

Fire Protection of Floors Constructed with Prefabricated Wood I-Joists for Compliance with the International Residential Code

1. Basis of the System Report

- 2021, 2018 and 2015 International Residential Code (IRC): Sections R302.13 Fire Protection of Floors and R502.1.2 and R802.1.8 (2021 and 2018 IRC only) Prefabricated Wood I-Joists
- 2012 IRC: Sections R502.1.4 Prefabricated Wood I-Joists and R501.3 Fire Protection of Floors
- ASTM D5055-16, D5055-13e1, D5055-13 and D5055-09 recognized in the 2021, 2018, 2015 and 2012 IRC, respectively
- International Code Council Evaluation Service, LLC (ICC-ES) Acceptance Criteria for Prefabricated Wood I-Joists (AC14), dated June 2019 (Editorially revised February 2021)
- ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-1405

2. System Description

Starting with the 2009 IBC and IRC, one- and two-family dwellings are required to install an automatic fire sprinkler system (IBC Section 903.2.8 and IRC Section R313.2). However, not all local jurisdictions in the U.S. have adopted these provisions for the use of sprinkler systems as an active home fire protection system. In May 2010, the International Code Council (ICC) approved the following new fire protective membrane provisions for the 2012 IRC. The provisions were updated and relocated to Section R302.13 in the 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC, as shown below.

R302.13 Fire protection of floors. *Floor assemblies that are not required elsewhere in this code to be fire resistance rated, shall be provided with a 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8-inch (16 mm) wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member. Penetration or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.*

Exceptions:

1. Floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section P2904, NFPA13D, or other approved equivalent sprinkler system.
2. Floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or for the installation of fuel-fired or electric-powered heating appliances.
3. Portions of floor assemblies shall be permitted to be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 3.1 The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet (7.4 m²) per story.
 - 3.2 Fire blocking in accordance with Section R302.11.1 is installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
4. Wood floor assemblies using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than 2-inch by 10-inch (50.8 mm by 254 mm) nominal dimension, or other approved floor assemblies demonstrating equivalent fire performance.

These fire protective membrane provisions apply to not only I-joint floors but all residential floor assemblies, including all floor trusses and light-gauge steel framing, and less than 2-inch by 10-inch nominal dimension lumber and structural composite lumber. They will become effective when adopted by the local jurisdiction. However, not all local jurisdictions have elected to adopt these provisions. The project designer should consult with the local jurisdiction for code requirements.

The purpose of this document is to provide prescriptive fire assemblies for fire protection of floors constructed with prefabricated wood I-joists when the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, or 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 requirements are adopted by the local jurisdiction.

3. Methodology

After the publication of the 2012 IRC, ICC-ES developed methodologies for determining the equivalency to Exception 4 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3 and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 for I-joists, as documented in ICC-ES AC14 or ASTM D8391, *Standard Specification for Demonstrating Equivalent Fire Performance for Wood-Based Floor Framing Members to Unprotected 2 by 10 Dimension Lumber or Equal-Sized Structural Composite Lumber*. Full-scale fire tests at an accredited laboratory in accordance with the standard ASTM E119 time-temperature exposure are required to demonstrate the equivalency, which is determined by the test duration that is equal to or in excess of the required minimum duration calculated using the methodology specified in Chapter 16 of the National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS), assuming unprotected solid-sawn 2x10 floor joists, a 3-sided fire exposure, a nominal char rate of 1.5 inches/hour, a load corresponding to 50% of the full allowable stress design (ASD) bending design load, and a bending strength to ASD ratio of 2.85.

The failure of the tested fire assembly is defined by the occurrence of the following conditions, whichever occurs first:

- a. An individual member within an assembly fails,
- b. Multiple members within an assembly fail,
- c. Center span deflection exceeds 1/40 of the clear span, or
- d. The deflection rate of change, as an overall trend, decreases.

Exception: Item “d” does not apply when the decrease in deflection rate of change was not due to a change in the load-carrying mechanism.

In addition to the 1/2-inch gypsum or 5/8-inch wood structural panel protection (see FP-01), this document provides prescriptive fire assemblies for prefabricated wood I-joists that have demonstrated equivalency to Exception 4 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, in accordance with ICC-ES AC14 or ASTM D8391 requirements (see FP-02 through FP-12).

