladding Weight:							
			3 psf	11 psf	18 psf	25 psf	3 psf	11 psf	18 psf	25 psf
Wood framing (minimum 1 1/4-inch penetration)	0.113" diameter nail	6	2.00	1.45	0.75	DR	2.00	0.85	DR	DR
		8	2.00	1.00	DR	DR	2.00	0.55	DR	DR
		12	2.00	0.55	DR	DR	1.85	DR	DR	DR
	0.120" diameter nail	6	3.00	1.70	0.90	0.55	3.00	1.05	0.50	DR
		8	3.00	1.20	0.60	DR	3.00	0.70	DR	DR
		12	3.00	0.70	DR	DR	2.15	DR	DR	DR
	0.131" diameter nail	6	4.00	2.15	1.20	0.75	4.00	1.35	0.70	DR
		8	4.00	1.55	0.80	DR	4.00	0.90	DR	DR
		12	4.00	0.90	DR	DR	2.70	0.50	DR	DR
	0.162" diameter nail	6	4.00	3.55	2.05	1.40	4.00	2.25	1.25	0.80
		8	4.00	2.55	1.45	0.95	4.00	1.60	0.85	0.50
		12	4.00	1.60	0.85	0.50	4.00	0.95	DR	DR

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa, 1 pound per square inch = 6.895 kPa.

DR = Design Required.

o.c. = On Center.

a. Wood framing shall be Spruce-pine-fir or any wood species with a specific gravity of 0.42 or greater in accordance with AWC NDS.

b. Nail fasteners shall comply with ASTM F1667, except nail length shall be permitted to exceed ASTM F1667 standard lengths.

c. Foam sheathing shall have a minimum compressive strength of 15 psi in accordance with ASTM C578 or ASTM C1289.

**Figure 1. Table R703.15.1 from the IRC 2018 Section R703 Exterior Covering**

## EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Heavyweight cementitious claddings were installed over rigid foam sheathing per typical field practice and following the underlying methodology of IRC Table 703.15.1 to represent the most common wall configurations as determined by the project team in consultation with the Advisory Group (AG). The test specimens were then subjected to destructive testing to achieve the following overarching goals:

1. Establish each wall system's strength under gravity loading, based on predetermined deflection thresholds.
2. Compare each wall system's tested performance to the predictions which were used to develop the current installation requirements, based on theoretical analysis and assumptions of fastener behavior unique to heavyweight cementitious claddings (TR-12 equations).
3. Provide installation recommendations for heavy-weight cementitious claddings over rigid foam CI as applicable to an industry-responsive variety of lath, fastener and drainage gap choices.
4. Identify opportunities to modify existing methods or develop new approaches of fastener installation which yield acceptable performance with reduced effort, time, or cost.

## Specimen Naming Convention

Specimens were named to identify important parameters for comparison:

**Table 1. Specimen Naming Convention**

Parameter:	Foam Thickness	Lath Type	Fastener Type	Fastener Length	Fastener Thickness	Fastener Wildcard	Fastener Spacing	Specimen Wildcard
Position:	1-	2 -	3 -	4-	5-	6-	7-	8
Ex 1 ID:	1-	KL-	ST-	2-	16-	15/16-	4-	
Ex 2 ID:	1-	KL-	RN-	2.5-	0.12-	NW-	8-	DG 1/4 F/O
Component Position, L to R	Description, range							
1 Foam Thickness	1, 1.5, or 2-in.							
2 Lath Type	<b>KL</b> = K-lath: 17 ga. 1-½-in. hexagonal woven wire, ¼-in. self-furred @6-in. o.c. <b>EX</b> = Expanded metal diamond mesh, 2.5 psy, ¼-in. self-furred @6-in. o.c. <b>WW</b> = Woven wire: 20 ga. 1-in. hexagonal steel mesh, non-furred <b>TT</b> = Twin Trac: 17 ga. 1-in.x1-½-in. welded wire; ³/₁₆-in. double strands for attachment; ¼-in. self-furred @3-in. o.c.							
3 Fastener Type	<b>PN</b> = pneumatic nails, machine-driven <b>RN</b> = roofing nails, hand-nailed <b>SC</b> = Screws, machine-driven <b>ST</b> = Staples, machine-driven							
4 Fastener Length	Nails: Inches, <b>2.5, 3, 3.25</b> or <b>3.5</b> -in. Screws: Inches, <b>3</b> -in. Staples: Inches, <b>1.5, 2, 2.5</b> or <b>4</b> -in.							
5 Fastener Thickness	Nails: diameter in inches, <b>0.120</b> or <b>0.131</b> -in. Screws: diameter in inches, <b>0.19</b> (#10) or <b>0.16</b> -in. (#8) Staples: gauge, <b>14, 15</b> or <b>16</b> ga.							
6 Fastener Wildcard	Nails and Screws: Washer NW = no washer, <b>PW</b> = plastic washer, <b>SW</b> = steel washer <i>PW and SW both have tabs</i> Staples: Crown width in inches - <b>7/8, 1/2, 15/16, 9/8</b> -in. <i>Manufacturers produce either/or for the pairs 7/8 – 1/2 – and – 15/16 – 9/8-in.</i>							
7 Fastener Spacing	Nails: vertical <b>5.5, 6,</b> or <b>8</b> -in. o.c., penetration into stud Screws: vertical <b>6</b> or <b>12</b> -in. o.c., penetration into stud Staples: vertical <b>4</b> -in. o.c., penetration into stud – or – <b>6x6</b> grid pattern 6-in. o.c both vertical and horizontal							
8 Specimen Wildcard	Replicates are identified by an <b>A</b> or <b>B</b> . Framing connection: <b>NSP</b> = no stud penetration ( <i>attachment to OSB sheathing only</i> ) Stucco layer, deviation from ½-in 1-coat: <b>“Stucco ³/₈" Thick”</b> – or – <b>“2 Coats Total 1.25" Thick”</b> Drainage Gap, nails only: Drainage gap existence = <b>DG</b> Drainage gap thickness = ¼-in.. or ³/₈-in. Drainage gap location = <b>F/O</b> ( <i>gap between foam and OSB</i> ) – or – <b>L/F</b> ( <i>gap between lath and foam</i> )							

## Specimen Construction

### Baseline Parameters

Baseline test specimens of ½-in. stucco thickness (~6 lbs/sf, Table 3) over 17 ga. woven wire lath incorporated 1, 1.5 or 2-in. of rigid foam exterior insulation. These configurations meet International Energy Conservation Code requirements for continuous insulation of R-5 or R-10 in various climate zones. Wherever these items are not explicitly listed in individual parameter tables, they match the default conditions shown in Table 2. Subsequent parameter variations to determine their effect on system performance included (See Appendix):

1. Fasteners: nails, screws and staples.
2. Fastener heads: full-head roofing nails; standard head pneumatic nails; steel or plastic washers with nails or screws; ½-in. vs 1-in. staple crown widths.
3. Lath: 17 ga. vs 20 ga. woven wire; welded wire; 2.5 psy expanded metal diamond mesh
4. Drainage gaps: none; ¼ or ⅜ between lath and foam, or between foam and OSB sheathing.

**Table 2. Shared Default Characteristics: 4-ft. x 4-ft. Baseline Specimen Walls**

Component	Aspect	Detail
Lumber	Species	SPF
	Nominal Dim., in.	2x4
	Framing spacing	16-in. o.c.
Sheathing	Type, thickness	7/16-in. OSB
WRB	Type	60 min. Grade D paper + T&G grooved foam <sup>1</sup>
Foam	Type	EPS II, 15 psi
Lath	Type	K-Lath woven wire
	Gauge	17 gauge
	Furring	¼-in. self-furred
Cladding	Type	QUIKRETE® One Coat Fiberglass Reinforced Stucco (No. 1200, Sanded)
	Thickness, density	1/2-in., 5.9 psf
	Finish type	none

<sup>1</sup> The foam layer serves as the code required "non-water absorbing intervening layer" whereas the 60-min Grade D paper serves as the WRB layer (refer to 2018 IRC Section R703.7.3 exception)

**Table 3. Weight Ranges of Heavyweight Cementitious Claddings**

STUCCO type	Note that adhered stone claddings may have a combined system weight up to 18 psf			
	thickness		142 lbs/cf (typical)	
	inch	foot	lbs/sf	coverage, sf
	Weight of stucco layer only			
ONE-COAT	3/8	0.031	4.43	32.0
	1/2	0.042	5.91	24.0
	5/8	0.052	7.39	19.2
	3/4	0.063	8.87	16.0
THREE-COAT	7/8	0.073	10.35	13.7
	15/16	0.078	11.09	12.8
	1	0.083	11.83	12.0
	1 1/4	0.104	14.79	9.6

## Research Goals

The primary goals include the following:

1. Understand the performance of the most typical heavyweight cementitious cladding configurations in current industry use, with respect to the existing IRC requirements.
2. Understand the relationship between performance predictions (IRC Table R703.15.1, Table R703.15.2 and modified TR-12 dowel equations) and actual whole stucco exterior wall covering system attachment performance.
3. Identify additional and/or unique characteristics to support modification of existing equations for predicted performance to support design protocols.
4. Understand the relationship between performance and foam thickness, to allow interpolation and/or extrapolation for alternate foam thicknesses.

Specimens were chosen for baseline testing to confirm fastener performance of nails, staples and screws. The aim was to establish reference points for subsequent specimens and provide insight into the relationship between foam thickness and system performance. The test matrices are representative variations rather than exhaustive. The mix and quantity of test specimens was designed to provide evidence to support realistic predictions of capacity by analytic interpolation of reliable, representative results.

## Predicted Capacity

A modified TR-12 dowel equation produced estimated capacities similar to actual performance for nearly all specimens. For all predicted values,  $L_s$  (side member length – the “embedment” of the fastener into layer 2) was replaced with the wire thickness of the lath (gauge, in inches). The wire thickness of the 17 gage K-Lath was also used for the predicted capacities of the expanded metal lath and the Twin-Track because their differing geometry. The calculation for screw and nail dowel bending yield strength used published NDS values, based on diameter of fastener, instead of measured values; no fasteners were tested. For screws, this calculation used the root diameter. For staples the minimum bending moment was taken from the table of values in *ESR-1539 Table 3.2 Staple Characteristics*. Stucco specimens measuring 2-in. x 2-in. were taken from each batch of stucco and tested for compressive strength and density; average values were used in predictive equations. With the main member usually consisting of both OSB ( $G = 0.62$ ) and SPF studs ( $G = 0.42$ ), the specific gravity was assumed to be 0.5 for all predicted values. A  $K_d$  factor 2.2 (per NDS) was used in this study, whereas the IRC prediction used a more conservative value of 3.0 (for a 5% yield offset prediction to align with test data such that short term slip was not more than 0.015-in.). Modified TR-12 predicted capacities are listed in tabular results for each specimen in the Results section.

## Results

Load per fastener (LPF) is the primary unit of measure used to design walls with heavy cladding, and to compare performance between different installation methods. Load at each deflection point is divided by the number of fasteners to determine the LPF. LPF is shown at both applied load only, and total load including self-weight. For all tabular data, IRC reference values are the calculated predictions used to generate the values for *Table R703.15.1* at similar foam thickness for claddings with weights between 3 and 11 lbs.

## Nails

Figure 2 shows the graph of capacities on a lb per fastener (LPF) basis for all 17 specimens using nails.

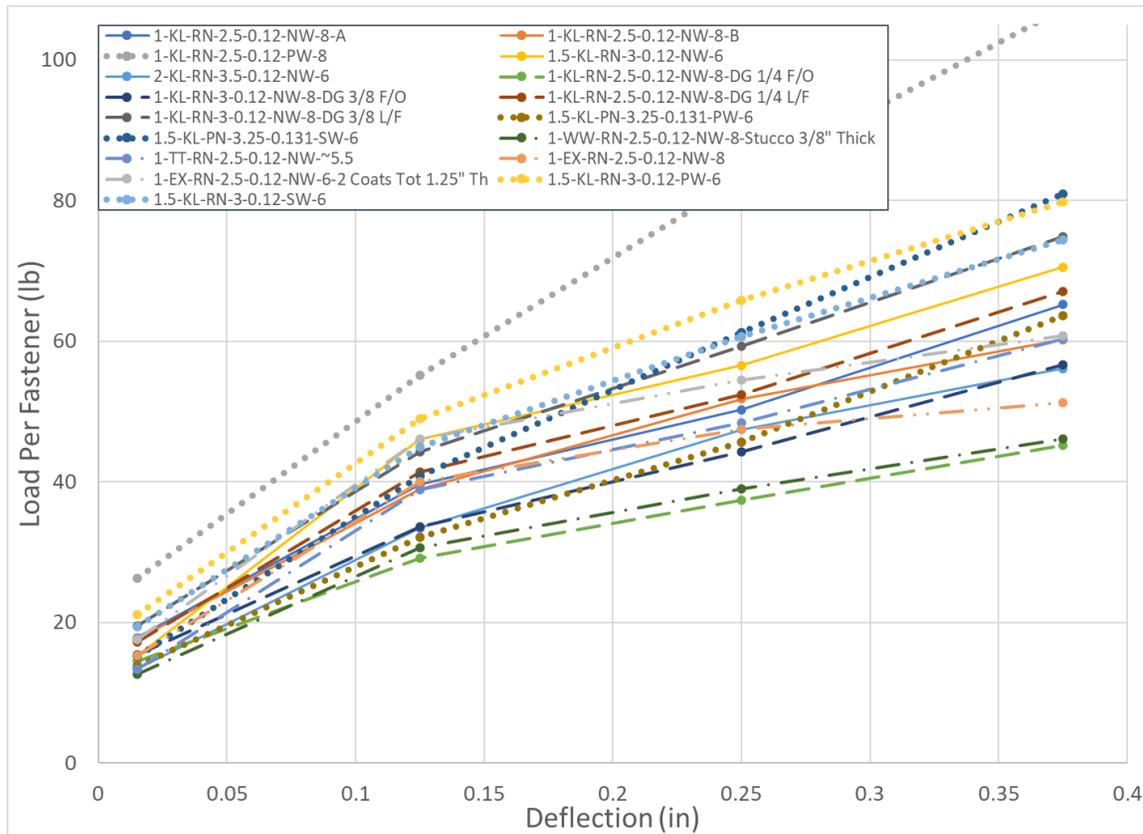


Figure 2. Test Results: All Nails, Graph

The baseline set is designed to confirm nail fastener performance, establish reference points for the remainder of the test matrix, and provide insight into the relationship between the foam thickness and system performance. This includes:

- two replicate reference walls with 1-in. foam and roofing nails at 8-in. o.c. to match the IRC
- a duplicate of the reference walls with the addition of plastic washers

Variations to the baseline include the following:

- Roofing nails in combination with both 1.5-in. and 2-in. foam
- Roofing nails with 1-in. foam and two thicknesses of drainage gaps ( $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. and  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in.) both between the foam and OSB (F/O) and between the lath and the foam (L/F)
- Roofing nails versus pneumatic nails using both plastic and steel washers and 1.5-in. foam
- Four specimens with 1) thinner stucco coat, 2) thicker stucco coat, 3) expanded metal diamond mesh (EX), 4) proprietary welded wire lath (TT) [Twin Trac<sup>®</sup> with paired strands to mimic washers]

For all specimens, initial configurations reference IRC Table 703.15.1 *Cladding Minimum Fastening Requirements for Direct Attachment over Foam Plastic Sheathing to Support Cladding Weight* and the tested capacity (lbs./fastener) at 0.015-in. deflection is compared to the predicted capacity using the TR-

