



Technical Bulletin FH 2022-01

First Release:

March 25, 2022

Prepared by:

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FORTIFIED Field Services Director

Applicable Standards:

FORTIFIED Home™–Hurricane
FORTIFIED Home™–High Wind

Applicable Designation Level:



FORTIFIED Home™ Roof Sheathing Nail Pattern Documentation Requirements

Introduction

The documentation requirements for roof sheathing attachment photos have changed, effective April 4, 2022. After that point, a total of eight photos (four from above the roof sheathing and four from within the attic) are required. It is the responsibility of the FORTIFIED Evaluator to find ways to collect the required documentation photos. However, when the specific field situations described below make it impossible to take the required photos, alternative documentation may be accepted. If either the required photos or the acceptable alternatives described below are not provided, evaluations will be returned undesignated due to a lack of documentation.

Providing the eight required photos, if they show that the FORTIFIED roof deck attachment criteria are met, is the safest and easiest way to ensure that this part of an evaluation audit will be satisfied.

If one of the alternate methods must be used due to site-specific circumstances, **IBHS reserves the right to request additional documentation or return evaluations for lack of documentation at its sole discretion, at any time.**

Compliance Verification Requirements

Eight total photos showing maximum nail spacing:

- **Four photos** must be taken from above roof deck showing nail spacing with tape measure in four different locations.
- **Four additional photos** must be provided from four different locations within the attic. Each photo in attic must include 2 consecutive structural roof members (truss and/or rafter) showing tic marks at nail locations over a minimum 4-ft-long span. At least 13 nails are required in each 4-ft span.
- All documentation photos must be site-specific and verified by a geolocation stamp or a home address visible in the photo.



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Alternative Methods

Two alternative methods have been developed for when conditions make it impossible for the appropriate pictures to be obtained. These alternatives can be used ONLY if the conditions described are present.

Scenario #1: Existing Construction when there is no access to the attic or the underside of the roof deck is obscured (e.g., with spray foam). In the event an evaluator encounters a home where there is no access to all or part of the attic due to the roof configuration (e.g., cathedral ceilings limit access, there is spray foam insulation, or there is no attic access at all), then pictures of roof deck nailing in EIGHT different locations around the top side of the roof must be provided. The roofer should snap a vertical chalk line to establish the centerline position of the rafter or truss at each location and the photos should have a ruler and property identifying information visible on the deck.

Scenario #2: New Construction ONLY when photos from the top side of the deck cannot be obtained. If the roof framing and SRD system are installed by multiple contractors at different times and adequate pictures cannot be obtained from the top side of the deck, the evaluator can collect and provide documentation from SIX different locations from within the attic. Pictures must indicate where fasteners are detected, the nail count in each 4-ft run sampled and have property-identifying information visible.

In addition, if site conditions prevented the required photos from being collected, the evaluator shall include photos of the existing conditions that prevented the photos from being collected, such as inadequate attic access or vaulted/cathedral ceilings.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: It can be challenging to hold all the items required to take photos in the attic while taking a photo of a 4-ft span. Do you have any advice?

A: A squeeze clamp that can hold things like rulers or items that won't be marked permanently on the roof framing members (e.g., a piece of paper with address or project name) can help free up hands as you take pictures. For lighting, a headlamp or the flashlight on your phone will prevent the need for the evaluator to hold a flashlight as they capture a photo.

Q: Will the auditors be able to see the fastening clearly with a 4-ft width? Would it be better to provide a photograph of a smaller span?

A: 4 ft is the width of a standard sheet of plywood or OSB and can easily be captured in a picture. Providing photos that show a 4-ft span allows the audit team to better evaluate the overall construction.

Additional References

For additional guidance, refer to the following FORTIFIED Home™ Standard Details:

- [F-RS-1](#)
- [F-RS-2](#)
- [F-RS-3](#)