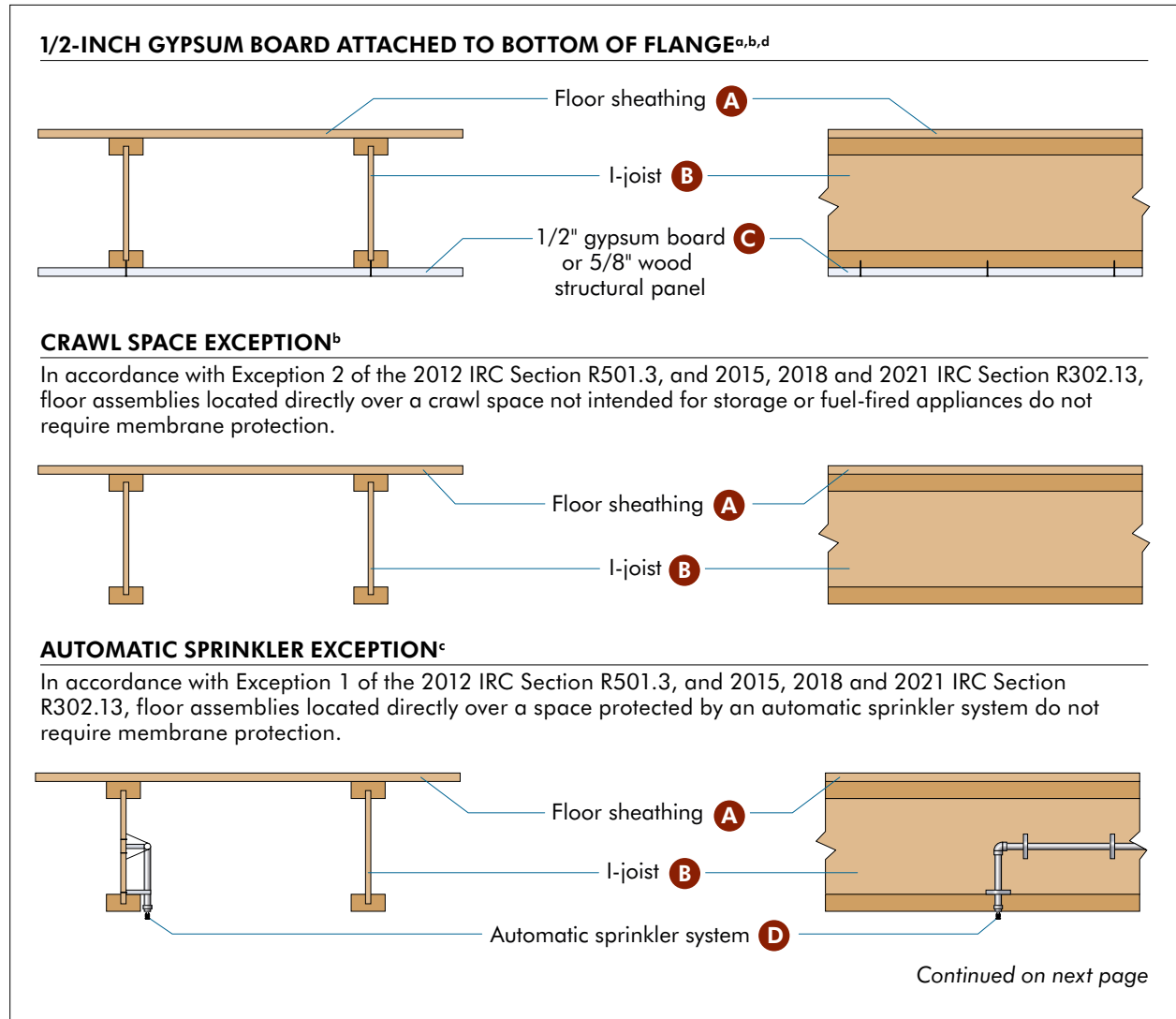
4. Limitations

- a. The prefabricated wood I-joists shall meet the requirements of ASTM D5055, and be installed and constructed in accordance with the codes, APA Product Reports, code evaluation reports and manufacturer's recommendations.
- b. The fire assemblies shall be installed as prescribed in this document.
- c. This report is subject to periodic review. The latest version of this report is available for free download at www.apawood.org/resource-library.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-01

Fire Protection: 1/2-inch Gypsum Board or 5/8-inch Wood Structural Panels Attached to Bottom of Flange

The following fire resistance design represents the default protection specified in the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13.



- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4.0 of this report. Maximum 24 inches on center spacing. Applicable to all flange sizes. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA.
- C 1/2-inch gypsum board:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R702.3.1 or equivalent. 1x3 (nominal) wood furring strips are permitted to be installed perpendicular to the bottom flange of the I-joists at 16 inches on center provided that the gypsum boards are directly attached to the furring strips using 1-1/4-inch Type W drywall screws at 12 inches on center. Gypsum board not required to be finished with tape and joint compound; or
5/8-inch wood structural panel: Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.2 or equivalent. Wood structural panel not required to be finished with wood filler or sanded.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

