# Technical Bulletin

## OSB and Plywood Structural Integrity and Code Compliance in Florida

**ISSUED: OCTOBER 15, 2026**



## Structural Integrity of OSB Compared to Plywood

The American Plywood Association (APA) confirms that **Oriented Strand Board (OSB)** offers structural integrity equal to or greater than that of plywood when the thicknesses are comparable. This evaluation is widely recognized among code jurisdictions, except for areas designated as high wind regions. As a result, OSB is generally approved for use outside these high wind zones. However, in Florida's wind zones, achieving code compliance requires fastener pullout testing.

## Roof Tile Resistance Testing and Material Selection

The Southern Building Code Conference Institute (SBCCI) tasked the National Tile Roofing Manufacturers Association (NTRMA), now known as the Tile Roofing Industry Alliance (TRIA), with determining resistance values for mechanically fastened roof tiles, using SBCCI testing procedures. At the time, plywood—specifically 15/32-inch and 19/32-inch panels—was commonly used as roof decking in Florida, so it was chosen for the tests. Although the APA was invited to participate and include OSB as an alternative material, they declined. The resistance values obtained from the plywood tests now serve as the standard for wind uplift code compliance. SBCCI does not allow these values to be used for OSB substrates unless equivalent test data is provided.

## Current Code Jurisdiction Practices in Florida

Some code jurisdictions in Florida are beginning to permit OSB of comparable thickness to plywood for use as roof decks. While this approach can produce a roof tile assembly with adequate structural integrity, the resistance values needed for code compliance have not yet been established for OSB.

**For more information, contact your local Eagle Account Representative by visiting eagleroofing.com.**