



# Building Bulletin

## Laminated Finger-Joined Lumber (LFL)

In the Fall of 2021, the City of Kitchener Building Division became aware of the use of laminated finger-joined lumber (LFL) as structural members in buildings. LFL was being used in Part 9 residential buildings as a substitute to built-up dimensional lumber and other pre-engineered wood products such as LVL's.

Currently the use of LFL is not a prescriptive solution in the Ontario Building Code (OBC), or the National Building Code of Canada, unless identified with a grade stamp in accordance with NLGA special product standards SPS-1, "Fingerjoined Structural Lumber", or SPS-3, "Fingerjoined Stud Lumber – Vertical Use Only" (as described in A-9.23.10.4.(1) of Appendix A to the OBC).

The City was accepting LFL that was not grade marked with SPS-1 or SPS-3 (with conditions), however effective immediately (today), the City is no longer accepting the use of LFL as a structural member in buildings that is not SPS-1/SPS-3 grade stamped, until these products have obtained a valid CCMC Evaluation, BMEC Authorization, or Ministers Ruling, or until such time that these products are prescriptively permissible through the OBC.

As always thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions, please contact us.

**Matt Ruetz, C.E.T. CBCO**  
MBO – Technical Specialist  
519-741-2200 x7570  
[Matt.Ruetz@Kitchener.ca](mailto:Matt.Ruetz@Kitchener.ca)

**Mike Seiling, C.E.T. CBCO**  
Director of Building / CBO  
519-741-2200 x7669  
[Mike.Seiling@Kitchener.ca](mailto:Mike.Seiling@Kitchener.ca)