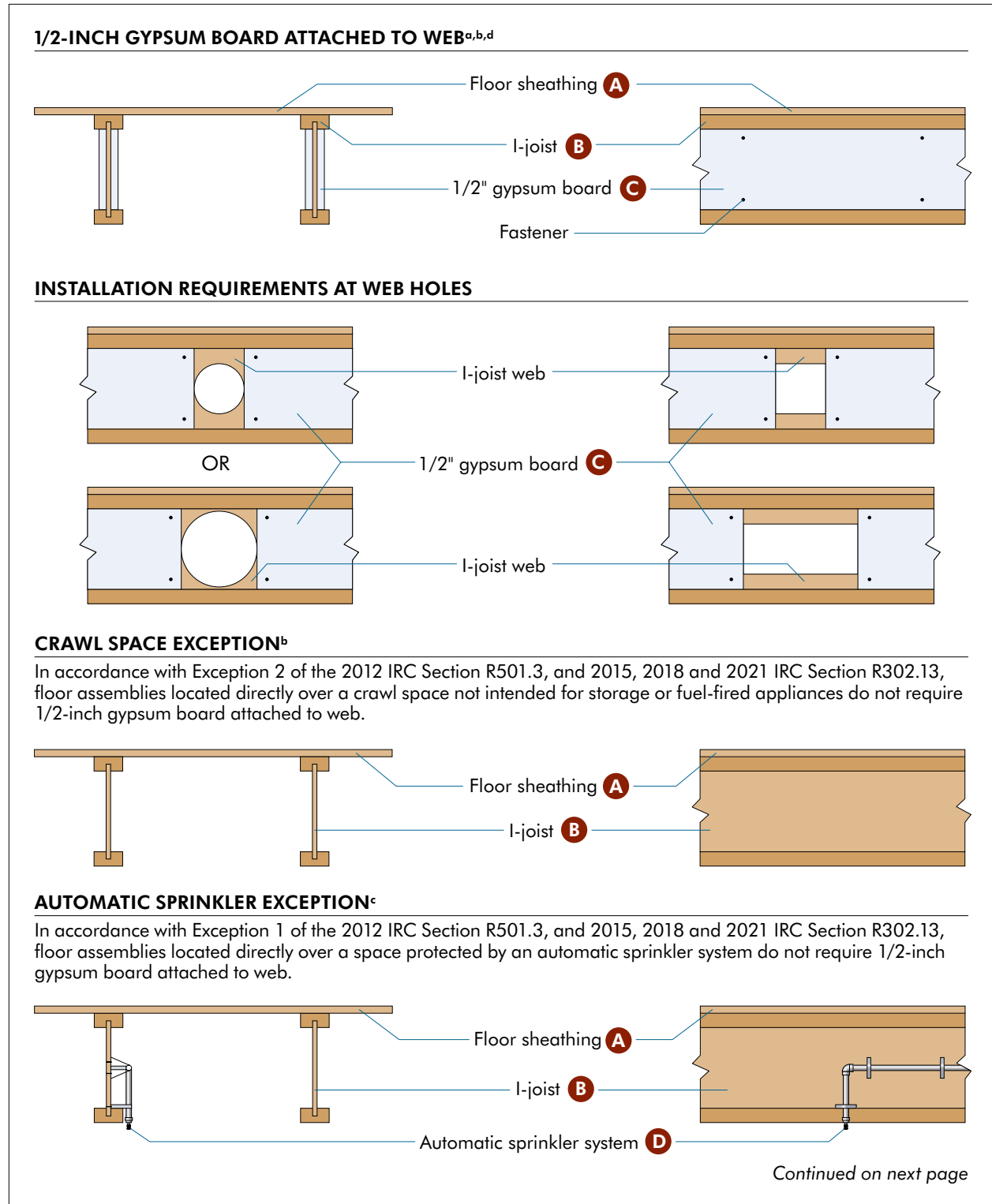
Notes:

- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-02

Fire Protection: 1/2-inch Gypsum Board Attached Directly to Web

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in Exception 4 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.



- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4 of this report. Maximum 24 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/2 inches thick x 2 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Minimum joist depth of 9-1/2 inches. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA. At hole location, fasteners shall be installed 1 inch from the edge and end of the gypsum board.
- C 1/2-inch gypsum board:** Materials (entire length of I-joist) in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R702.3.1 (not required to be finished with tape and joint compound). Fasteners: Minimum 1-inch screws (Type W or Type S) or nails installed 1 inch from edges and ends, and 16 inches on center, top and bottom. Fasteners may be staggered from top to bottom.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