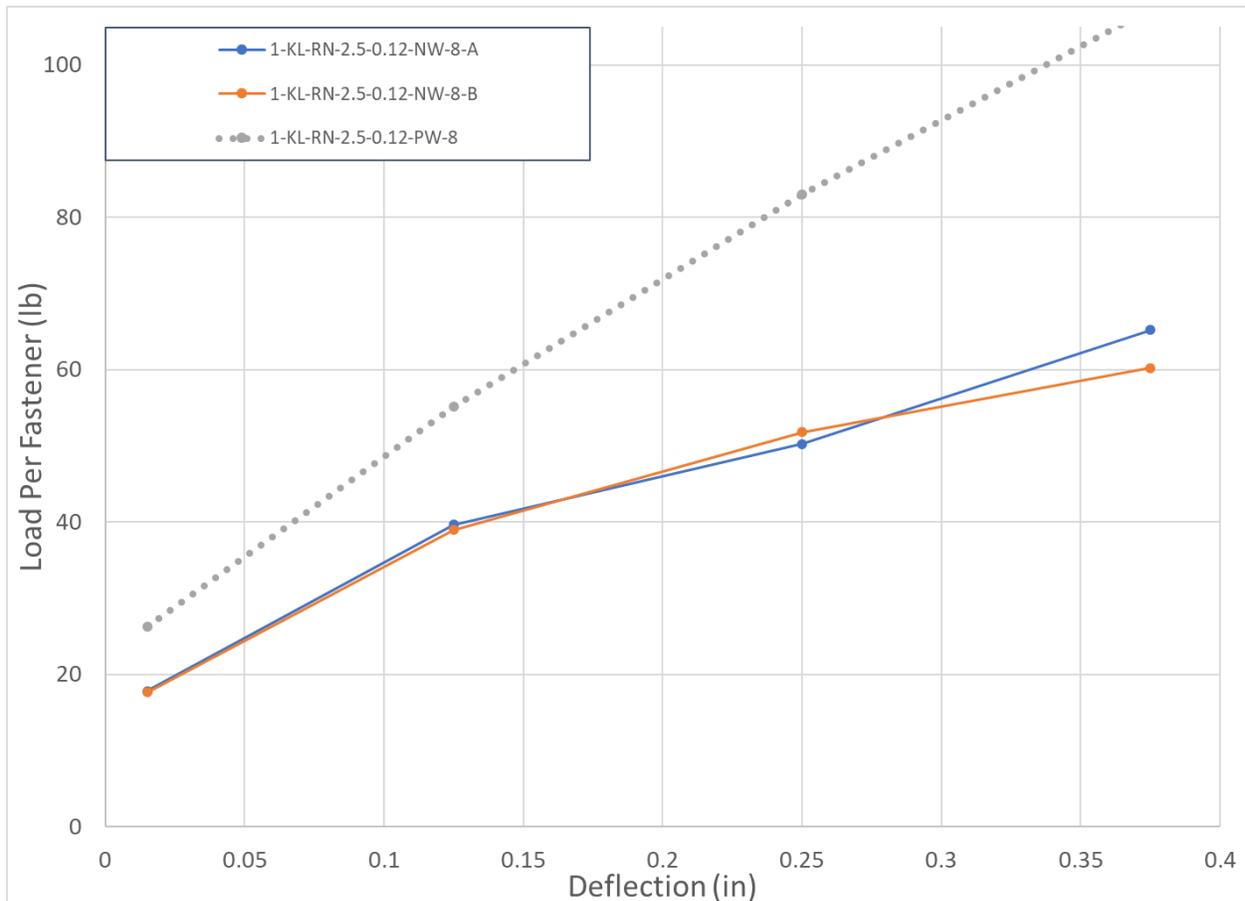
12 equation. “Wood Framing Penetration” is taken to be the full length of the fastener, including both the OSB and the framing in calculation of the penetration depth.

**Table 4 and Error! Reference source not found. Roofing Nails – 1-in. Foam (Baseline [BL]):** The replicate BL specimens both exceeded the TR-12 prediction of 13.1 psf by a factor of 1.35 and exceeded the IRC guidance by a factor of 1.61. The addition of a plastic washer increased the BL performance by nearly 50% at the minimum deflection of 0.015-in. and by even more at larger deflections.

**Table 4. Roofing Nails – 1-in. Foam, Results**

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam, in.	Spacing, in.	LPF @ 0.015-in. deflect. (w/self-wt)
IRC basis calculation	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	12.4
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.1
1-KL-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-8-A	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.3 (17.8)
1-KL-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-8-B	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.1 (17.7)
IRC basis calculation*	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	12.4
Mod. TR-12 prediction*	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.1
1-KL-RN-2.5-0.12-PW-8	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	21.9 (26.3)

\*No adjustment was made to the calculation for the addition of the plastic washer for the IRC provisions or the TR-12 prediction of this study. The NDS/TR-12 calculation procedure does not provide a means to account for beneficial fastener head or washer effects.



**Figure 3. Test Results: Roofing Nails – 1-in. Foam, Graph**

Table 5 and Figure 4 Roofing Nails – Foam thicker than 1-in.: The BL 1.5-in. and 2.0-in foam specimens both met or exceeded the TR-12 predictions and IRC guidance. The research used the common 0.120-in diameter roofing nail for the 2-in. foam despite the IRC guidance of a larger nail – 0.131.

Table 5. Roofing Nails – Foam thicker than 1-in., Results

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam, in.	Spacing, in.	LPF @ 0.015-in. deflect. (w/self-wt)
IRC basis calculation	0.120	1-1/4	1.5	6	8.3
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	9.0
1.5-KL-RN-3-0.12-NW-6	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	11.8 (15.2)
IRC	0.131	1-1/4	2.0	6	6.3
TR-12	0.120	1-1/2	2.0	6	6.8
2-KL-RN-3.5-0.12-NW-6	0.120	1-1/2	2.0	6	10.0 (13.4)

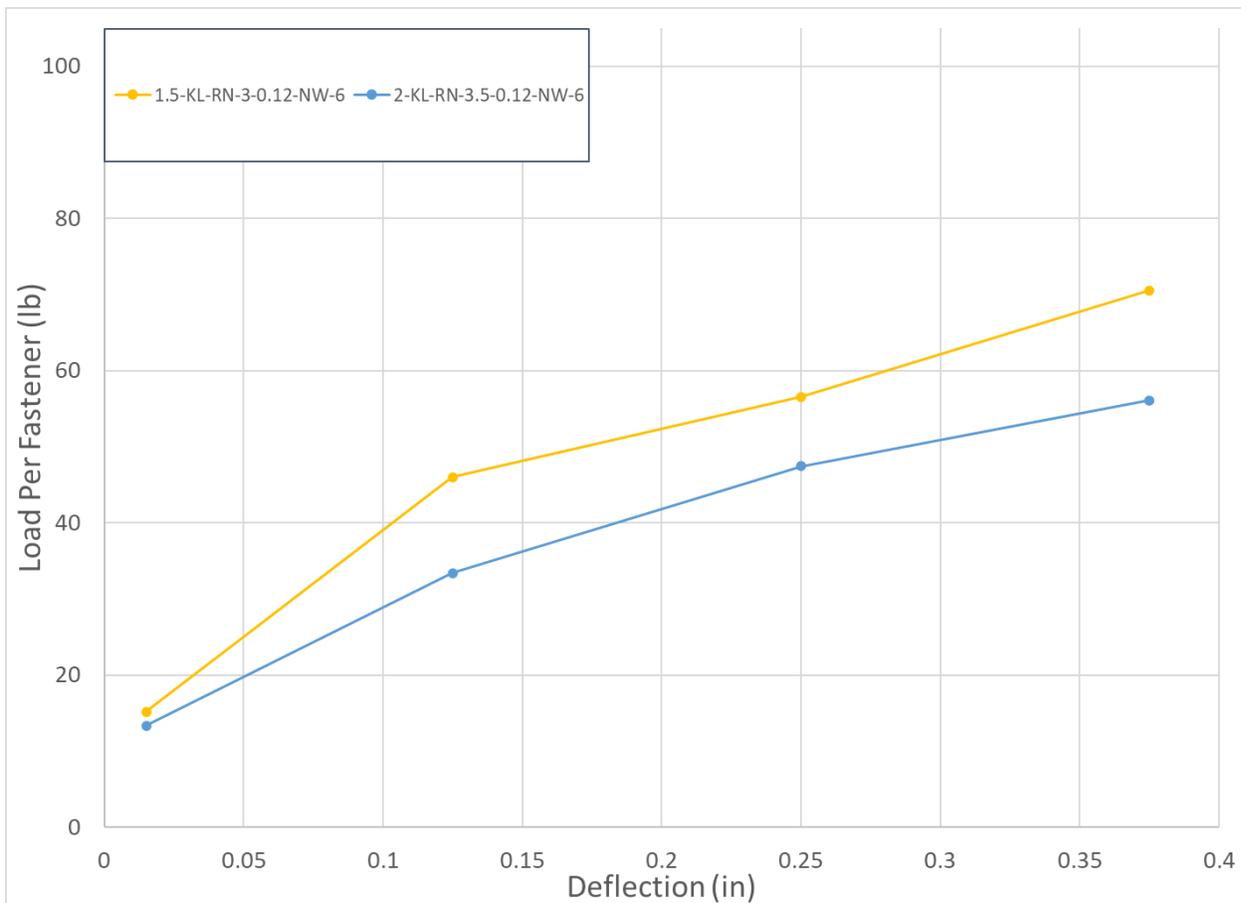


Figure 4. Test Results: Roofing Nails – Foam thicker than 1-in., Graph

Table 6 and Figure 5 – 1-in. Foam w/Drainage Gap: Using the same 2.5-in. nails as the BL while adding a ¼-in. drainage gap (DG) reduces capacity by 27% if the DG is located between the foam and the OSB layers, but only by 3% if that gap is located between the lath and the foam layers. A 3/8-in. gap with a longer 3-in. nail (an extra half-inch, making up the 3/8-in gap plus 1/8-in.) performs similarly to the 2.5-in. nail with no gap. For both 1/4-in. gaps and 3/8-in. gaps, locating the DG material between the lath and the foam improves capacity by more than 30% compared to locating the DG between the foam and the OSB.

For the case with drainage gaps located between the foam and OSB, the TR-12 predictions appear reasonably consistent with the test data, slightly over-predicting capacity in the case of applied load not including self-weight for the ¼-in. DG. However, for the cases with the drainage gap between the lath and foam, the TR-12 predictions conservatively under-predicted the tested deflection-controlled capacity. More testing is advisable to better quantify and confirm these trends, especially any benefit associated with the location of the drainage gap. Otherwise, it appears that predictions can be reasonably (or conservatively) applied to both conditions without distinction provided that the total gap width (up to 3/8” more than the foam thickness per this testing) is accounted for in the predictions.

**Table 6. 1-in. Foam w/Drainage Gap, Results (Lbs./fastener, LPF)**

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam, in.	Spacing, in.	LPF @ 0.015-in. deflect. (w/self-wt)
Baseline avg (No DG)	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.2 (17.75)
<b>¼-in. Drainage Gap between Foam and OSB</b>					
1-KL-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-8-DG 1/4 F/O*	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	9.7 (14.5)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	10.7
<b>¾-in. Drainage Gap between Foam and OSB</b>					
1-KL-RN-3-0.12-NW-8-DG 3/8 F/O#	0.120	1-5/8	1	8	10.8 (15.4)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-5/8	1	8	9.7
<b>¼-in. Drainage Gap between Lath and Foam</b>					
1-KL-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-8-DG 1/4 L/F*	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	12.8 (17.3)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	10.7
<b>¾-in. Drainage Gap between Lath and Foam</b>					
1-KL-RN-3-0.12-NW-8-DG 3/8 L/F#	0.120	1-5/8	1	8	14.1 (19.5)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-5/8	1	8	9.7
* Same nail L as BL (2-1/2-in.) + 1/4-in gap results in slightly shallower penetration in framing vs BL					
# Longer nail (3-in.) + 3/8-in gap results in slightly deeper penetration in framing vs BL					

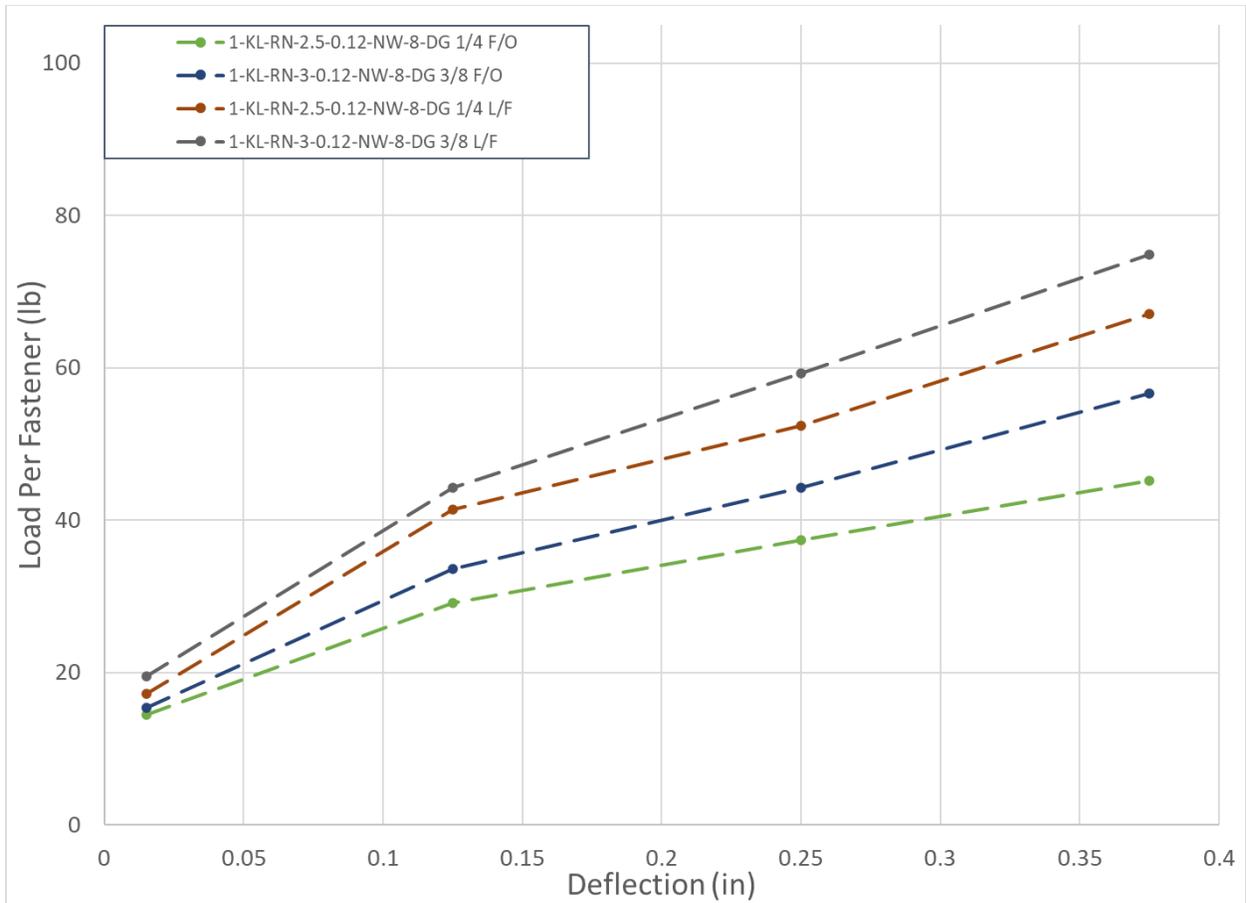
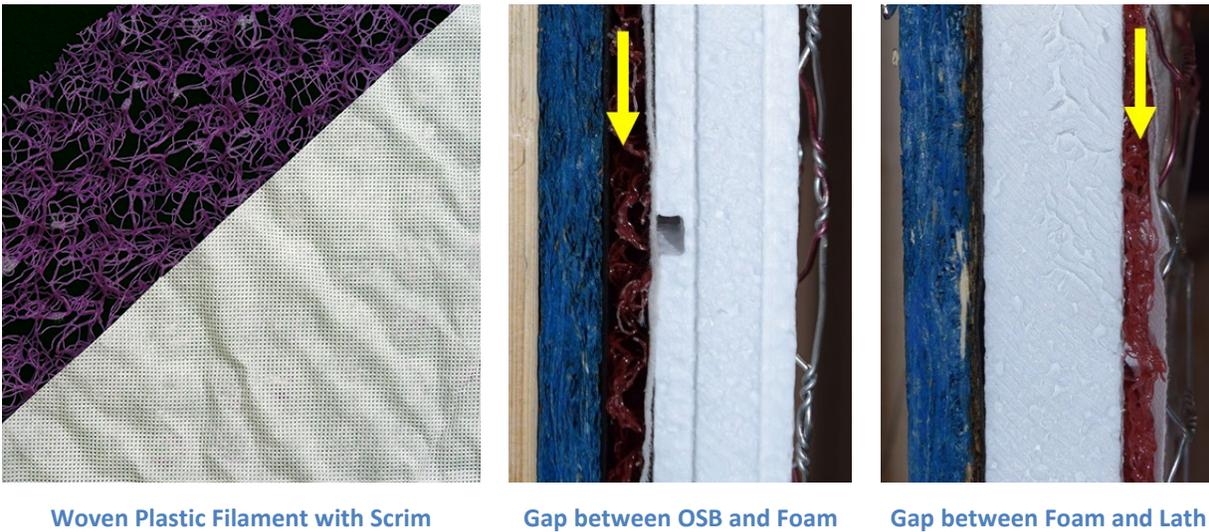


