



LOAD-SPAN TABLES FOR PS-1 PLYWOOD

Number Z802K

March 1998

Load-span tables for specific wood structural panel applications are included in several APA publications. Recommended loads for sheathing and flooring applications in these publications directly reflect minimum performance criteria given in Voluntary Product Standard PS 1-95, Voluntary Product Standard PS 2-92 and in APA PRP-108 Performance Standards and Policies for Structural-Use Panels. To qualify for a given Span Rating under these standards, a panel must meet all of the criteria for that rating. As a result, mechanical properties that are characteristic of APA wood structural panels are actually greater than the minimum necessary to pass one criterion.

Because it is sometimes necessary to have engineering design information for PS-1 plywood for conditions not specifically covered in the other APA literature, APA publishes separate design section properties and working stresses for the various grades and thicknesses. These values are listed in APA's Plywood Design Specification (PDS), and are recognized by the model building codes. The uniform loads in the following tables were calculated using these properties and stresses, or resulting section capacities for the various Span Ratings. These loads are recommended when engineering principles are used for design. It is important to remember that structural engineering principles

alone do not necessarily take into account other factors, such as moisture and thermal conditions, which may impact design.

The following load-span tables apply to sanded, touch-sanded, and unsanded plywood manufactured in accordance with Voluntary Product Standard PS 1-95, with face grain parallel to supports, and face grain across supports. For each combination of span and thickness (or Span Rating), loads are given for deflections of L/360, L/240 and L/180, and maximum loads controlled by bending and shear capacity. Uniform loads for some applications can be read directly from the tables. In other cases, the values given in the tables should be adjusted for special conditions using the factors listed in the "Table of Adjustment Factors."

Table 1 applies to unsanded plywood and is based on APA RATED SHEATHING (marked PS 1) grade. For touch-sanded grades such as C-D Plugged, C-C Plugged, UNDERLAYMENT and APA RATED STURD-I-FLOOR (marked PS 1), see Table 2. Table 3 applies to sanded grades such as A-D and B-D.

The tables also assume dry conditions, normal duration of load, and untreated plywood with interior glue. For other conditions, the loads should be appropriately adjusted using the factors given. For instance, roof loads based on bending and shear stress may be increased 15% for short duration of snow load. See the examples for proper application of adjustment factors. Further details on plywood stresses and adjustments are given in the PLYWOOD DESIGN SPECIFICATION.

For face grain across supports, and spans of 32" and less, three spans are assumed, and two spans for spans greater than 32". For face grain parallel to supports, tables are based on three spans for spans of 16" and less, and two spans for 24". The tables do not apply directly to plywood having a single span. For one-span conditions, use the span adjustment factors.

Effects of support width have been considered when determining the loads based on shear and deflection. Supports are assumed to be 2x nominal members for spans less than 48", and 4x members for 48" and greater spans. Support-width factors are those established by APA *Laboratory Report 120*.

It is important to note that some plywood applications are not controlled by uniform loads. Residential floors are a good example. They are commonly designed for 40 psf live load. The allowable uniform floor load on plywood applied at maximum span according to APA recommendations is greatly in excess of the typical design loads. This excess does not mean that floor spans for plywood can be increased, but only that there is considerable reserve strength and stiffness for *uniform* loads. Actually, the recommendations for plywood floors are based on performance under concentrated loads, how the floor "feels" to passing foot traffic, and other subjective factors which relate to public acceptance. Always check the maximum floor and roof spans for plywood before making a final plywood selection for these applications.

A P A

The Engineered Wood Association

TABLE OF ADJUSTMENT FACTORS

Duration of Load (Applies to Bending and Shear Only):	
Permanent load (over 10 years)	0.90
2 months, as for snow	1.15
7 days	1.25
Wind or earthquake (check local code)	1.6 or 1.33
Impact	2.00
Basic Stresses for Plywood Grades:	
Exposure 1 or exterior glue	1.10 (shear)
STRUCTURAL I	1.56 (shear)
Groups 2 and 3 for sanded or touch sanded (Tables 2 & 3)	0.73 (bending) 0.67 (deflection)
Group 4 for sanded or touch sanded (Tables 2 & 3)	0.67 (bending) 0.56 (deflection)
Preservative Treatment:	
No adjustment required	

Fire-Retardant Treatments:	
Check with company providing the treatment and redrying service for adjustment recommendations.	
Wet or Damp Locations (Moisture Content 16% or more):	
Exterior and Exposure 1 (Interior with exterior glue) only	
Deflection	0.83
Bending	0.70
Shear	0.83
Span Adjustments:	
2-span to 1-span	
Deflection	0.42
Bending	1.00
Shear	1.25
3-span to 1-span	
Deflection	0.53
Bending	0.80
Shear	1.20