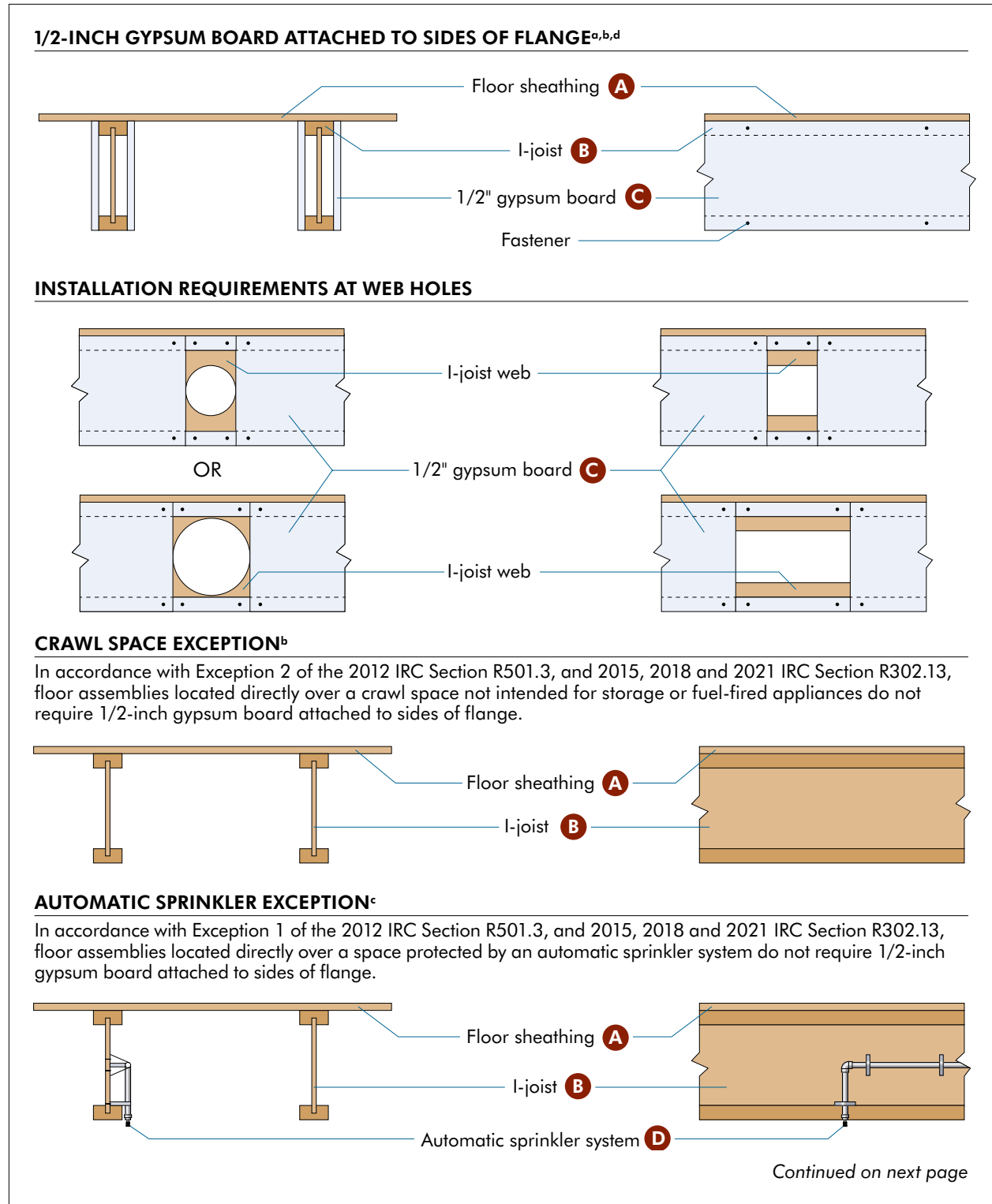
Notes:

- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-03

Fire Protection: 1/2-inch Gypsum Board Attached Directly to Sides of Flange

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in Exception 4 of 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.



- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4.0 of this report. Maximum 24 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/8 inches thick x 1-3/4 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Minimum joist depth of 9-1/2 inches. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA. At hole location, fasteners shall be installed 1/2 inch from the edge and 1 inch from the end of the gypsum board. Maximum fastener spacing shall be no more than 8 inches on gypsum board above and below the hole.
- C 1/2-inch gypsum board:** Materials (entire length of I-joist) in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R702.3.1 (not required to be finished with tape and joint compound). Fasteners: Minimum 1-inch screws (Type W or Type S) or nails installed 1/2 inch from edges and 1 inch from ends, and 16 inches on center, top and bottom. Fasteners may be staggered from top to bottom.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