Figure 5. Test Results: Roofing Nails 1-in. Foam w/Drainage Gap, Graph



Woven Plastic Filament with Scrim

Gap between OSB and Foam

Gap between Foam and Lath

Figure 6. Drainage Gap – Type and Location



Between Foam and OSB



Between Lath and Foam

Figure 7 Drainage Gap – Failure Mode

Table 7 and Figure 10 – 1.5-in. Foam w/Washers: Roofing nails (hand-driven) were compared to pneumatic nails with both plastic and steel washers. No credit is given in the NDS/TR-12 equations for the use of washers in wood connections, thus, the IRC and TR-12 predictions used for this study also do not make any adjustments to account for washer or fastener head effects. Note that the BL uses roofing nails, with a large, flat nail head which seats in the washer very snugly. The pneumatic nails used have smaller heads, and potentially could greatly benefit from the addition of a washer for this application since the reduced head size doesn't properly engage with the wire of the lath.

- Adding a plastic washer to the BL 1.5-in foam specimen increased capacity from 15.2 lbs/fastener to 21.1 lbs/fastener (+38%)
- Adding a steel washer to the BL 1.5-in. foam specimen increased deflection-controlled capacity from 15.2 lbs/fastener to 19.4 lbs/fastener (+27.6%)
- Roofing nails with washers greatly outperformed the TR-12 predictions by about a factor of 2; with roofing nails, plastic washers performed slightly better than steel washers. This improvement for the 0.120-inch-diameter roofing nail (which was not observed for the 0.131-inch diameter pneumatic nail) may be related to greater head fixity provided by the washers relative to the bending strength of the 0.120-in diameter nail as compared to the 0.131-in diameter nail. The head size differences in these two nails also may play a role in the fixity that the washer is able to provide.
- The performance of the plastic versus the steel washer varied by the nail type; additional testing would be needed to confirm actual trends or differences.
- Pneumatic nails with plastic and steel washers were generally well-predicted by the IRC and modified TR-12 equation.
- The dissimilar performance effect of plastic or steel washers in combination with the 0.131-inch-diameter pneumatic nails tested seems to be due to the interaction of the nail head – smaller than that of a roofing nail – with the concave opening of the washers. The pneumatic nail head appears to seat less firmly than a roofing nail head, which appears to allow it to twist within the “collar” of the plastic washers, whereas the steel washer appears to adequately hold the pneumatic nail in position under load (Figure 8, Figure 10).

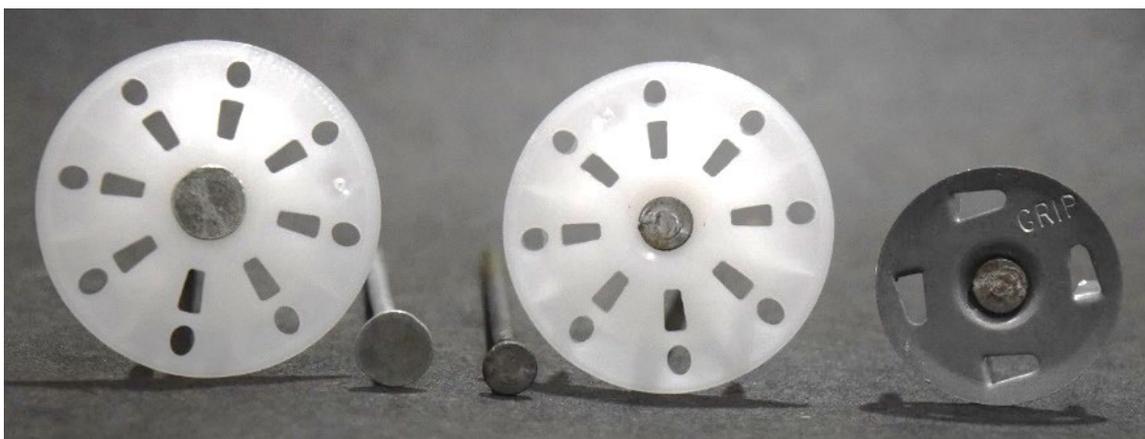


Figure 8. Nail Heads and Washers



1-in. Foam, no washer

1-in. Foam, plastic washer

2-in. Foam, no washer

Figure 9. Failure Mode – Nails with Washers

Table 7. Nails with Washers

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam, in.	Spac., in.	LPF @ 0.015-in. deflect. (w/self-wt)
BL (3-in. roofing nails, 1.5-in. foam)	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	11.8 (15.2)
0.120-in. dia. 3.0-in. Full Head Roofing Nails w/ Plastic Washers					
1.5-KL-RN-3-0.12-PW-6	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	17.4 (21.1)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	9
0.120-in. dia. 3.0-in. Full Head Roofing Nails w/ Steel Washers					
1.5-KL-RN-3-0.12-SW-6	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	16.2 (19.4)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-1/2	1.5	6	9
0.131-in. dia. 3.25-in. Power-Driven Nails w/ Plastic Washers					
1.5-KL-PN-3.25-0.131-PW-6	0.131	1-3/4	1.5	6	10.3 (13.8)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.131	1-3/4	1.5	6	11.4
0.131-in. dia. 3.25-in. Power-Driven Collated Nails w/ Steel Washers					
1.5-KL-PN-3.25-0.131-SW-6	0.131	1-3/4	1.5	6	12.0 (15.2)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.131	1-3/4	1.5	6	11.4

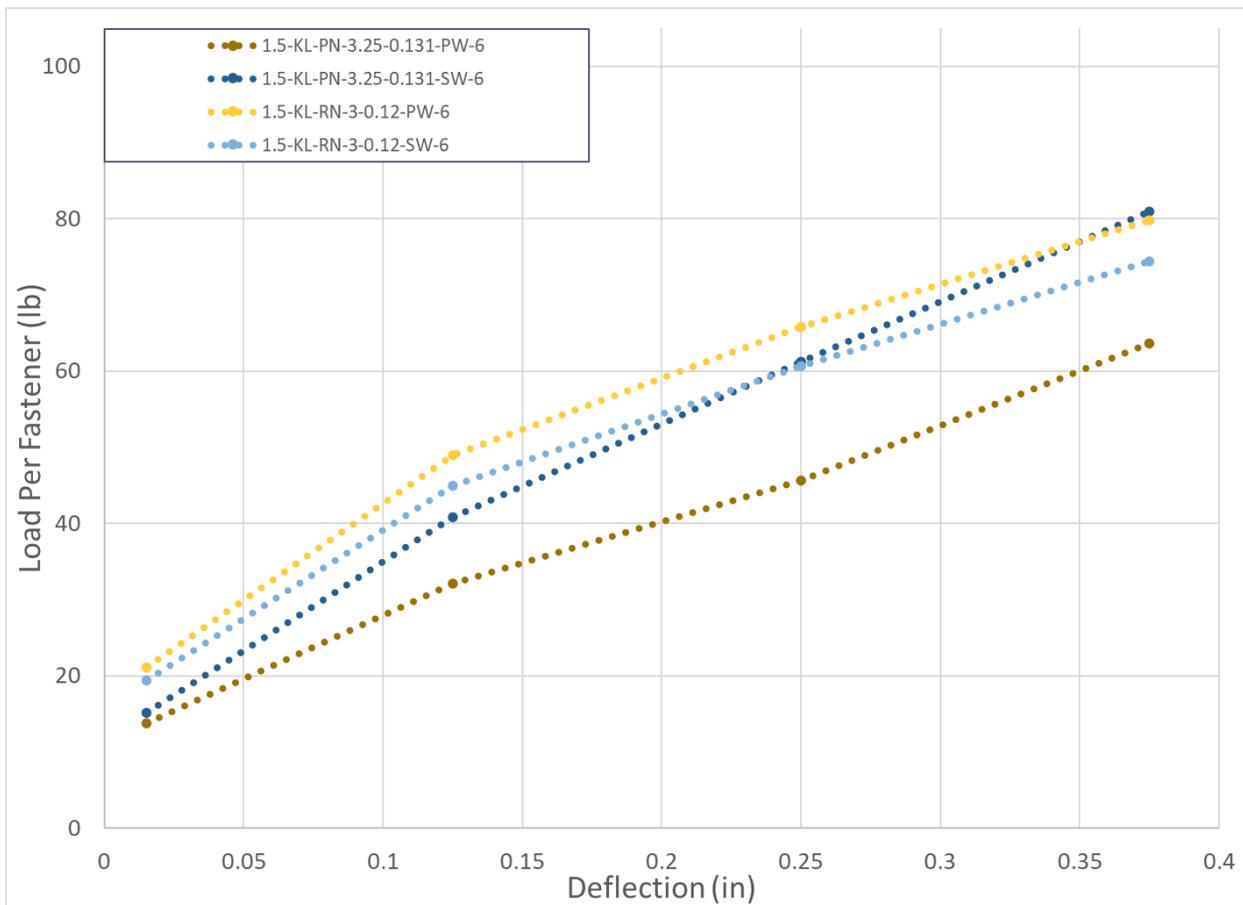


Figure 10. Test Results: Nails 1.5-in. Foam w/Washers, Graph

Figure 11, Figure 12, and Table 8 shows two variations: one that uses a proprietary welded wire (TT) instead of the BL woven wire, and one with a thinner stucco layer and lightweight (20 ga.) non-furred woven wire (similar to poultry mesh). Deflection-controlled capacities for both were considerably less than the BL by about 30-60 percent. In the case of the poultry netting, the flimsy wire was badly deformed right off the roll and difficult to install flat against the foam substrate. Figure 11, item A shows that the thinner layer of stucco allowed the wire to protrude above the screeded surface in several locations. Item B shows that the failure mode was a combination of fastener bending and deformation of the lath wire. Both of these two under-performing configurations are shown (table and graph) in comparison to the 1-in. foam BL specimens (A and B).



A. The 20 ga. wire Lath Penetrated the 3/8-in. Screeded Stucco Surface

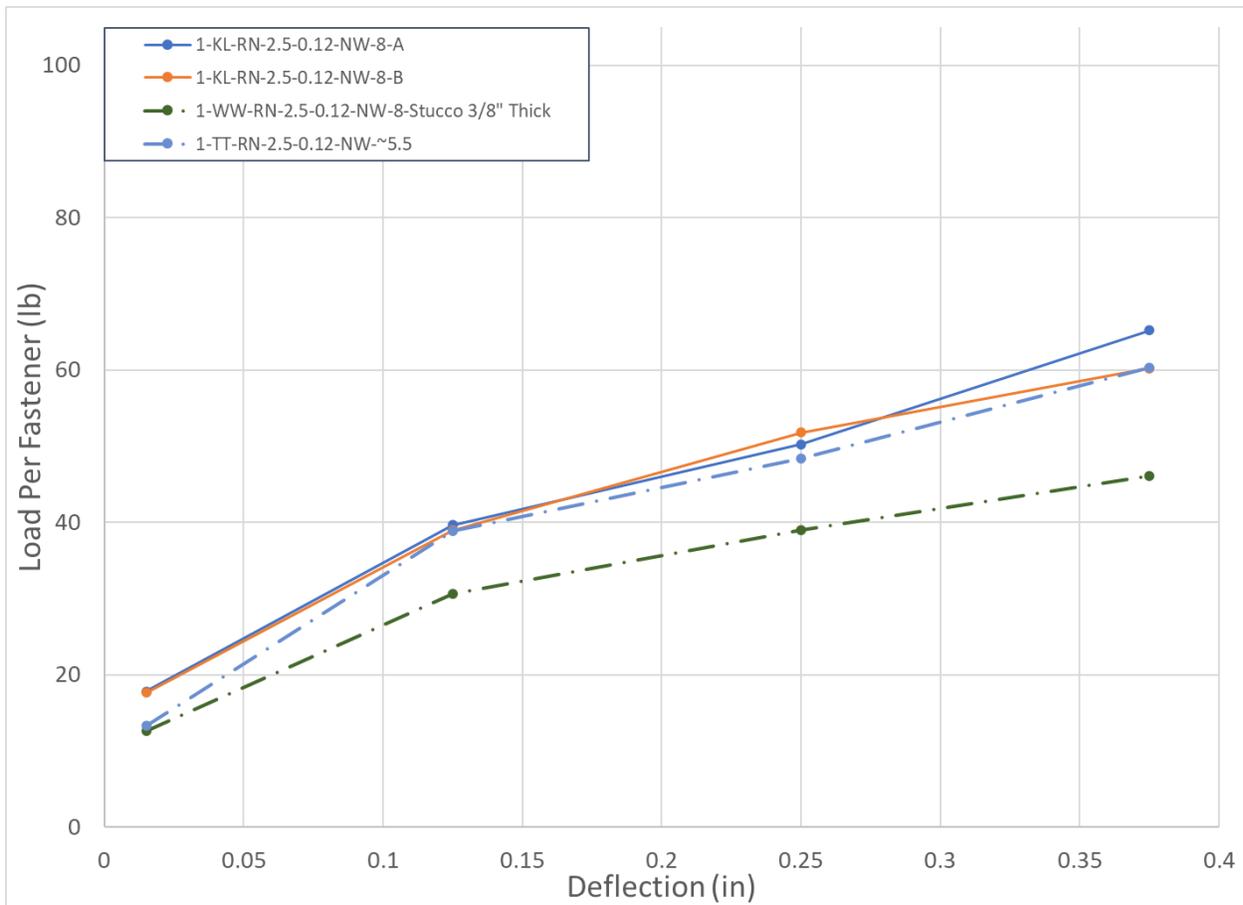


B. Failure Mode was a Combination of Nail Bending and Lath Wire Deformation

Figure 11. Thinner Stucco Layer (3/8-in.) with 20 ga. Woven Wire Over 1-in. Foam

**Table 8. Lath and Stucco Variations vs BL, Results**

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam, in.	Spacing, in.	LPF @ 0.015-in. deflect. (w/self-wt)
IRC basis calculation	0.120	1-1/4	1	8	11.3
Baseline A (17 ga. K-Lath. ½-in. stucco)	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.3 (17.8)
Baseline B (17 ga. K-Lath. ½-in. stucco)	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.1 (17.7)
20 ga. Woven Wire, no furring and 3/8-in. stucco (~4.5 psf)					
1-WW-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-8-3/8"Thick	0.120	1-3/4	1.0	8	8.6 (12.6)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-3/4	1.0	8	11.1
17 ga. Welded Wire, self-furred with wire tracks to replace washers					
1-TT-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-~5.5	0.120	1-3/8	1.0	~5.5	10.6 (13.3)
Mod. TR-12 prediction	0.120	1-3/8	1.0	~5.5	13.1



**Figure 12. Lath and Stucco Variations vs BL, Graph**

Table 9 and Figure 13 – Expanded Metal Over 1-in. Foam vs BL: Two specimens with expanded metal diamond mesh (EX) were tested. Due to the geometry of the expanded flutes of the expanded metal lath, the  $L_s$  used for K-Lath predictions was substituted for TR-12 predictions.

