

LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board comes to the UK

Properly installed, the right rim board is ideal for supporting vertical and lateral loads as part of a complete floor or roof framing system. A number of new rim board products have appeared in the UK recently. These include LP SolidStart LSL (laminated strand lumber), an engineered timber rim board manufactured by LP Building Products. Recognised as a leader in engineered wood products, LP is a global company headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, US, with manufacturing facilities in a number of countries around the world.

Al Huber, engineered wood products international sales manager at LP, is keen on LP's products and their odds for success in the UK. "The timber frame market has been growing rapidly in the UK," he said. "It's now approximately 26% of the overall starts. Rim board sales are growing even more dramatically, due to increased amounts being used in multi-family construction for fire blocking as well as in new disproportionate collapse designs."

Strength is a key feature of LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board. At a thickness of only 29mm, LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board offers a 10-24% volume advantage over competitors' engineered wood products, which range from 32-38mm. In fact, the LP product delivers a vertical load capacity so strong, it will crush the timber wall plate before failing. "It's easy to see why we have the only 29mm rim board that has been approved to satisfy minimum edge nailing for both chipboard and OSB flooring," said Mr Huber.

An engineered wood product, LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board contains none of the knots and voids found in conventional timber, eliminat-



LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board is new to the UK. LP Building Products is confident that its product offers many advantages that will make it the rim board of choice

ing the need for the time-consuming and wasteful culling process. It offers better nail-holding capabilities than traditional softwood timber, while resisting warping, splitting and twisting.

In addition to these advantages, all LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board products receive a moisture-resistant protective edge and end seal. They are the only edge-sealed and end-sealed rim board products sold in

the UK, which should prove a plus in the country's famously damp weather.

LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board products meet stringent UK fire codes. A double layer of 29mm thickness satisfies an IFC one-hour fire assembly. Adding a third layer will create an IFC 90-minute fire assembly.

UK environmental standards are also more stringent than those common in most parts of the world. Again, LP products fit the bill. The engineered timber used in LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board is created from smaller, fast-growing trees. Chain of custody is certified by both PEFC and SFI. LP uses the entire log when creating LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board. Eighty per cent of the log goes into the product, while the remaining 20% is used to fuel the manufacturing process.

The final product is available in a wide variety of lengths and depths, another advantage that LP plans to make the most of in its new market. Longer lengths of up to a 12m reduce waste. Depths are available in European metric dimensional tolerances from 195-406mm to fit any I-joist system on the market. All LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board products sold in the UK carry BM TRADA Q-Mark approval for performance certification.

"Whether our customers are building floor cassettes in a manufacturing environment or working at the building site, LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board is available in the strengths and sizes they need," said Mr Huber. "We're proud to be in the UK market. And we firmly believe that once builders get to know our product, they won't want to use anything else."



Available in a wide variety of depths and lengths and manufactured to match I-joists, LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board is ideal for use in floor cassette assemblies