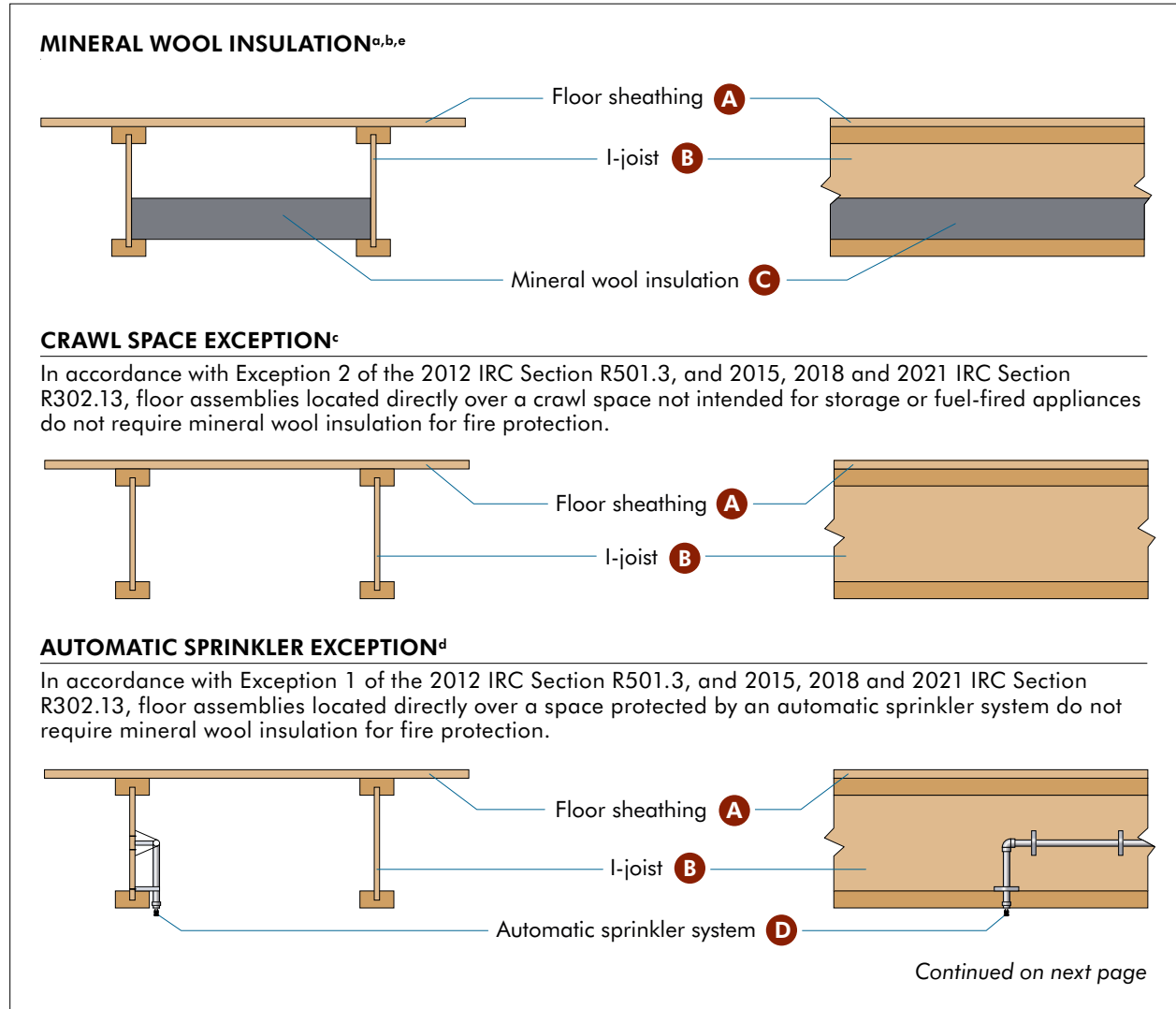
Notes:

- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-04

Fire Protection: Mineral Wool Insulation

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in Exception 4 of 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.



- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4 of this report. Maximum 19.2 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/8 inches thick x 1-3/4 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Minimum joist depth of 9-1/2 inches. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA.
- C Mineral wool insulation:** Minimum 2.0 lb/ft³ (nominal) and 2-inch thick mineral wool insulation installed without gaps between individual batts as shown with stay wire insulation supports, spaced no more than 24 inches apart and no more than 4 inches from ends of batts. Use minimum 15.25-inch and 18.5-inch wide batts when I-joist spacing is 16 inches and 19.2 inches on center, respectively. For use in Canada, check with the authority having jurisdiction in the interior finish requirements.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

Notes:

- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Thicker insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- e. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

Fire Protection of Floors **FP-05** is no longer available in the marketplace and is not included in this report.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-06

Fire Protection: 1/2-inch Gypsum Board Installed on Top of the Bottom Flange

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in Exception 4 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.

1/2-INCH GYPSUM BOARD^{a,d}

Joist spacing (in.)	Required length for gypsum boards (in.)
12	11-1/8 ± 1/8
16	15-1/8 ± 1/8
19.2	18-3/8 ± 1/8

Note:
Gypsum board lengths shown above provide at least a 1/4-inch bearing on the top of the bottom flange in each I-joist as installed. For other joist spacings, the required gypsum board lengths shall be adjusted so that the required gypsum board lengths are determined based on a full bearing on the flange at one end of the joist spacing, while maintaining at least a 1/4-inch bearing at the other end. If double joists are used, the required gypsum board lengths shall be reduced from the table above by a length equal to the flange width.

CRAWL SPACE EXCEPTION^b

In accordance with Exception 2 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances do not require gypsum board for fire protection.