The 2.5 psy EX underperformed the BL on a per-fastener basis when fastened at 8-in o.c., but performed similarly to the BL when fastened at 6-in. o.c. This seems to indicate that there might be some advantage to close spacing that has more than a simple multiplier effect.

Table 9. Expanded Metal Over 1-in. Foam, vs BL, Results

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam, in.	Spacing, in.	LPF @ 0.015-in. deflect. (w/self-wt)
TR-12	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.1
Baseline A (17 ga. K-Lath. ½-in. stucco)	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.3 (17.8)
Baseline B (17 ga. K-Lath. ½-in. stucco)	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	13.1 (17.7)
Expanded Metal Diamond Mesh, 2.5 psy					
1-EX-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-8	0.120	1-1/2	1	8	10.3 (15.3)
Expanded Metal Diamond Mesh, 2.5 psy, with 1.25-in. Stucco (2-coats) which shifts depth of lath layer					
1-EX-RN-2.5-0.12-NW-6-2 Coats 1.25"	0.120	1-1/2	1	6	10.4 (17.5)

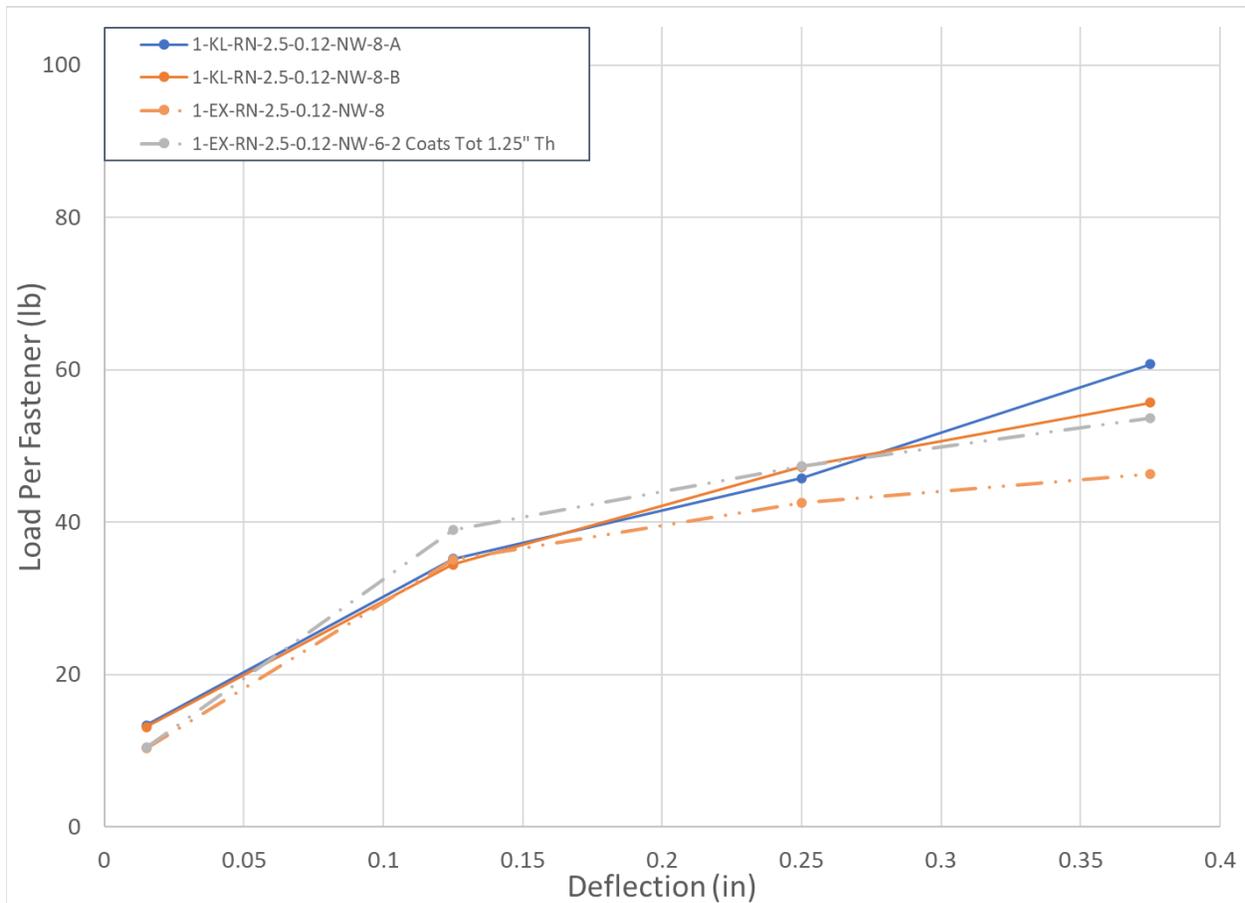


Figure 13. Expanded Metal Over 1-in. Foam, vs BL, Graph

## Screws

Screws are not listed in Table R703.15.1 Cladding Minimum Fastening Requirements for Direct Attachment over Foam Plastic Sheathing to Support Cladding Weight. Wood screws (#10) and lag screws (1/4") are included in Table R703.15.2 Furring Minimum Fastening Requirements for Application over Foam Plastic Sheathing to Support Cladding Weight, which is the reference included in Table 10, even though it is not directly related to this construction.

**TABLE R703.15.2  
FURRING MINIMUM FASTENING REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION  
OVER FOAM PLASTIC SHEATHING TO SUPPORT CLADDING WEIGHT<sup>a, b</sup>**

FURRING MATERIAL	FRAMING MEMBER	FASTENER TYPE AND MINIMUM SIZE	MINIMUM PENETRATION INTO WALL FRAMING (inches)	FASTENER SPACING IN FURRING (inches)	MAXIMUM THICKNESS OF FOAM SHEATHING <sup>d</sup> (inches)							
					16" o.c. Furring <sup>e</sup>				24" o.c. Furring <sup>e</sup>			
					Siding Weight:							
					3 psf	11 psf	18 psf	25 psf	3 psf	11 psf	18 psf	25 psf
Minimum 1× wood furring <sup>c</sup>	Minimum 2× wood stud	0.131" diameter nail	1 1/4	8	4.00	2.45	1.45	0.95	4.00	1.60	0.85	DR
				12	4.00	1.60	0.85	DR	4.00	0.95	DR	DR
				16	4.00	1.10	DR	DR	3.05	0.60	DR	DR
		0.162" diameter nail	1 1/4	8	4.00	4.00	2.45	1.60	4.00	2.75	1.45	0.85
				12	4.00	2.75	1.45	0.85	4.00	1.65	0.75	DR
				16	4.00	1.90	0.95	DR	4.00	1.05	DR	DR
	No.10 wood screw	1	12	4.00	2.30	1.20	0.70	4.00	1.40	0.60	DR	
			16	4.00	1.65	0.75	DR	4.00	0.90	DR	DR	
			24	4.00	0.90	DR	DR	2.85	DR	DR	DR	
	1/4" lag screw	1 1/2	12	4.00	2.65	1.50	0.90	4.00	1.65	0.80	DR	
			16	4.00	1.95	0.95	0.50	4.00	1.10	DR	DR	
			24	4.00	1.10	DR	DR	3.25	0.50	DR	DR	

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa, 1 pound per square inch = 6.895 kPa.

DR = Design Required.

o.c. = On Center.

- Wood framing and furring shall be Spruce-pine-fir or any wood species with a specific gravity of 0.42 or greater in accordance with AWC NDS.
- Nail fasteners shall comply with ASTM F1667, except nail length shall be permitted to exceed ASTM F1667 standard lengths.
- Where the required cladding fastener penetration into wood material exceeds 3/4 inch and is not more than 1 1/2 inches, a minimum 2× wood furring or an approved design shall be used.
- Foam sheathing shall have a minimum compressive strength of 15 psi in accordance with ASTM C578 or ASTM C1289.
- Furring shall be spaced not more than 24 inches on center, in a vertical or horizontal orientation. In a vertical orientation, furring shall be located over wall studs and attached with the required fastener spacing. In a horizontal orientation, the indicated 8-inch and 12-inch fastener spacing in furring shall be achieved by use of two fasteners into studs at 16 inches and 24 inches on center, respectively.

**Figure 14. Table R703.15.2 from the IRC 2018 Section R703 Exterior Covering**

The baseline set for screws includes 2-in foam using two different fastener schedules: one based on IRC Table R703.15.2 and a second one modified to the more typical spacing of 6-in. o.c., with a smaller-diameter screw. Screws are commonly specified for commercial installations of stucco over foam but are rare in residential application. The conical head of counter-sink screws requires washers to adequately capture strands of lath wire. Two of the test specimens used plastic washers and one used steel.

### General Observations, Screws

- Including a plastic washer, which added approximately 38% capacity in combination with a full-head nail, appears to provide at least as much advantage when used with screws based on guidance of Figure 14.
- Thinner screws (#8) at a more frequent fastening schedule in combination with plastic washers perform similarly on a per-fastener basis. This same configuration with steel washers adds an additional 50% capacity.

3. Stress at the collar of plastic washers (white discoloration) appears to occur as a result of the screw head beginning to pull through the washer under load. (Figure 15) A better match between washer and screw head may potentially provide better performance.
4. Use of the lath's wire gauge in inches for modification of the TR-12 equation produces an under-prediction but does not take into account the additional strength attained by using a washer. Additional testing should be done to confirm and take advantage of this additional strength.

**Table 10. Screws, Results**

COMPARE	Dia., in.	Pen., in.	Foam thick., in.	Spac., in.	Lbs/fastener @ 0.015-in. defl
<b>#10 with Plastic Washer</b>					
IRC (no washer)	0.190	1	2	12	From 3 to 11
2-KL-SC-3-#10-PW-12	0.190	1	2	12	12.8 (19.9)
TR-12 (no washer)	0.190	1	2	12	8.4
<b>#8 with Plastic Washer</b>					
IRC (no washer)	0.160	1	2	6	NA
2-KL-SC-3-#8-PW-6	0.160	1	2	6	15.3 (19.0)
TR-12 (no washer)	0.160	1	2	6	5.6
<b>#8 with Steel Washer</b>					
IRC (no washer)	0.160	1	2	6	NA
2-KL-SC-3-#8-SW-6	0.160	1	2	6	25.2 (28.5)
TR-12 (no washer)	0.160	1	2	6	5.6



**Figure 15. Screws with Plastic Washers – Failure Mode**

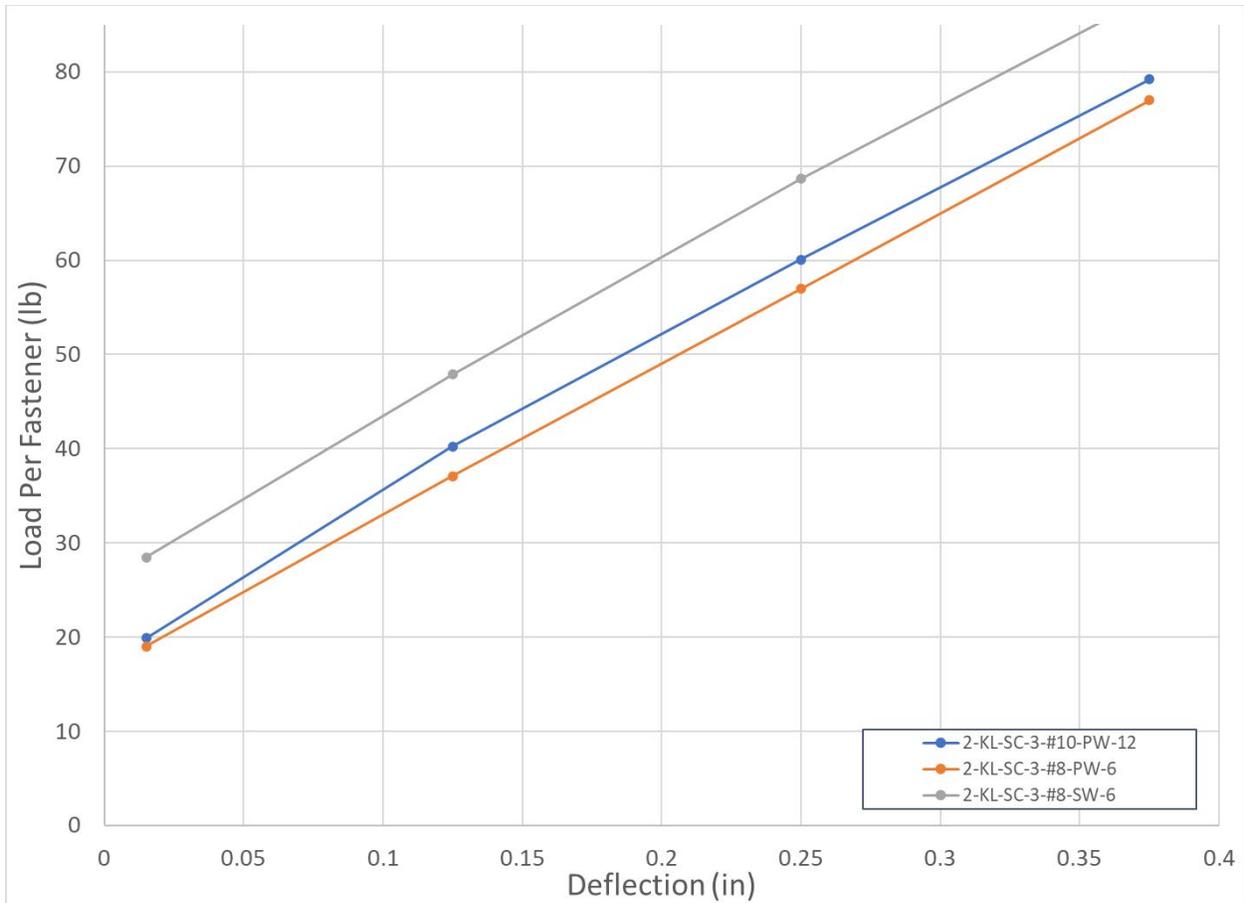


Figure 16. Test Results: All Screws, Graph

Table 11. Test Results: All Screws, Data (Load, lbs.)