TABLE 1

**UNIFORM LOADS (PSF) ON UNSANDED (SPAN RATED) PLYWOOD PANELS
MULTI-SPAN, NORMAL DURATION OF LOAD, DRY CONDITIONS**

Span Rating	Load Governed By	Face Grain Across Supports										Face Grain Parallel to Supports		
		Span, Center-to-Center of Supports (inches)										Span, Center-to-Center of Supports (inches)		
		12	16	19.2	24	30	32	36	40	48	60	12	16	24
12/0	L/360	92	37	21	10							8	3	
	L/240	138	55	31	15							11	4	
	L/180	184	73	41	20							15	6	
	Bending	117	66	46	29							27	15	
	Shear	234	170	139	109							552	400	
16/0	L/360	110	44	25	12	6						8	3	
	L/240	165	66	37	18	8						12	5	
	L/180	220	88	49	24	12						16	6	
	Bending	126	71	49	31	20						28	16	
	Shear	234	170	139	109	86						499	361	
20/0	L/360	165	66	37	18	9	7					10	4	
	L/240	247	99	55	27	14	11					15	6	
	L/180	329	132	74	36	18	15					20	8	
	Bending	154	87	60	39	25	22					31	17	
	Shear	234	170	139	109	86	81					411	298	
24/0	L/360	278	114	64	32	16	13	11				17	7	
	L/240	417	171	96	48	24	20	17				26	10	
	L/180	556	227	129	64	32	26	23				35	14	
	Bending	208	117	81	52	33	29	19				46	26	
	Shear	284	206	168	132	105	98	83				236	171	
32/16	L/360	420	181	105	53	27	22	19	14			32	13	5
	L/240	631	271	157	80	40	33	29	21			48	19	7
	L/180	841	362	209	106	54	44	39	28			64	26	9
	Bending	293	165	114	73	47	41	26	21			77	44	15
	Shear	358	259	212	167	132	123	105	94			225	163	101
40/20	L/360	657	298	176	91	47	39	34	25	16		66	28	10
	L/240	985	447	265	137	70	58	51	37	25		98	41	15
	L/180	1313	596	353	183	94	77	68	49	33		131	55	20
	Bending	522	293	204	130	83	73	46	38	26		125	70	25
	Shear	457	331	271	213	168	157	134	120	104		284	206	127
48/24	L/360	1073	511	311	165	86	71	62	46	31	15	217	95	35
	L/240	1609	767	466	248	129	107	94	69	46	23	325	142	52
	L/180	2145	1023	622	330	172	142	125	92	61	30	434	189	70
	Bending	646	363	252	161	103	91	57	47	32	21	319	180	64
	Shear	590	428	350	276	218	203	173	155	134	105	330	239	148
1-1/8" (Groups 1 & 2)	L/360	1677	904	590	338	186	156	137	102	70	36	1062	515	206
	L/240	2516	1357	885	506	280	234	206	154	105	53	1593	773	309
	L/180	3355	1809	1181	675	373	312	274	205	140	71	2124	1031	412
	Bending	1047	589	409	262	168	147	93	75	52	34	768	432	154
	Shear	911	659	540	425	335	313	266	238	206	162	725	525	325

TABLE 2

**UNIFORM LOADS (PSF) ON TOUCH-SANDED (GROUP 1 OR SPAN RATED) PLYWOOD PANELS
MULTI-SPAN, NORMAL DURATION OF LOAD, DRY CONDITIONS**

Thickness (inches) or Span Rating	Load Governed By	Face Grain Across Supports Span, Center-to-Center of Supports (inches)										Face Grain Parallel to Supports Span, Center-to-Center of Supports (inches)		
		12	16	19.2	24	30	32	36	40	48	60	12	16	24
1/2 or 16 oc	L/360	433	197	116	60	31	25	22	16	11		40	17	6
	L/240	650	295	175	91	46	38	34	24	16		61	25	9
	L/180	867	393	233	121	62	51	45	33	22		81	34	12
	Bending Shear	345 389	194 281	135 231	86 181	55 143	49 134	31 114	25 102	17 88		84 251	47 182	17 113
19/32, 5/8 or 20 oc	L/360	607	275	163	85	43	36	31	23	15	7	109	46	17
	L/240	911	413	245	127	65	54	47	34	23	11	164	69	25
	L/180	1214	551	326	169	87	71	63	46	30	15	219	92	33
	Bending Shear	401 490	225 354	157 290	100 228	64 180	56 169	36 143	29 128	20 111	13 87	186 295	105 214	37 132
23/32, 3/4 or 24 oc	L/360	915	436	265	141	73	61	53	39	26	13	197	86	32
	L/240	1373	655	398	211	110	91	80	59	39	19	295	129	47
	L/180	1831	873	531	282	147	121	107	78	52	26	393	171	63
	Bending Shear	535 602	301 436	209 357	134 281	86 222	75 207	48 176	39 158	27 136	17 107	287 333	161 241	57 149
1-1/8 2-4-1 (Groups 1, 2 or 3) or 48 oc	L/360	1884	1016	663	379	209	175	154	115	78	40	1202	583	233
	L/240	2826	1524	995	569	314	263	231	172	118	60	1803	875	349
	L/180	3768	2032	1326	758	419	351	308	230	157	80	2405	1167	466
	Bending Shear	1343 1029	755 745	524 610	336 480	215 379	189 354	119 301	97 269	67 233	43 184	1022 781	575 566	204 350