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER EXCEPTION^c

In accordance with Exception 1 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system do not require gypsum board for fire protection.

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- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4.0 of this report. Maximum 19.2 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/8 inches thick x 2 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Minimum joist depth of 9-1/2 inches. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA.
- C 1/2-inch gypsum board:** One layer of 1/2-inch lightweight or normal weight (nominal 1.5 psf minimum) gypsum wall board meeting ASTM C1396 Section 5. Installed on the top of the bottom flange. Mechanical fastener or adhesive attachment to the top of the bottom flange is not required.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

Notes:

- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-07

Fire Protection: 5/8-inch Gypsum Board Installed on Top of the Bottom Flange

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in Exception 4 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13 with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.

5/8-INCH GYPSUM BOARD^{a,d}

Joist spacing (in.)	Required length for gypsum boards (in.)
12	11-1/8 ± 1/8
16	15-1/8 ± 1/8
19.2	18-3/8 ± 1/8
24	23-1/8 ± 1/8

Note:
Gypsum board lengths shown above provide at least a 1/4-inch bearing on the top of the bottom flange in each I-joist as installed. For other joist spacings, the required gypsum board lengths shall be adjusted so that the required gypsum board lengths are determined based on a full bearing on the flange at one end of the joist spacing, while maintaining at least a 1/4-inch bearing at the other end. If double joists are used, the required gypsum board lengths shall be reduced from the table above by a length equal to the flange width.

CRAWL SPACE EXCEPTION^b

In accordance with Exception 2 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances do not require gypsum board for fire protection.

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER EXCEPTION^c

In accordance with Exception 1 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system do not require gypsum board for fire protection.

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- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4.0 of this report. Maximum 24 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/8 inches thick x 2 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Minimum joist depth of 9-1/2 inches. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA.
- C 5/8-inch gypsum board:** One layer of 5/8-inch lightweight or normal weight (nominal 1.9 psf minimum) gypsum wall board meeting ASTM C1396 Section 5. Installed on the top of the bottom flange. Mechanical fastener or adhesive attachment to the top of the bottom flange is not required.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

Notes:

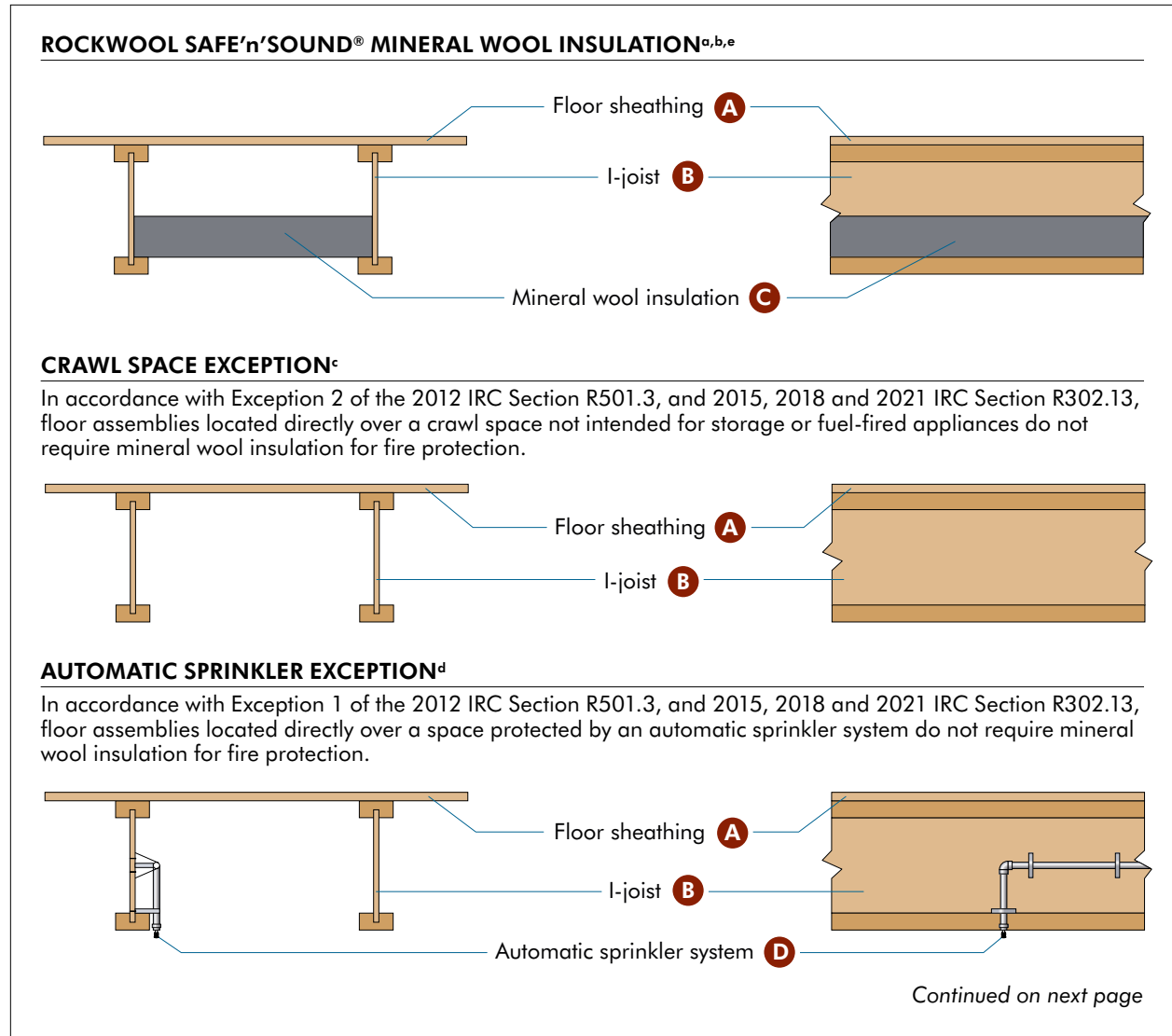
- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