Wall	2-KL-SC-3-#10-PW-12		2-KL-SC-3-#8-PW-6		2-KL-SC-3-#8-SW-6	
Foam Th., in.	2		2		2	
Lath	17 Gage K lath ¼" Furred					
Diameter, #	#10		#8		#8	
Diameter, in.	0.190		0.160		0.160	
Length, in.	3.00		3.00		3.00	
Washer?	Plastic		Plastic		Steel	
Spacing, in.	12		6		6	
Avg Deflection, in.	Load	Load/Fastener	Load	Load/Fastener	Load	Load/Fastener
0.015	239	12.8 (19.9)	456	15.3 (19.0)	683	25.2 (28.5)
0.125	483	33.2 (40.2)	890	33.4 (37.1)	1149	44.6 (47.9)
0.25	721	53.0 (60.1)	1367	53.3 (57.0)	1647	65.3 (68.6)
0.375	951	72.2 (79.2)	1848	73.3 (77.0)	2112	84.7 (88.0)
Predicted Capacity, lbs./screw	8.4		5.6		5.6	

## Staples

Table 13 lists the characteristics of staples included in the research. Table 12 lists the staple characteristics compliant with ICC-ES Report ESR-1539 (Division: 06 00 00-Wood, Plastics and Composites Section: 06 05 23.13 – Nails) commissioned by the International Staple, Nail and Tool Association to evaluate power-driven staples and nails for various power-driven fastener manufacturers. The limited lengths, widths and gauges of readily available construction staples complicates the installation choices for the baseline set of walls.

Neither IRC 703 nor ASTM C1063 contain provisions for the use of staples with claddings installed over foam. One of the goals of this project was to test staples for this application, especially for heavyweight cementitious cladding. Some manufacturers of proprietary one-coat stucco products have developed guidance based on ICC-ES Evaluation Reports for use with stucco over 1-in. foam. The limited availability of long-leg staples in gauges of sufficient strength dictates maximum foam thickness, and the 3/4-in. crown recommended by the ESRs is difficult to obtain. The first three specimens in the baseline set of Table 14 all use 1-in. foam and provide a comparison of staple gauge, crown width and framing penetration, in addition to confirming staples' performance with stucco over 1-in. foam.

**Table 12. Staples ESR-1539 (Available per Internet Search)**

Manufacturer	Gauge	2 in. L	2.25 in. L	2.5 in. L	Crown, in., ≥	W., in.	Th., in.	Min. Pen. 12d
Paslode	16	yes	no	no	15/16	0.0625	0.055	0.75
Bostitch		yes	no	no	1	0.0625	0.055	0.75
Senco		yes	no	no	1	0.0625	0.055	0.75
Paslode	16	yes	no	no	1/2	0.0625	0.055	0.75
Bostitch		yes	no	no	1/2	0.0625	0.055	0.75
Senco		yes	no	no	7/16	0.0625	0.055	0.75
Senco	15	yes	yes	yes	7/16	0.0740	0.0670	0.888

**Table 13. Staple Characteristics**

BASELINE >>		STAPLES		
Replicates >>		1 or 2	1 or 2	1 or 2
ID# >>		<b>B1ST1-1</b>	<b>B1ST2-1</b>	<b>B1ST3-1</b>
Foam	Thickness, in.	1	1	1
Fastener	Type	staple	staple	staple
	Head / Crown, req'd	3/4-in. crown	3/4-in. crown	3/4-in. crown
	Head / Crown, used	1-in.	7/16-in.	7/16-in.
	Spacing req'd, in.	4	4	4
	Diameter Req'd, in.	16 ga.	16 ga.	15 ga.
	Penetration, in., req'd	1.25	1.25	1.25
	Penetration, in., used	1	1	1.25
	Length, in. (req'd)	2.25	2.25	2.25
	Length, in. (used)	2	2	2.25

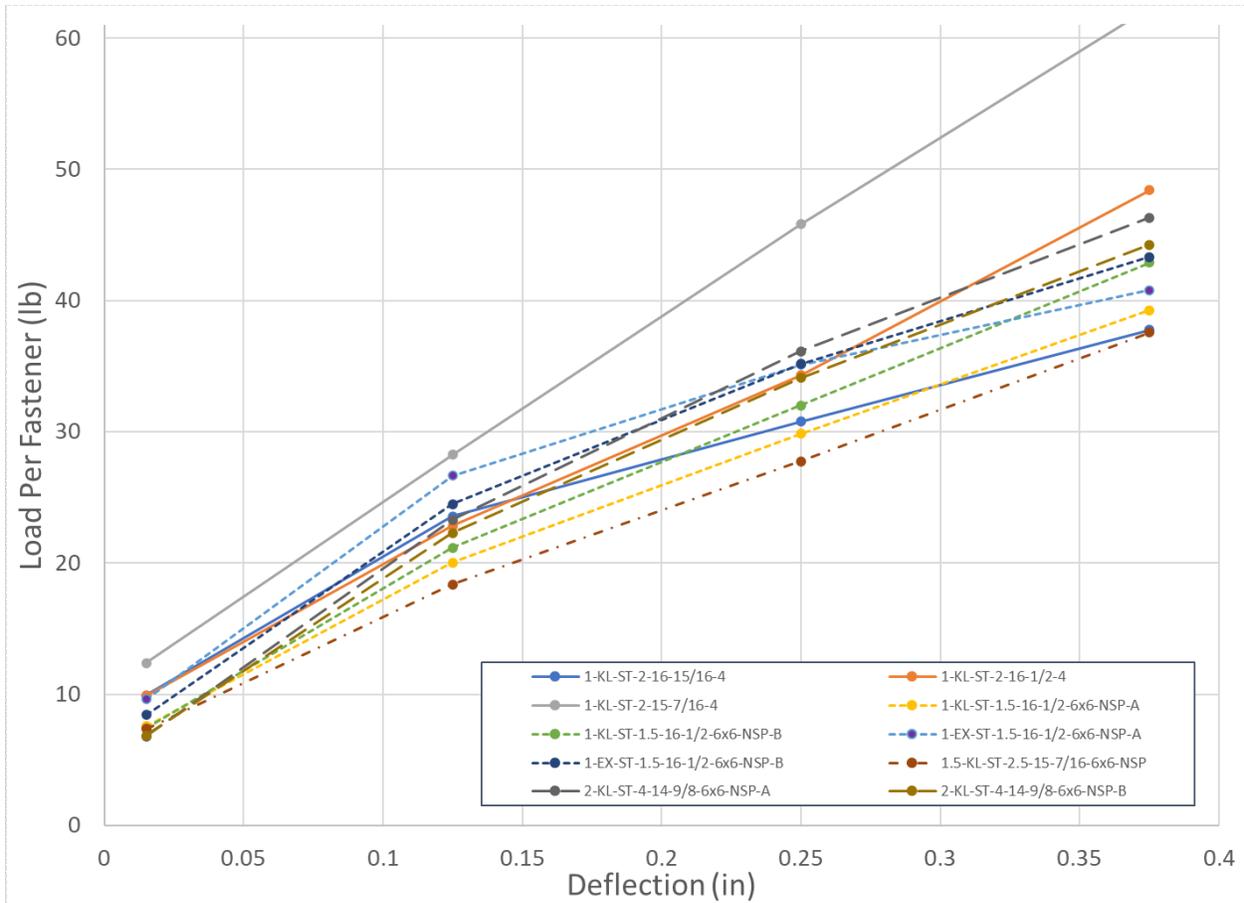


Figure 17. Test Results: All Staples, Graph

*General Observations, Staples (Figure 17)*

1. Logical modification of staple length and gauge shows that staples may perform adequately even for foam thicknesses over 1-in.
2. Use of staples to attach stucco lath directly to sheathing without penetration to framing appears promising.
3. Something akin to a “community effect” seems to indicate that more numerous fasteners at spacing narrower than typical framing (16-in. o.c.) can shift the failure mode from a cascade of independent fastener bending to maximum lath capacity.
4. Staples with wider crowns appear to exhibit a secondary failure mode related to independent behavior of the two legs (Figure 19)
5. Use of the staple’s wire gauge in inches and the minimum bending moment from the table of values in *ESR-1539 Table 3.2 Staple Characteristics* for modification of the TR-12 produces a prediction within an order of magnitude of measured capacities.

Data tables and graphs in logical groupings for detailed comparison follow.

Table 14 and Figure 18 – Staples with Stud Penetration and 1-in. Foam

Table 14. Staples with Stud Penetration and 1-in. Foam, Data (Load, lbs.)

Wall	1-KL-ST-2-16-15/16-4	1-KL-ST-2-16-1/2-4	1-KL-ST-2-15-7/16-4			
Foam Thick., in.	1					
Lath	17 Gage K lath ¼" Furred					
Staple Crown W., in.	15/16	½	7/16			
Staple Gauge	16	16	15			
Staple L., in.	2					
Staple spacing, in.	Vertical 4-in. o.c to stud at 16-in. o.c.					
Stud Penetration?	Yes					
Average Deflection	Load	Load/Fastener	Load	Load/Fastener	Load	Load/Fastener
0.015	358	7.4 (9.9)	356	7.8 (9.9)	446	10.2 (12.4)
0.125	848	21.0 (23.5)	821	20.7 (22.8)	1017	26.1 (28.2)
0.25	1108	28.2 (30.8)	1234	32.1 (34.3)	1650	23.7 (45.8)
0.375	1360	35.2 (37.8)	1742	46.3 (48.4)	2243	60.1 (62.3)
Predicted Capacity		1.7		1.7		1.9

1. Narrower crown width seems to provide benefit (2 vs 1)
2. Heavier gauge staple seems to provide benefit (3 vs 2)

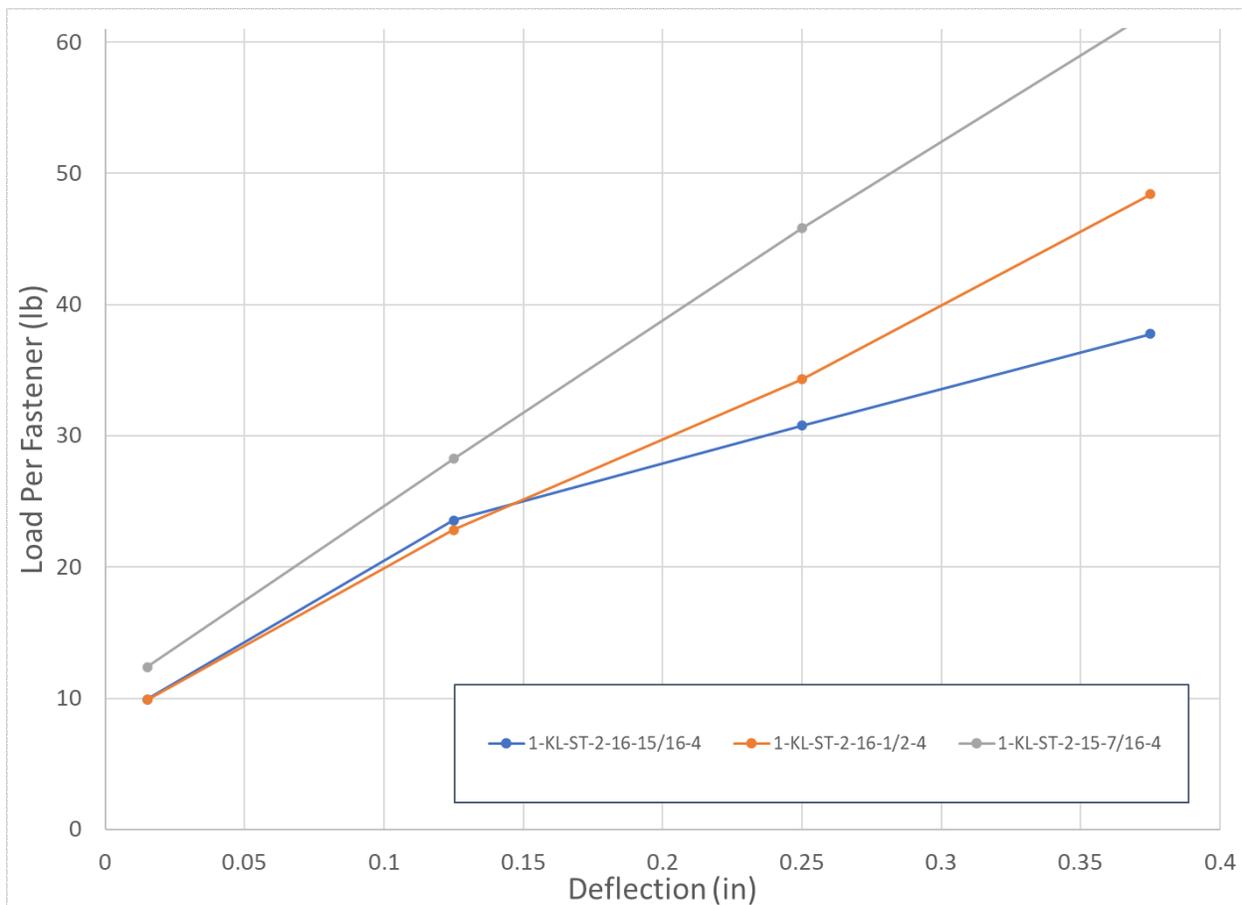


Figure 18. Staples with Stud Penetration and 1-in. Foam, Graph



Figure 19. Staples with Different Crown Widths – Failure Modes

Table 15 and Figure 20 – Staples without Stud Penetration and 1-in. Foam

Table 15. Staples Without Stud Penetration and 1-in. Foam, Data (Load, lbs.)

