



SHEAR AND THERMO-HYGROMETRIC PERFORMANCE OF STRUCTURAL INSULATED PANELS COMPRISING EPS CORE AND OSB SKINS

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ABSTRACT

In the last decades, the need for improved thermal-structural integrated solutions for building construction has significantly accelerated the development of Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), a cost-effective wall system capable of transferring shear loads between panel layers and minimizing localized heat loss [1]. SIPs are commonly realized using two sheets of oriented strand board (OSB) with a rigid foam insulation core, for instance, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS). Although extensive research has been performed on lateral load resistance of wood-frame wall systems, studies on integrated performance design of such component are still lacking. Indeed, the evaluation of lateral load response in alternative wall applications has been addressed [2], without considering the implications on other aspects, such as thermal resistance and hygrometric performance. These aspects have been a deterrent in the widespread use of this integrated wall-system in seismic prone areas. This study explored the shear behaviour of SIPs, composed of an EPS core within two OSB sheets. Panels (1200x1200x170mm³) were tested under in-plane horizontal load in two configurations: (i) single SIP wall; (ii) double SIPs wall, joined together with a block spline and metal connections. Both specimens were anchored to a lower steel metal beam through anchor bolts and hold-downs. Moreover, the panels were numerically characterized as regard the thermal conductivity and the water vapor transmission. The study demonstrated that this wall system is a viable solution for sustainable building constructions since it presents high shear strength, elevated ductility (in double SIPs configuration) and high thermal resistance.

References

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