Fire Protection of Floors **FP-08** is a proprietary assembly and is not included in this report.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-09

Fire Protection: Rockwool SAFE'n'Sound® Mineral Wool Insulation

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in Exception 4 of the 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.



- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4.0 of this report. Maximum 24 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/8 inches thick x 2 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. Minimum joist depth of 9-1/2 inches. Adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA.
- C Mineral wool insulation:** Rockwool SAFE'n'SOUND® minimum 2.5 lb/ft³ (nominal) and 3 inches thick mineral wool batt insulation made of rock or furnace slag (ASTM C665 Type 1 compliant) installed as shown with insulation stay wire supports, spaced no more than 24 inches apart and no more than 4 inches from ends of batts. Use minimum 15.25 inches, 18.5 inches and 23 inches wide batts when I-joist spacing is 16 inches, 19.2 inches and 24 inches on center, respectively. For use in Canada, check with the authority having jurisdiction on the interior finish requirements.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

Notes:

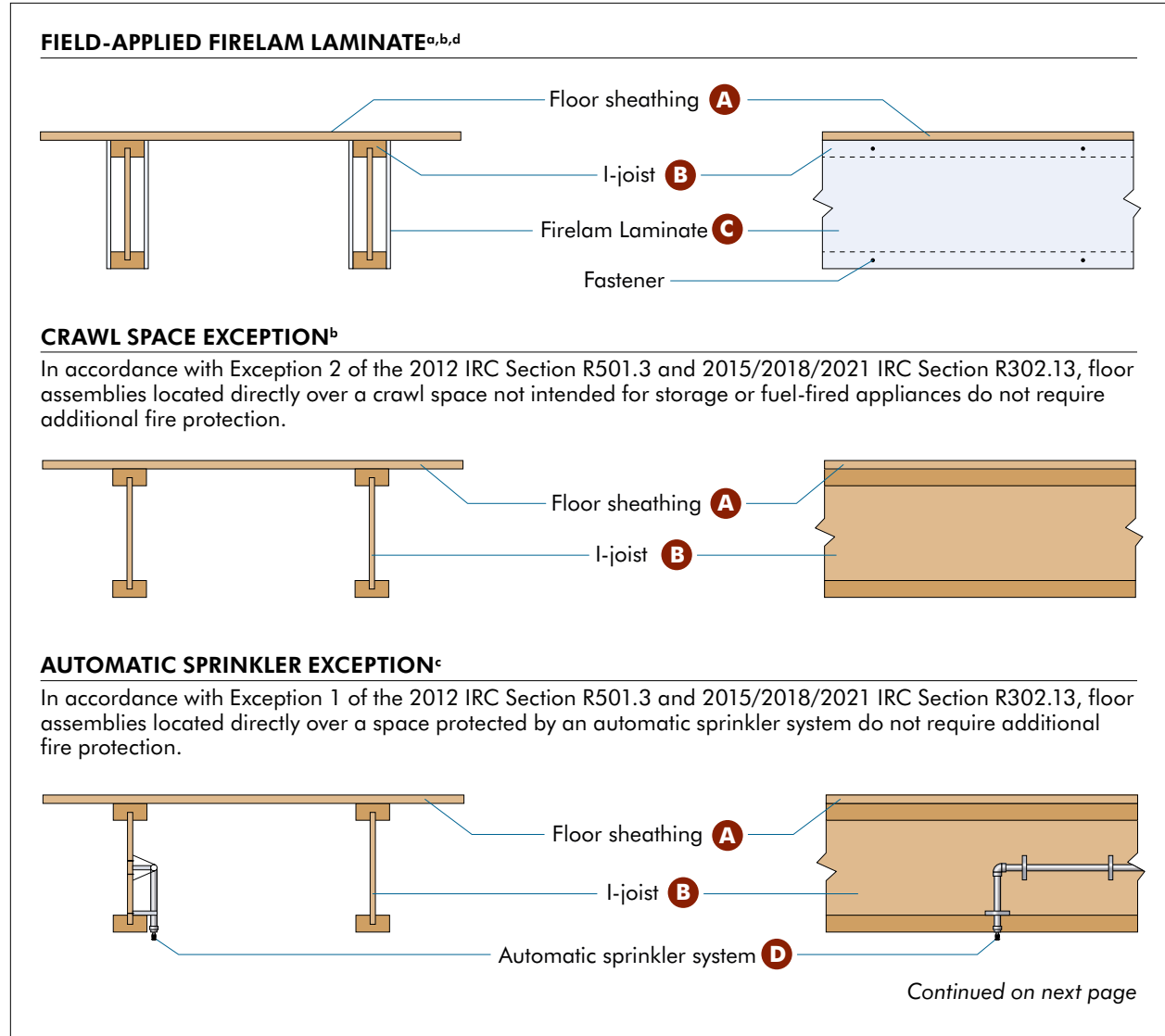
- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of 2012 IRC Section R501.3, and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Thicker insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. In accordance with 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- e. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted.