Wall	1-KL-ST-1.5-16-1/2-6x6-NSP-A	1-KL-ST-1.5-16-1/2-6x6-NSP-B	1-EX-ST-1.5-16-1/2-6x6-NSP-A	1-EX-ST-1.5-16-1/2-6x6-NSP-B				
Foam Thick., in.	1							
Lath	17 Gage K lath ¼" Furred		2.4 psy Expanded Metal					
Crown W., in.	½							
Staple Gauge	16							
Staple L., in.	1.5							
Staple spacing, in.	6x6							
Stud Penetration?	No							
Avg Deflection, in.	Load	Load/Staple	Load	Load/Staple	Load	Load/Staple	Load	Load/Staple
0.015	483	6.3 (7.6)	474	6.1 (7.4)	615	8.3 (9.6)	474	7.2 (8.4)
0.125	1281	18.7 (20.0)	1354	19.8 (21.2)	1706	25.3 (26.7)	1354	23.3 (24.5)
0.25	1909	28.5 (29.8)	2049	30.7 (32.0)	2247	33.8 (35.1)	2049	34.0 (35.2)
0.375	2513	38.0 (39.3)	2744	41.5 (42.9)	2611	39.5 (40.8)	2744	42.1 (43.3)
Predicted Capacity	1.7		1.7		1.7		1.7	
1. Expanded metal diamond mesh lath seems to provide benefit in combination with staples								

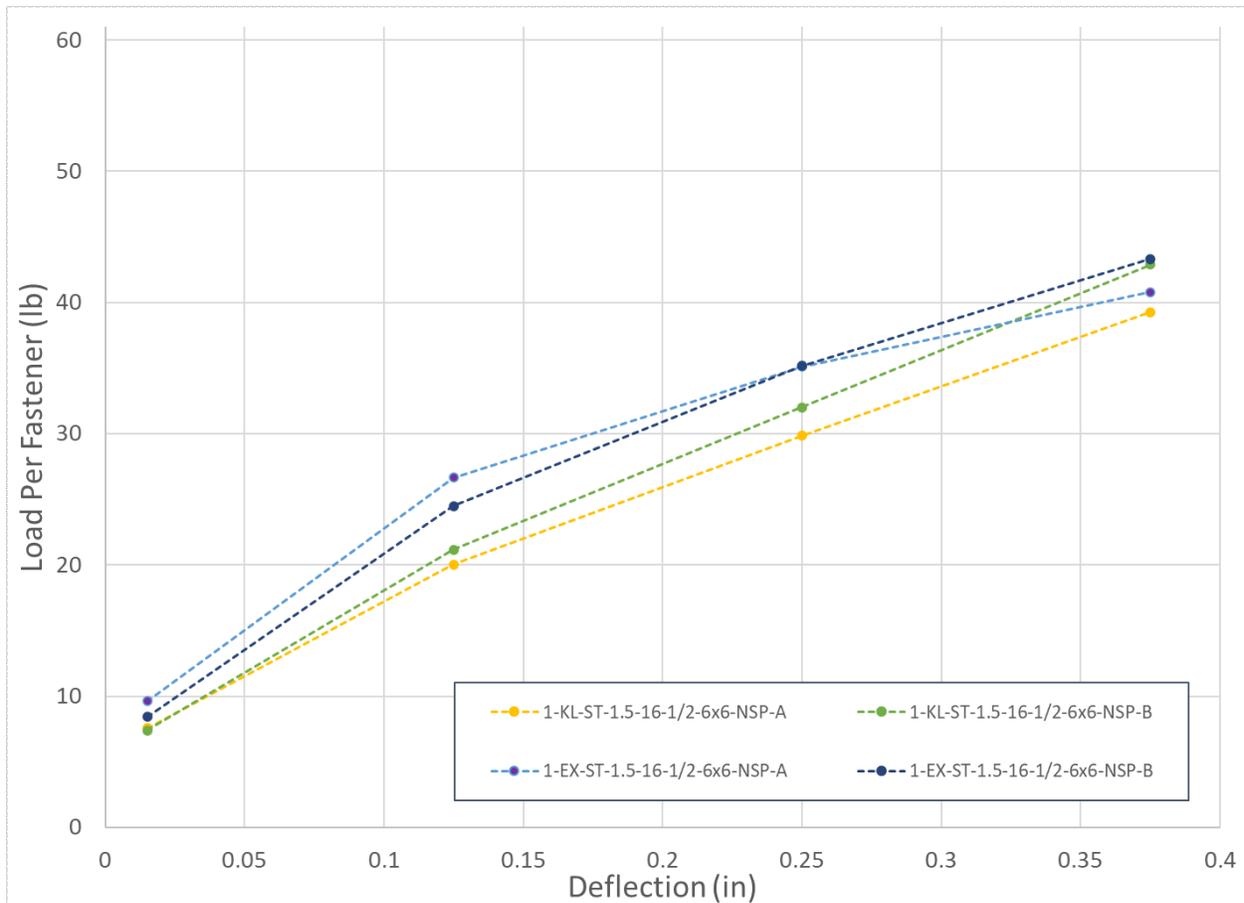


Figure 20. Staples Without Stud Penetration – 1-in. Foam, Graph

Table 16 and Figure 21 – Staples without Stud Penetration and Thicker Than 1-in. Foam

Table 16. Staples Without Stud Penetration – Thicker Than 1-in. Foam, Data (Load, lbs.)

Wall	1.5-KL-ST-2.5-15-7/16-6x6-NSP		2-KL-ST-4-14-9/8-6x6-NSP-A		2-KL-ST-4-14-9/8-6x6-NSP-B	
Foam Thick., in.	1.5		2		2	
Lath	17 Gage K lath ¼" Furred					
Staple Crown W., in.	7/16		9/8		9/8	
Staple Gauge	15		14		14	
Staple L., in.	2.5		4		4	
Staple spacing, in.	6x6					
Stud Penetration?	No					
Avg Deflection, in.	Load	Load/Fastener	Load	Load/Fastener	Load	Load/Fastener
0.015	388	6.1 (7.3)	358	5.6 (6.8)	361	5.6 (6.9)
0.125	1093	17.1 (18.4)	1412	22.1 (23.3)	1347	21.1 (22.3)
0.25	1694	26.5 (27.7)	2235	34.9 (36.1)	2103	32.9 (34.1)
0.375	2322	36.3 (37.6)	2887	45.1 (46.3)	2754	43.0 (44.3)
Predicted Capacity		1.3		1		1
1. Heavier gauge staples can nearly overcome the cantilever effect of thicker foam, but load at 0.015-in deflection was slightly decreased.						

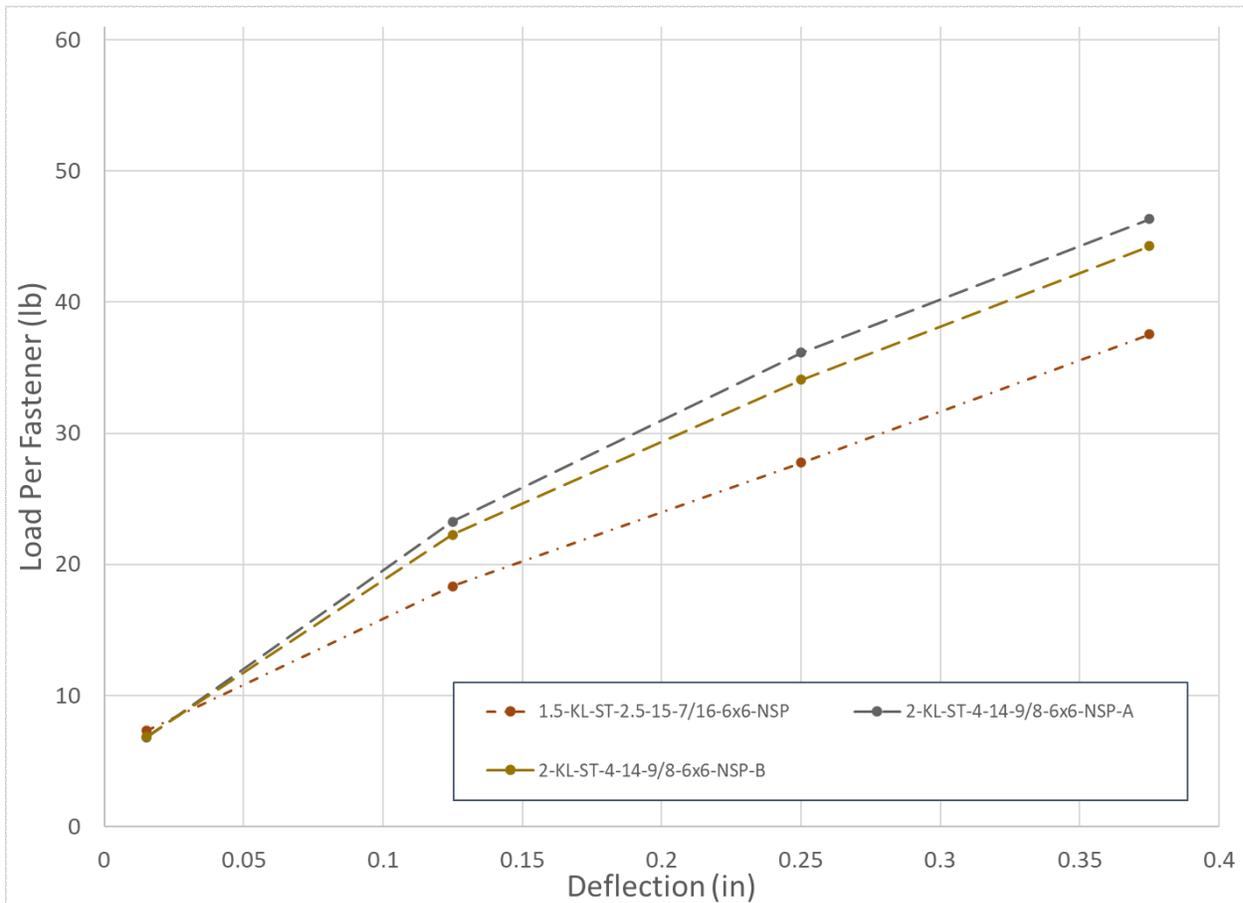
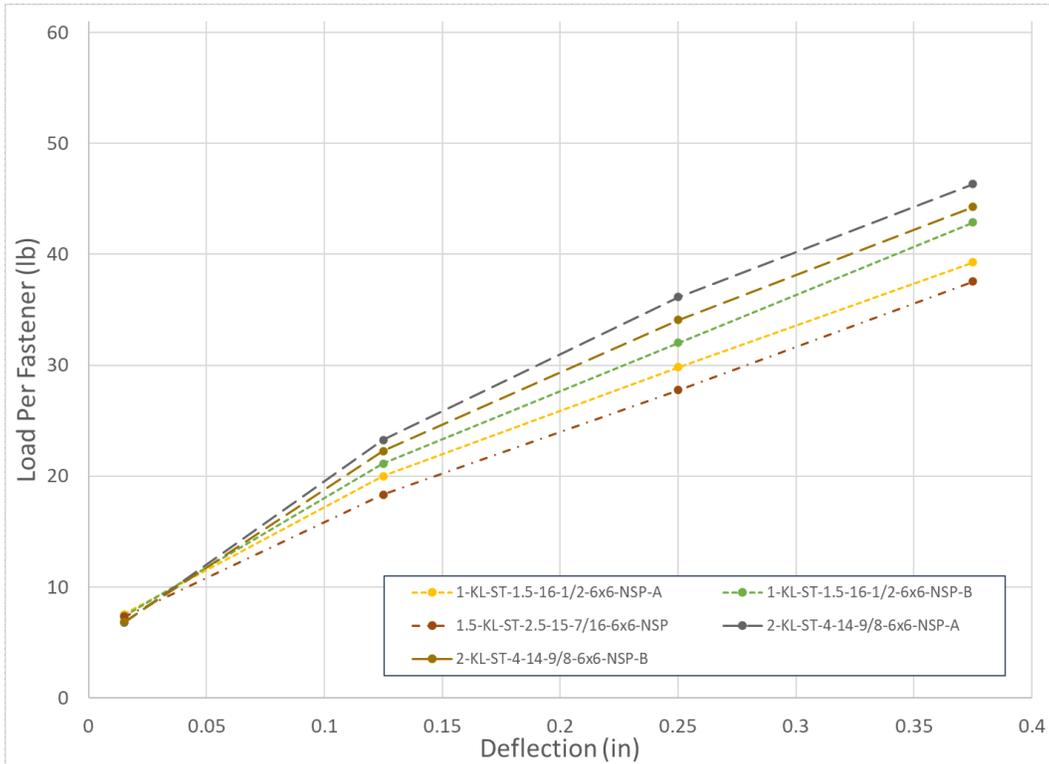
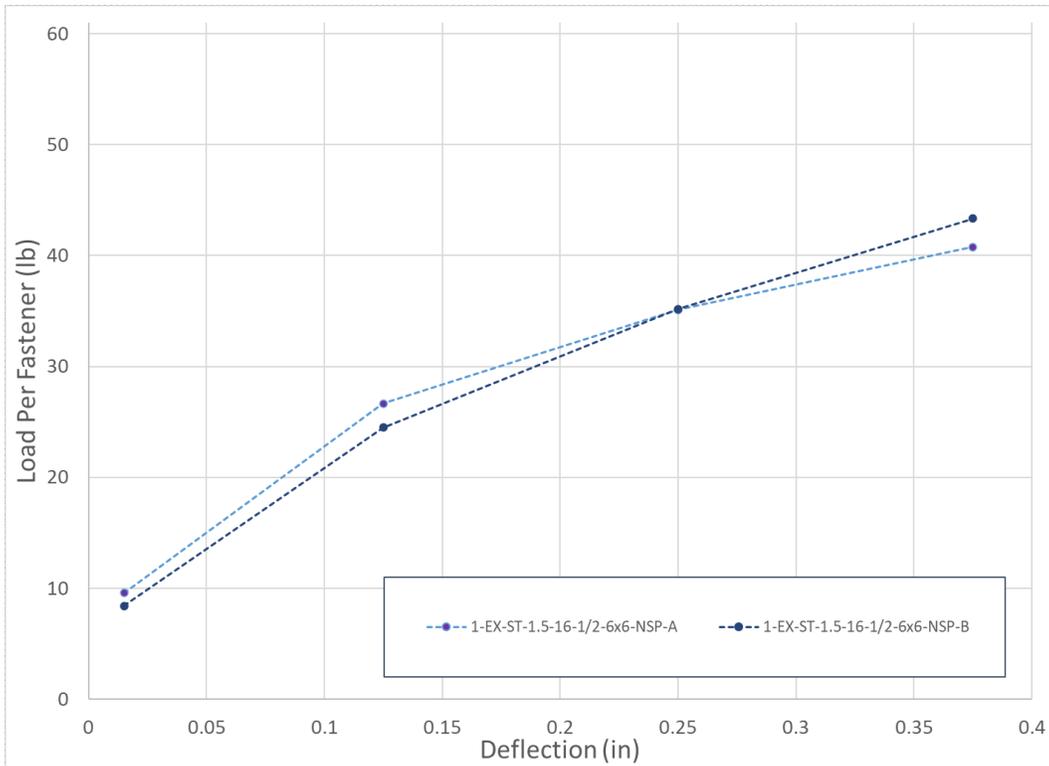


Figure 21. Staples Without Stud Penetration – Thicker Than 1-in. Foam, Data

Additional Staple Comparisons:



**Figure 22. No Stud Penetration – All 17 ga. Woven Wire Lath with Staples**

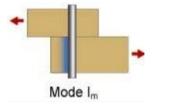
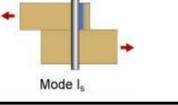
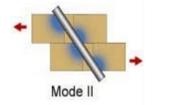
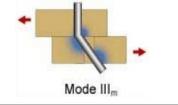
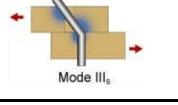
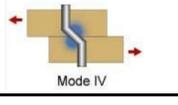


**Figure 23. No Stud Penetration – All 2.5 psy Expanded Metal Diamond Mesh with Staples**

## Predictive Calculations:

### TR-12 Dowel Equation - Modifications

The TR-12 dowel equations predict capacity with respect to the following yield modes:

$I_m$ Bearing-dominated yield of wood fibers, main member :		$P = q_m L_m$
$I_s$ Bearing-dominated yield of wood fibers, side member :		$P = q_s L_s$
<b>For Yield Modes II - IV:</b>	$P = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	<b>a =</b> <b>b =</b> <b>c =</b>
II Pivoting of dowel with localized crushing of wood fibers (bearing) :		$1/(4q_s) + 1/(4q_m)$ $L_s/2 + g + L_m/2$ $(-q_s L_s^2)/4 + (-q_m L_m^2)/4$
$III_m$ Dowel <u>bearing</u> , main member / dowel <u>bending</u> , side member :		$1/(2q_s) + 1/(4q_m)$ $g + L_m/2$ $(-M_s) + (-q_m L_m^2)/4$
$III_s$ Dowel <u>bending</u> , main member / dowel <u>bearing</u> , side member :		$1/(4q_s) + 1/(2q_m)$ $L_s/2 + g$ $(-q_s L_s^2)/4 + (-M_m)$
IV Dowel yield in bending at both members, with localized crushing of wood fibers :		$1/(2q_s) + 1/(2q_m)$ $g$ $(-M_s) + (-M_m)$

OSB has a specific gravity of 0.62 and SPF studs of 0.42; a rough average of 0.5 was assumed for calculations even though the primary bending and crushing was expected to occur in the plane of the osb layer.

