Builders of FORTIFIED new homes add significant value for their clients. The highly desirable FORTIFIED Home designation offered by IBHS is available exclusively to builders through a partnership with a certified FORTIFIED Evaluator in order to properly document compliance with FORTIFIED requirements. FORTIFIED Evaluators will follow the outline below to collect data in the field about the house for which the FORTIFIED Home: Hurricane program designation is being sought:

**1. CHOOSE A PATH**

Builders have two options to document FORTIFIED requirements. A FORTIFIED designation will only be issued after a certificate of occupancy has been received from the jurisdiction having authority and a FORTIFIED evaluation has been completed and all requirements verified.

**OPTION ONE:**

**WORKING WITH AN EVALUATOR DURING CONSTRUCTION**

This option affords the builder the best chance to reduce the risk of not meeting FORTIFIED Home standards and/or not providing adequate documentation of compliance. Inspections are performed throughout construction and a final inspection is conducted after the certificate of occupancy has been issued.

**OPTION TWO:**

**SELF-DOCUMENTING CONSTRUCTION WORKING WITH EVALUATOR POST-BUILD**

In this instance, the builder assumes responsibility for documenting FORTIFIED Home upgrades as they are installed. This documentation will be provided as a complete digital file to the FORTIFIED Evaluator when the final inspection is conducted. Lack of compliance and incomplete documentation can result in prolonged delays, expensive re-work and failure to achieve a desired designation.

**2. CREATING A DOCUMENTATION FILE**

Documentation is the key to a FORTIFIED Home designation. High quality photographs are preferred. All documentation must be provided by the builder to the FORTIFIED Evaluator in digital format for submission to IBHS. For new homes, engineering and installation compliance forms for key structural systems are required. Compliance form templates are available from your FORTIFIED Evaluator. Several other types of documentation, such as product cut sheets, invoices, estimates, packaging and labels, may also be required as proof of compliance along with inspection forms completed by the evaluator.

**USE THESE GUIDELINES WHEN TAKING COMPLIANCE PHOTOS:**

1. **Well Lit**
   - All elements in the picture can be easily seen

2. **In Focus**
   - Particularly important when photographing documents

3. **Readable**
   - If photographing documents

4. **Specific**
   - Clearly show what is intended on the subject property

5. **Labeled**
   - If needed

Good, quality photographs are critical for verifying compliance. Take as many photographs as needed to adequately capture the intended FORTIFIED requirement.
# FORTIFIED LEVELS AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The goal of this documentation process is to compile a fair, accurate and complete photographic record of each house, with documentation of specific features to verify compliance with FORTIFIED requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Documentations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BRONZE** | ROOF DECK THICKNESS
- Take photos of the plywood/OSB grade stamp indicating minimum 7/16 in. roof deck thickness. |
| | ROOF DECK ATTACHMENT (FASTENER TYPE AND SPACING)
- Photos of the maximum 6 in. o.c. nail spacing along panel edges and in the field. Stage photos to include tape measure indicating nail spacing and to verify use of a (minimum) 8d ring shank nail. |
| | INSTALLATION OF QUALIFIED SEALED ROOF DECK SYSTEM ON THE TOP SIDE OF THE DECK
- If taping the seams, take photos after the seams are taped and before 30# felt is installed; |
| | IF GABLES ARE PRESENT, VERIFY SHEATHING TYPE AND THICKNESS
- Take photos of the plywood/OSB grade stamp that indicate minimum 7/16 in. sheathing. Verify and document that gable end vents have a temporary cover to be used when a storm approaches and the permanent hardware for attaching the cover. |
| | VERIFY FRAMING TYPE AND DIMENSIONS OF ALL EAVE AND GABLE OVERHANGS
- Photos of each overhang should show: open or closed, vented or unvented, and soffit material used. Pictures of framing are also required. |
| | IF GABLE OVERHANGS ARE PRESENT, DOCUMENT FRAMING METHOD
- If outlooker framing is present, photograph the required connection at the adjacent roof framing and at the top of exterior gable end wall. Note: Outlookers are framing members that run over the top of the gable end wall and should be used to support gable plywood overhangs greater than 12 in. |
| | DOCUMENT ROOF COVERING AND ROOF VENTS
- Document roof covering material and installation, installation of drip edge; verify and document that roof mounted vents meet TAS 100 (A). Provide photos of installation and a signed Roof Compliance Letter. Metal roof systems require engineering documentation for wind speed and exposure category. |
| **SILVER** | DOCUMENT ANCHORAGE OF PORCHES/CARPORTS – PROVIDE PHOTOS FOR THE FOLLOWING CONNECTIONS
- Roof framing to beam |
| | Beams to columns |
| | Columns to structure below |
| | VERIFY AND DOCUMENT WINDOW AND EXTERIOR DOOR DESIGN PRESSURES, IMPACT RATING (IF APPLICABLE), MAKE AND MODEL(S)
- Window/door design pressures must be appropriate for location and exposure and photos indicating DP and impact rating are preferred. Other documentation options include invoice indicating window/door type along with technical information, such as manufacturer’s product information or an appropriate product approval, indicating DP and impact rating. |
| | VERIFY AND DOCUMENT GARAGE DOOR DESIGN PRESSURE AND IMPACT RATING
- Document make and model. Verify that garage door design pressures are appropriate. Photos of labels indicating DP and ,if windows are present, impact rating are preferred. |
| | IF GABLES ARE OVER 48 IN. TALL, DOCUMENT BRACING INSTALLATION.
- Document installation by providing photos of the method of bracing at the top and at the bottom of the gable end and the connection of the triangular gable end to the supporting wall below. |
| | VERIFY AND DOCUMENT PRESENCE OF OPENING PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- Verify that opening protection system meets appropriate impact-resistant standards, document make and model of product, and verify that all openings are protected. |
| | Take photos of installed opening protection or permanent anchor installation for temporary opening protection systems. |
| **GOLD** | ENGINEER AND CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE LETTERS
- Provide completed Engineer and Contractor Compliance Letters for gable end bracing and for the continuous load path for porches/ carports. |
| | DOCUMENT LOAD PATH CONNECTIONS
- Roof-to-wall connection |
| | Wall above to wall below connection |
| | Lower wall to foundation |
| | PROVIDE PHOTOS FOR THE FOLLOWING CONNECTIONS
- Provide completed Engineer and Contractor Compliance Letters for continuous load path. |