TABLE 3

**UNIFORM LOADS (PSF) ON GROUP 1 SANDED PLYWOOD PANELS
MULTI-SPAN, NORMAL DURATION OF LOAD, DRY CONDITIONS**

Thickness (inches)	Load Governed By	Face Grain Across Supports Span, Center-to-Center of Supports (inches)										Face Grain Parallel to Supports Span, Center-to-Center of Supports (inches)		
		12	16	19.2	24	30	32	36	40	48	60	12	16	24
11/32	L/360	139	56	32	16	8	6	6				8	3	1
	L/240	209	84	47	24	12	10	8				12	5	2
	L/180	278	112	63	31	16	13	11				16	6	2
	Bending	128	72	50	32	20	18	11				22	12	4
	Shear	253	183	150	118	93	87	74				237	171	106
3/8	L/360	192	79	44	22	11	9	8				12	5	2
	L/240	288	118	67	33	17	14	12				18	7	2
	L/180	384	157	89	44	22	18	16				23	9	3
	Bending	172	97	67	43	27	24	15				32	18	6
	Shear	282	204	167	132	104	97	82				321	232	144
15/32	L/360	428	182	104	53	27	22	19	14	9		45	18	6
	L/240	642	273	157	79	40	33	29	21	14		68	27	10
	L/180	856	363	209	105	53	43	38	28	18		90	36	13
	Bending	294	166	115	74	47	41	26	21	15		92	52	18
	Shear	376	272	223	175	139	129	110	98	85		223	161	100
1/2	L/360	483	208	120	61	31	25	22	16	11		63	26	9
	L/240	724	312	180	91	46	38	33	24	16		95	38	14
	L/180	966	415	240	122	62	50	44	32	21		126	51	18
	Bending	325	183	127	81	52	46	29	23	16		120	67	24
	Shear	408	296	242	191	150	141	119	107	92		252	182	113
19/32	L/360	649	290	171	88	45	37	33	24	16	8	143	60	21
	L/240	973	435	256	132	67	55	49	35	23	12	215	89	32
	L/180	1297	581	342	176	90	74	65	47	31	15	286	119	43
	Bending	433	244	169	108	69	61	39	31	22	14	188	106	38
	Shear	500	362	297	233	184	172	146	131	113	89	262	189	117
5/8	L/360	701	318	188	98	50	41	36	26	17	9	180	76	27
	L/240	1052	477	283	147	75	62	54	40	26	13	270	113	41
	L/180	1403	636	377	195	100	82	72	53	35	17	360	151	54
	Bending	466	262	182	117	75	66	41	34	23	15	226	127	45
	Shear	532	386	316	248	196	183	156	139	121	95	285	206	128
23/32	L/360	870	410	247	131	68	56	49	36	24	12	311	134	49
	L/240	1305	615	371	196	102	84	74	54	36	18	466	201	74
	L/180	1740	819	495	261	136	112	98	72	48	24	621	268	98
	Bending	535	301	209	134	86	75	48	39	27	17	318	179	64
	Shear	602	436	357	281	222	207	176	158	136	107	349	253	156
3/4	L/360	922	439	267	142	74	61	54	39	26	13	382	166	61
	L/240	1382	659	401	213	111	92	81	59	39	20	573	250	92
	L/180	1843	879	534	284	148	122	107	79	52	26	764	333	123
	Bending	567	319	221	142	91	80	50	41	28	18	392	220	78
	Shear	618	448	367	289	228	213	181	162	140	110	373	270	167
7/8	L/360	1116	557	347	189	100	83	73	54	36	18	570	258	97
	L/240	1675	836	521	284	151	125	110	81	54	27	855	386	146
	L/180	2233	1115	695	378	201	167	146	108	72	36	1139	515	195
	Bending	708	398	277	177	113	100	63	51	35	23	542	305	108
	Shear	736	533	437	343	271	253	215	193	167	131	464	336	208
1	L/360	1460	760	485	271	147	122	107	80	54	27	912	427	166
	L/240	2190	1139	727	406	220	183	161	119	81	41	1368	641	249
	L/180	2920	1519	970	541	293	244	215	159	108	54	1824	855	332
	Bending	913	514	357	228	146	128	81	66	46	29	813	457	163
	Shear	812	588	482	379	299	280	237	213	184	145	643	466	288
1-1/8	L/360	1632	880	574	328	181	152	133	100	68	35	1199	582	232
	L/240	2448	1320	861	493	272	228	200	149	102	52	1799	873	349
	L/180	3264	1760	1149	657	363	304	267	199	136	69	2399	1164	465
	Bending	1128	634	440	282	180	159	100	81	56	36	1023	575	205
	Shear	904	654	536	422	333	311	264	237	205	161	771	558	345