Tested fastener capacities for the wall configurations in the above tables were compared to the rough predictions resulting from modification of the NDS TR-12 dowel equations. These yield limit equations allow for the calculation of lateral design values for single fastener connections between wood-based members – a main member and a side member – with and without a gap between them, and are applicable for calculation of reference 5% offset yield, P. The various components in wall systems with heavyweight cementitious claddings do not discretely and directly relate to the components of the TR-12 equations, particularly because there is not a precise side-member embedment length. The fasteners are installed with heads flush to the sheathing, directly below one or more strands of lath. In an effort to relate the TR-12 equations to the systemic behavior of the traditional fastener/lath combination to support and connect the cementitious cladding to the wall sheathing, the initial premise of this research correlates the stud and OSB together with the main member, and the foam is correlated to the gap, with a structural contribution of zero.

A range of  $L_s = (0)$  to  $L_s =$  (the full width of the stucco layer) is used to frame the yield predictions. The equivalent  $L_s$  in a stucco wall cannot be “zero” or the cladding would not be supported at all. But the full

thickness of the cladding is also not likely to represent the  $L_s$  component. The metal lath is the connective tissue of the stucco wall, and during application of the wet stucco this ribbing is held off the substrate (the foam CI, in this case) approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. by furring, so that the stucco material may be fully keyed-in and embedded. This furring “stand-off” is often an integral, shaped dimension incorporated in the lath manufacturing process. Figure 40 illustrates three types of such “self-furred” lath.

For this study, the TR-12 dowel equation adjusts the parameter  $L_s$  (embedment depth of the faster into the side member) to be the thickness of the lath gauge, in inches, and the characteristics of the chosen fastener are used for the dowel diameter and bearing moment. Test results were used to modify these assumptions; identifying the relationship between the factor  $L_s$  and the actual wall performance is vital. For staples the TR-12 dowel equation uses the fastener characteristics from ICC-ES Report ESR-1539 for the dowel diameter and bearing moment. For all of these equations, it seems likely a factor modifier could be developed to accurately predict performance for design purposes.

## Phase II: Aging and Weathering

Select specimens duplicating certain test configurations are being exposed to actual weather conditions on the campus of HI’s research lab to establish the long-term reliability of the attachment method with respect to duration of loading under varying temperature and moisture conditions. Cracking and other abnormalities were observed and documented.

## Methodology

### Construction

Two 4-ft wide by 9-ft. high specimens were installed on the south-facing exterior wall of a test building on HI’s campus. (Figure 24)



4-ft. x 9-ft. specimens on test building, south-facing. Horizontal layering of lath used least possible number of fasteners per the schedule (no “doubling” due to two layers.) Both specimens share the following characteristics:

- Building paper
- 1-in. EPS foam
- 17 ga. woven wire lath
- ~5/8-in. thick one coat stucco
- 16 ga. Staples

#### Specimen Fastener Schedules:

- Left side: 1-KL-ST-2-16-1/2-4  
2-in. L 16 ga. staples 16-in horizontal, 4-in. o.c.  
vertical, penetration into framing
- Right side: 1-KL-ST-1.5-16-1/2-6x6-NSP-A  
1-in. foam, 1.5-in. L staples, 6-in. x 6-in. grid pattern,  
no penetration into framing

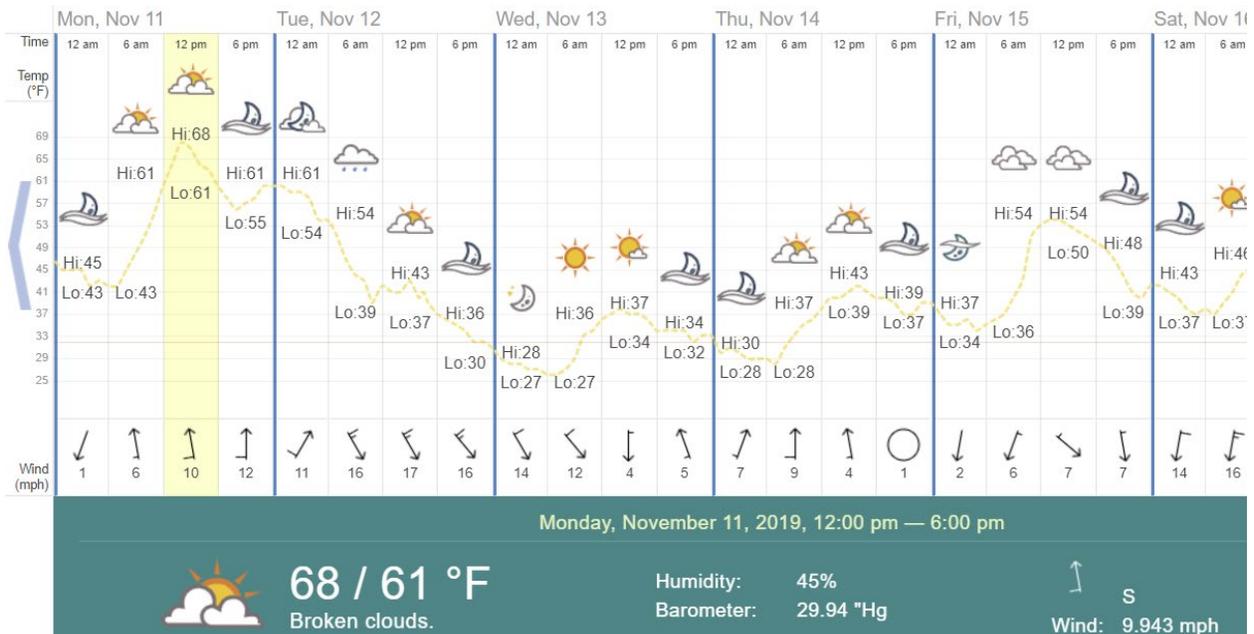
Figure 24. Two 4-ft. x 9-ft. Outdoor Specimens - Construction



**Figure 25. L to R: Initial Stucco Application, Surface Finishing, Scoring at Edges to Prevent Adhesion**

The same one-coat stucco mix was used as for all interior samples. Due to the longer application time plus direct sun and mild wind, the installers added small amounts of additional water for smooth application. Both walls were slightly thicker than the 1/2-in. used for the 4x4 matrix specimens due to existing geometries of the test buildings. All edges were scored to prevent adhesion to framing. The installation crew attached plastic sheeting over both specimens, taped at all edges, before leaving that afternoon. However, the temperature at the surface of the specimens rose dramatically and large amounts of water condensed on the interior of the sheeting. On consultation with the team, the plastic was tented away from the bottom of the specimens, and the surface was misted to restore moisture. The plastic remained tented for the next three days, and water was misted twice each day.

Figure 26 shows the local weather on the day stucco application, Monday, November 11, 2019.



**Figure 26 Local Weather on the Day Stucco was Applied to Two Exterior Specimens**

## Observations

Ripped lumber installed at the bottom of each specimen for support during construction was removed in the second week following stucco application. Plastic cap molding was applied at the outside edge of each specimen to prevent bulk water intrusion and a drip cap was installed in a single piece above both specimens. Due to a geometric anomaly the drip cap allowed bulk water from rain events to drip on the far-right side of the right-side specimen. Because this was not immediately observed, the team decided not to correct it, but rather to note it as a variation of conditions. When the samples are eventually deconstructed the various substrates will be carefully examined across the entire width to determine if this condition resulted in different durability performance.



**Figure 27 Completed Outdoor Specimens; Right Side of R-H Specimen Shows the Effect of Surface Water**

Hairline cracking was observed on both specimens shortly after stucco installation. On the specimen with the 6x6 grid pattern and no stud penetration two horizontal cracks appeared to span the entire width, while one horizontal crack in the bottom third of the specimen did not. On the specimen with the staples penetrating framing only one crack spanned the entire width while two areas had “pairs” of cracks approaching from opposite sides, and one crack appeared to begin at the bottom and then “Y” after about 18 inches. (Figure 28)

None of the smaller structural specimens showed surface cracking, even under substantial vertical loading applied at the top edge of the 4-ft. x 4-ft. specimens, although the entire cladding layer (foam, lath, stucco) displaced vertically with respect to framing. The cracking which occurred in the outdoor samples, though under self-load only, is possibly due to the fact that the effective in-use loading regime stresses the stucco in tension, rather than in compression. Concrete is known to be seven to ten times stronger in compression than in tension.

Additionally, cracking appears to have been wider but less frequent in the specimen with 6x6 grid pattern and no stud penetration (right-hand specimen) versus narrower but more frequent in the specimen with 4-in. on center staples penetrating stud framing (left-hand sample). (Figure 30) This may illustrate a difference in load distribution between the lath attachment methods. Note that there may be some correspondence of the cracks with the location of horizontal lath overlaps. (Figure 29)



Figure 28. Cracking Observed in Outdoor Specimens

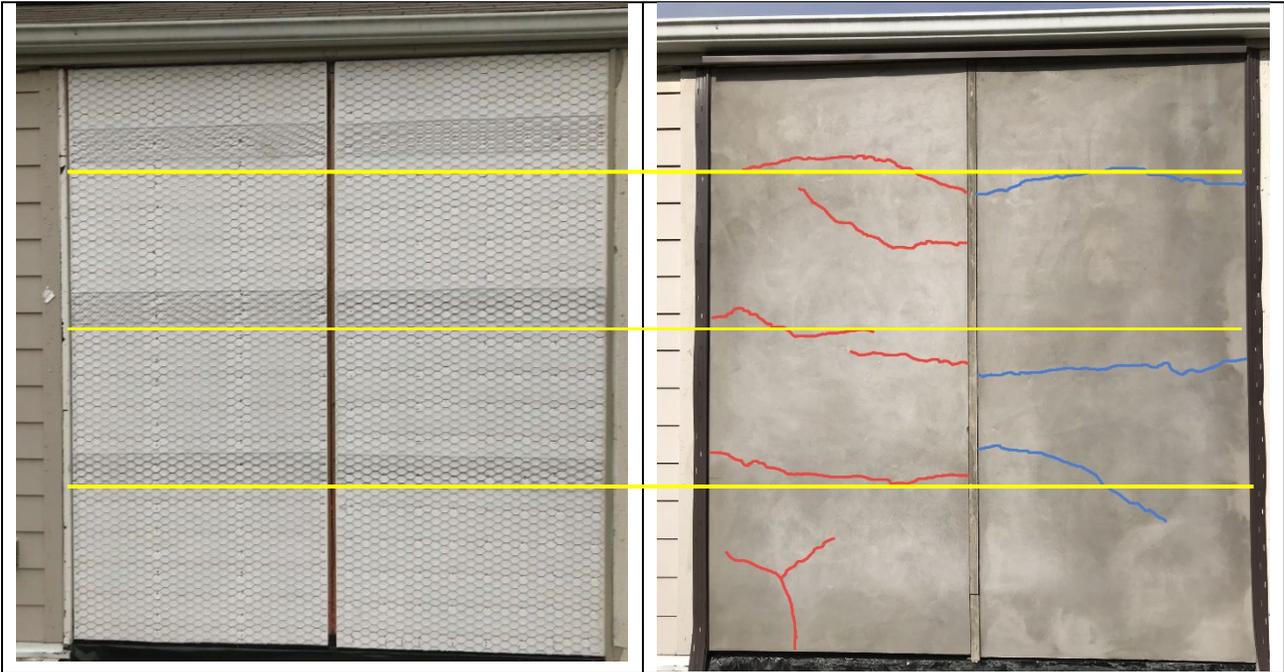


Figure 29. Outdoor Specimen Cracking with Reference to Lath Installation



Above: 4-in. on center staples penetrating stud framing, upper set of cracks



Above: 6x6 grid pattern with no stud penetration, upper set of cracks



Above: 4-in. on center staples penetrating stud framing, lower set of cracks



Above: 6x6 grid pattern with no stud penetration, lower set of cracks

Figure 30. Close Ups of Cracks, Outdoor Samples

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Potentially useful future research includes:

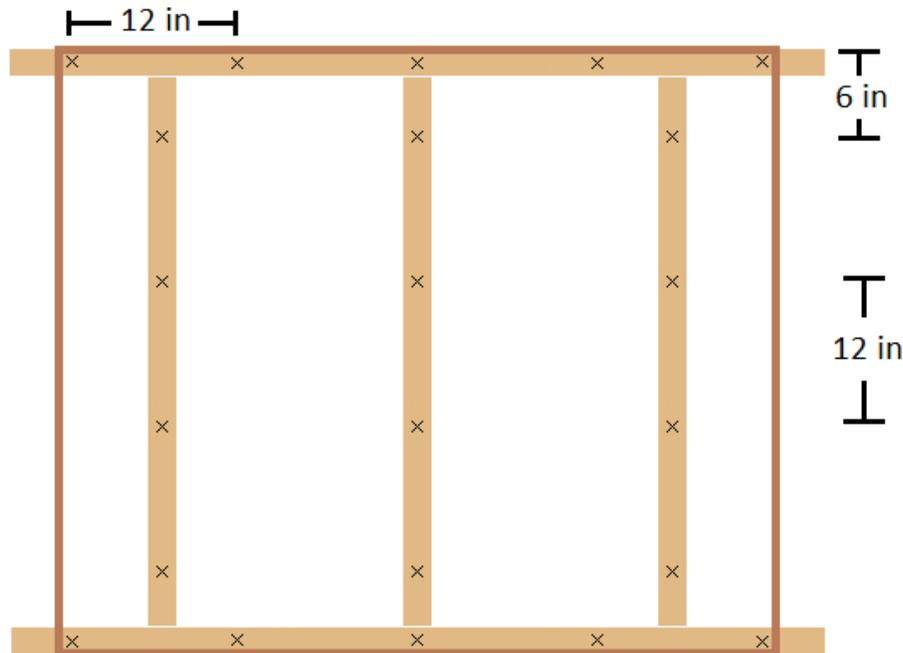
- Further exploration of shorter fasteners, especially staples. Wider use of staples for installation of cementitious claddings over foam may substantially increase speed and reduce cost.
  - Confirm the evident “community effect” that appears to increase the per fastener capacity as a result of increased frequency. (Staples) This may allow development of a staple schedule using closer spacing and no framing penetration.
  - Validate the apparent effect of wider staple crowns introducing an intermediate failure mode by allowing slippage along the length of the crown, potentially resulting in a recommendation of narrower crowns.
  - Durability tests with staple penetrations of OSB to wall cavity. Gauge and leg lengths for site-applied staples are limited – it may be necessary to use longer leg lengths for this application, which will penetrate the sheathing through to the stud cavity. Durability testing could confirm that a new installation approach which results in frequent small punctures to the wall cavity does not introduce new risks. Since direct attachment to sheathing without framing penetrations is already acceptable for lightweight claddings under IRC *Table R703.3.3 OPTIONAL SIDING ATTACHMENT SCHEDULE FOR FASTENERS WHERE NO STUD PENETRATION NECESSARY* this topic may be of wider interest.
- Exploration of additional combinations of power-driven nail and screw head types with washers, or modification of the geometry of one or both, to optimize the support contributed by the washer and to improve installation speed and cost. A calibrated means to predict performance would be necessary for design and code development purposes. (Nails, Screws) Explore and improve the relationship between the shape and size of the nail head and the washer’s material and contours (the shape of the “collar” or neck of the washer where the nail head seats).
- Additional specimen configurations of drainage gap (DG) types, thickness and locations to further confirm the effect of the drainage gap on structural performance. (Nails)
  - Potentially develop a test method to understand the actual effect of a gap that is not filled with foam. Precursor research (1980’s dowel equation theory and testing by Forest Products Lab) used layers of foam to replicate a void, but this project’s results indicate that added resistance by foam may affect performance, possibly by stiffening the joint. Results from this research for specimens with nails indicated that the drainage gap – achieved with a relatively pliable woven plastic filament mat – affected fastener capacity differently depending on whether the DG was installed between the lath and the foam layer (stronger – small reduction vs no DG) versus between the foam layer and the sheathing (weaker – larger reduction vs no DG). Drainage gaps with a range of materials and varying density of rigid foam board would aid this confirmation and future guidance.
- More fully test alternate fastener approaches in real-world conditions; potentially devise a method to apply loads exceeding self-load in tension, rather than compression.
  - Additional aspects of performance or appearance may warrant research. Third-party examination of specimens larger than 4x4 exposed to weather conditions including extremes of ambient temperature, moisture and direct solar radiation may be informative to industry. (Phase II: Aging and Weathering)
- Consider testing higher density rigid foam boards to determine whether capacity is affected

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## APPENDIX

### Test Specimen Construction and Preparation

4-foot-by-4-foot blank walls of 16-in. o.c. 2x4 spruce-pine-fir framing with 7/16-in. OSB sheathing were built according to standard construction methods and included extensions for support in the test apparatus and armatures for mounting devices to measure deflection. (Figure 31 and Figure 32)



**Figure 31. Example 4-ft. x 4-ft. Wall Specimen with Single Top and Bottom Plates**

Sheathing was fastened at 12-in o.c. for the studs as typical for an IRC shear wall. Fastening at the single top and single bottom plates of the “half-size” wall sections was 12-in. o.c. to avoid exceeding the shear strength of a typical 8-ft. high wall with 6-in. o.c. fastening at top and bottom plates.