Fire Protection of Floors **FP-10** and **FP-11** are proprietary assemblies and are not included in this report.

FIRE PROTECTION OF FLOORS FP-12

Fire Protection: Field-Applied Firelam Laminate

The following fire resistance design is an alternative to the 2-by-10 dimension lumber prescribed in 2012 IRC Section R501.3 and 2015/2018/2021 IRC Section R302.13 Exception 4, with demonstrated equivalent fire performance.



- A Floor sheathing:** Materials and installation in accordance with 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021 IRC Section R503.
- B I-joist:** Installation in accordance with Section 4.0 of this report. Maximum 24 inches on center spacing. Minimum flange size of 1-1/8 inches thick x 2-5/16 inches wide. Minimum web thickness of 3/8 inch. I-joist adhesives used shall be as described in the quality manual approved by APA.
- C Field-applied proprietary Firelam Laminate:** The field-applied proprietary Firelam Laminate conforming to ICC-ES ESL-1562 shall be attached to the upper and lower flanges for the full depth of the joist using 1/2-inch by 9/16-inch or larger staples placed at the mid-depth of I-joist flanges and spaced 8 inches on center maximum. Where web holes are permitted by the I-joist manufacturer, "X" slits of the web hole size shall be permitted to be cut into the Firelam Laminate at the hole locations.
- D Automatic sprinkler system:** System in accordance with Section P2904 of the 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021 IRC, NFPA 13D, or other equivalent sprinkler systems.

Notes:

- a. In accordance with Exception 3 of 2012 IRC Section R501.3 and 2015, 2018 and 2021 IRC Section R302.13, portions of floor assembly can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 1. The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet.
 - 2. Fire blocking in accordance with 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021 IRC Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
- b. Insulation may be required for energy code compliance purposes. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- c. In accordance with 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021 IRC Section P2904, partial residential sprinkler systems are permitted to be installed only when the entire dwelling unit is not required to be equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Check with the local building official for specific jurisdictional requirements.
- d. Penetrations or openings for ducts, vents, electrical outlets, lighting, devices, luminaires, wires, speakers, drainage, piping and similar openings or penetrations shall be permitted by slicing an "X" pattern in the laminate over the opening.

Fire Protection of Floors Constructed with Prefabricated Wood I-Joists for Compliance with the International Residential Code

APA – The Engineered Wood Association is an accredited certification body under ISO/IEC 17065 by Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and an accredited inspection agency by the International Code Council (ICC) International Accreditation Service (IAS) under ISO/IEC 17020. APA is also a testing organization accredited by IAS under ISO/IEC 17025. APA is a recognized Product Testing Laboratory, Product Quality Assurance Entity, Product Validation Entity, and Product Evaluation Entity by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

APA HEADQUARTERS

7011 So. 19th St. ■ Tacoma, Washington 98466
(253) 565-6600 ■ Fax: (253) 565-7265

PRODUCT SUPPORT HELP DESK

(253) 620-7400 ■ help@apawood.org

DISCLAIMER

The information contained herein is based on APA – The Engineered Wood Association’s continuing programs of laboratory testing, product research, and comprehensive field experience. Neither APA, nor its members make any warranty, expressed or implied, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the use, application of, and/or reference to opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations included in this publication. Consult your local jurisdiction or design professional to assure compliance with code, construction, and performance requirements. Because APA has no control over quality of workmanship or the conditions under which engineered wood products are used, it cannot accept responsibility for product performance or designs as actually constructed.

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REPRESENTING THE ENGINEERED WOOD INDUSTRY