IRC R703.7.3 requires a “water-resistive vapor-permeable barrier with a performance at least equivalent to two layers of Grade D paper,” installed independently such that “each layer provides a separate continuous plane.” As per typical field practices, a single layer of Grade D paper was installed in the test specimens, and the rigid foam performs the function of the second layer. The rigid foam CI (15 psi) was laid in without attachment to framing to avoid confusion when examining fasteners following the test procedure. Self-furred lath was attached on top of the foam per the test matrix with no slip plane.

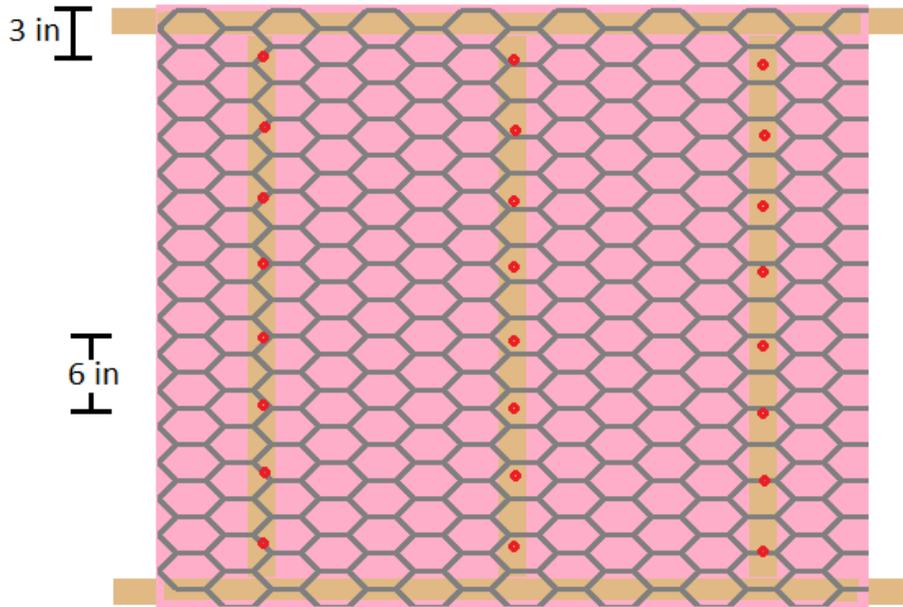


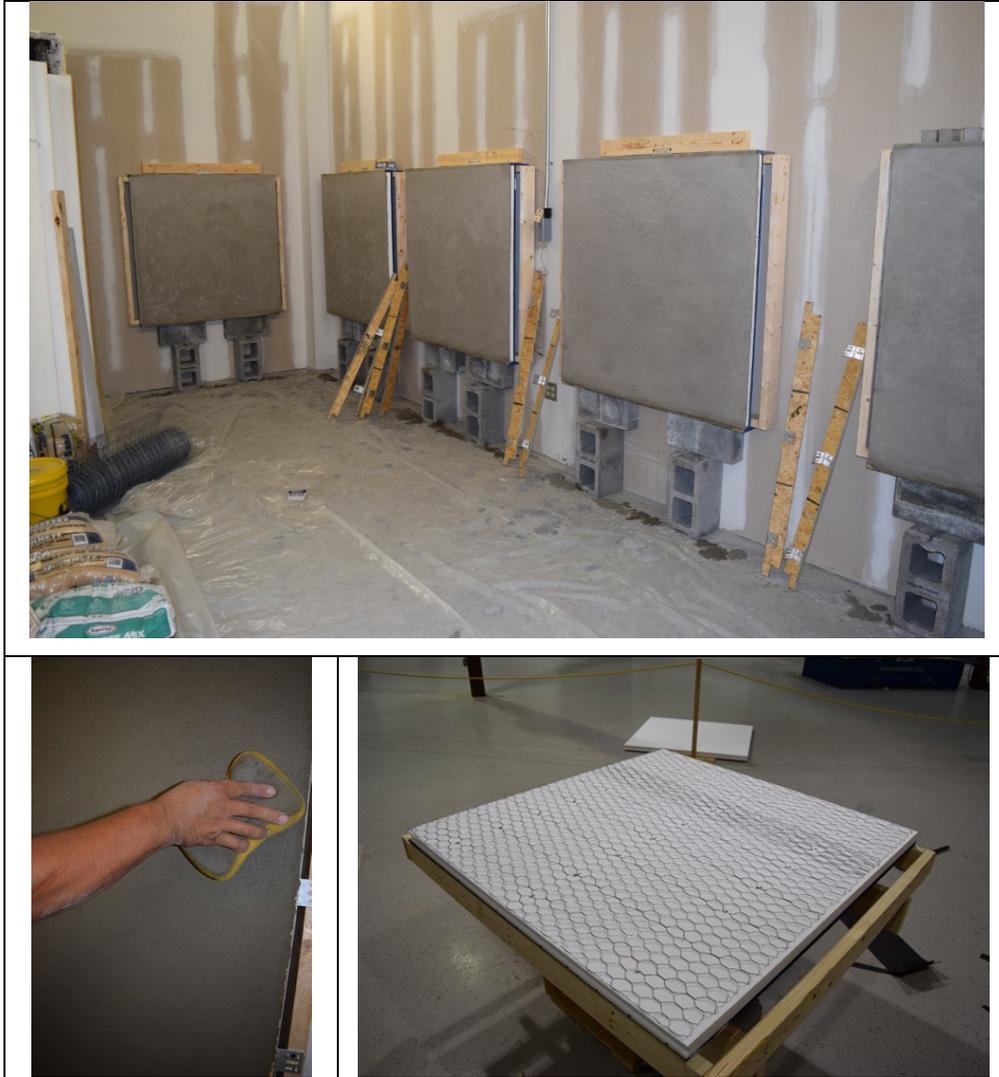
Figure 32. Example 4-ft. x 4-ft. Wall Specimen with Rigid Foam and Lath

A perpendicular “picture frame” of scrap OSB was built around each specimen to ensure square, orthogonal, uniform edges and were labeled with the number of each specimen for photo documentation. This helped achieve the target thickness for each cladding weight category (typically ½-in.). One-coat stucco was applied in one or two layers, depending on the target thickness and weight. Completed stucco claddings were periodically misted in the first 48 hours. All specimen walls cured for a minimum of 28 days total. Proprietary, sanded one-coat stucco mix was used for all walls to ensure consistency; water was measured for each batch, and the amount was varied only if ambient relative humidity varied from typical. The “picture frame” was removed prior to testing.

Blank test walls were photographed and weighed prior to applying the WRB, foam and lath, and again prior to applying the stucco. Completed, cured specimen walls with stucco cladding were weighed within 24 hours prior to testing to determine total cladding system weight (csw) and stucco cladding weight.

Lumber used for framing was pre-qualified for appropriate specific gravity (SG +/- 10% of 0.42) by weighing and measuring. Samples were collected and tested per ASTM D2395 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Wood and Wood-Based Materials. Two-in. cube samples of each batch of stucco were tested for density and strength. Bending yield tests were performed in the lab on samples of each nail type used per ASTM F1575.

Each wall was built in a vertical position in indoor, climate-controlled conditions. Specimens were cured, stored and transported in the vertical position. Specimens were stored indoors for the duration of the project, both prior to and following testing, until completion of the project.



**Figure 33. Typical Specimen Construction and Stucco Application**

### Standards and Code References

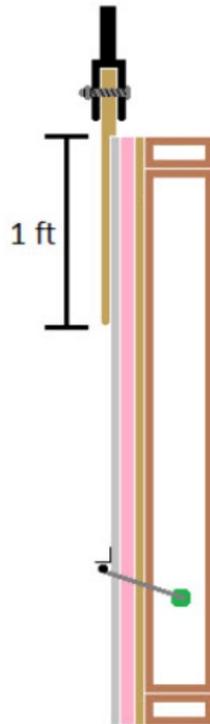
In addition to those previously referenced, the following construction standards and acceptance criteria have been considered in the development of this test plan:

- ASTM C109 Standard Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or [50-mm] Cube Specimens)
- ASTM C847 Standard Specification for Metal Lath
- ASTM E72 Standard Test Methods of Conducting Strength Tests of Panels for Building Construction
- AC11 Acceptance Criteria for Cementitious Exterior Wall Coatings
- AC219 Acceptance Criteria for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems
- AC235 Acceptance Criteria for EIFS Clad Drainage Wall Assemblies
- AC282 Acceptance Criteria for Thin Shell, Cementitious-Coated, Cold-Formed Steel Stud Wall Panels

- ASTM D1761 Standard Test Methods for Mechanical Fasteners in Wood
- ASTM F1575 Standard Test Method for Determining Bending Yield Moment of Nails
- ASTM F1667 Standard Specification for Driven Fasteners: Nails, Spikes, and Staples

### Test Procedures and Equipment

Load was applied continuously and compressively at a rate of 1/10<sup>th</sup>-in. per minute using bearing pads of two layers of 3/4-in. laminated sheathing connected with screws and construction adhesive and attached to the load foot with bolts. This bearing pad was attached to the top edge of the stucco cladding (with direct bearing equal to the width of the stucco layer) and the top 12-in. of the face of the specimen to ensure uniform, distributed loading. Construction adhesive was used to span any small imperfections in the stucco edge. (Figure 34)



**Figure 34. Load was Applied Compressively; Deflection was Measured**

The vertical resistance testing for the wall specimens was performed on a Universal Test Machine (UTM) informed by the goals of ASTM E72 Standard Test Methods of Conducting Strength Tests of panels for Building Construction, as modified by AC282 Acceptance Criteria for Thin Shell, Cementitious-Coated, Cold-Formed Steel Stud Wall Panels, section 4.2.4 of which requires that the load foot have the capability to rotate. (Figure 35 and Figure 36) The wall framing was supported from below with wood members which do not extend to under the cladding or foam, so that deflection of the cladding system of up to 1.5-in. may occur without interference. The UTM has a capacity of 200,000 lbf load.



Figure 35. UTM with 4-ft x 4-ft Wall Specimen



Figure 36. UTM with Rotation Foot

Two deflectometers were used for vertical resistance testing, installed one on each side of the test specimen, to measure deflection of the cladding with respect to the framing; loads at the following deflections are included in the results: 0.015-in., 0.125-in., 0.250-in., 0.375-in. A dial indicator measured the movement of the osb sheathing relative to the framing. Movement as compared to framing for all specimens was inconsequential, and not reported. (Figure 37) The data acquisition system for the UTM was used to control the rate of loading and record test data. (Figure 38) The rate of loading was 100 lbs./min, or no faster than 1/10<sup>th</sup> -in. deflection per minute. Load was applied to each specimen until one of three conditions is met:

1. a deflection of 1-in. is reached at both sides of the specimen
2. the average deflection at both sides of the specimen reaches 1-in.
3. in each case, the test was run past a proof load (PL) of 5 times the cladding system weight (CSW)



## Specimen Materials

The development matrix includes several proprietary and generic stucco material and accessories. Table 1 and Table 2 in the preceding report detail specifics of specimen construction.

**Stucco:** A single, specific one-coat stucco mix was used to ensure consistency. Quikrete is available nationwide, and often sold at home improvement stores. All stucco was applied in a single coat and batches of two bags were used for pairs of 4-ft. x 4-ft. specimens. Each specimen had a plywood frame offset at ½-in. to aid the stucco installer in meeting the target thickness. Enough was left from each batch to make three 2-in. cube samples for later strength testing and to provide material for infill of imperfections during finishing after initial cure of 30-minutes to 1-hr.



COVERAGE	
QUIKRETE® One Coat One Coat Fiberglass Reinforced Stucco, per 80 lb (36.3 kg) bag:	
3/8" (9.5 mm)	22-27 ft <sup>2</sup> (2.0-2.5 m <sup>2</sup> )
1/2" (12.7 mm)	17-21 ft <sup>2</sup> (1.6-2.0 m <sup>2</sup> )
3/4" (19.0 mm)	11-14 ft <sup>2</sup> (1.0-1.3 m <sup>2</sup> )

**Fasteners:** Nails, screws and staples were used to match existing guidance as closely as possible or to logically extend a concept resulting from notable test results. See results sections for fastener details.

**Washers:** The existence of tabs or prongs allow the placement of washers into foam immediately followed by pneumatic nailing or power-driving of screws. AG team member Rodenhouse aided in the construction of specimens to installation of washers and fasteners in a single motion, using a modified power-driver:



Photos courtesy Rodenhouse

Figure 39. Metal and Plastic Washers Used in Specimen Construction

Lath: 17 ga. welded wire with ¼-in. self-furring was used in baseline configurations, as a conservative but common solution. Industry Advisory Group (AG) discussions indicated that expanded metal lath is common in the south and the mid-Atlantic corridor. Self-furred welded wire is entering all markets but is less common. (Figure 40)



Photos courtesy Structa Wire Corp.

**Figure 40. Self-Furred Woven, Expanded, and Welded Metal Lath (from left)**

Drainage Gaps: Woven plastic filament mats were chosen as the most conservative method of testing a two different drainage gap sizes, since this material is unlikely to provide much structural support. Drainage gaps were included in two different locations – both between the foam and the building paper and between the foam and the stucco layer. A commercial matt which included a scrim was used to ensure no integration of the stucco material with the foam in the second location.



**Figure 41. Woven Plastic Filament Drainage Mats Used in Specimen Construction – L: 1/4-in.; R: 3/8-in.**





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