Examples Showing Use of Plywood Load-Span Tables

Example 1: Find the allowable uniform floor load for APA RATED SHEATHING 32/16 Exposure 1. Assume 10 psf dead load, and face grain across supports 16" o.c. Unless stated otherwise, assume floor deflection criteria to be L/360 under live load only and L/240 under total load.

From Table 1, for Unsanded Panels with Face Grain Across Supports:

Allowable total load for floors is the least of loads for L/240, bending and shear.

Allowable total load is 165 psf.

Live load is the lesser of the load for L/360 and total load as determined above, minus dead load.

$$L/360 = 181 \text{ psf}$$

$$\text{Total load} - \text{dead load} = 165 - 10 = 155 \text{ psf}$$

Allowable live load is 155 psf.

Load Governed By	Load (psf)	Adjustment for Exposure 1	Load (psf)
L/360	181		181
L/240	271		271
L/180	362		362
Bending	165		165
Shear	259	x 1.10 =	285

Note: Do not increase span even though the allowable uniform live load greatly exceeds the 40 psf design live load normally used for floor design. Recommended maximum span reflects performance under concentrated and impact loads in addition to uniform load.

Example 2: Find allowable snow loads on APA RATED SHEATHING 48/24 Exposure 1 if face grain is across supports spaced 32" o.c. In question are several panels in the 1-span condition. Deflection criteria are L/240 under live load only and L/180 under total load. Assuming a 2-month duration of load for snow, allowable loads for bending and shear may be increased 15%. Assume 10 psf dead load supported by the plywood.

Load Governed By	Load (psf)	Adjustment for Duration of Load	Adjustment for Span	Adjustment for Exposure 1	Adjusted Load (psf)
L/360	71	x	0.53	=	38
L/240	107	x	0.53	=	57
L/180	142	x	0.53	=	75
Bending	91	x 1.15	x 0.80	=	84
Shear	203	x 1.15	x 1.20	x 1.10 =	308

From Table 1, for Unsanded Panels with Face Grain Across Supports:

Allowable total load is the least of loads for L/180, bending and shear. Allowable total load is 75 psf.

Live load is the lesser of total load minus dead load ($75 - 10 = 65$ psf), and load at L/240 (57 psf).

In this case, live load is controlled by deflection of L/240: Allowable live load = 57 psf, or 55 psf (rounded to nearest 5 psf).

Example 3: Find allowable soil pressure on 23/32" APA C-C Plugged Group 1 EXT if supports are 16" o.c. Face grain is across supports. Deflection need not be considered. Assume soil pressure is permanent load.

From Table 2, for Group 1 Touch-Sanded Panels with Face Grain Across Supports:

Allowable load = 190 psf.

Load Governed By	Load (psf)	Adjustment for Duration of Load	Adjustment for Moisture	Adjustment for Exterior Glue	Adjusted Load (psf)
L/360	436	x	.83	=	362
L/240	655	x	.83	=	544
L/180	873	x	.83	=	725
Bending	301	x 0.90	x .70	=	190
Shear	436	x 0.90	x .83	x 1.10 =	358

We have field representatives in most major U.S. cities and in Canada who can help answer questions involving APA trademarked products. For additional assistance in specifying APA engineered wood products, get in touch with your nearest APA regional office. Call or write:

WESTERN REGION

7011 So. 19th St. ■ P.O. Box 11700
Tacoma, Washington 98411-0700
(253) 565-6600 ■ Fax: (253) 565-7265

EASTERN REGION

2130 Barrett Park Drive, Suite 102
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144-3681
(770) 427-9371 ■ Fax: (770) 423-1703

U.S. HEADQUARTERS AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETING DIVISION

7011 So. 19th St. ■ P.O. Box 11700
Tacoma, Washington 98411-0700
(253) 565-6600 ■ Fax: (253) 565-7265



www.apawood.org

PRODUCT SUPPORT HELP DESK

(253) 620-7400
E-mail Address: help@apawood.org

(Offices: Antwerp, Belgium; Bournemouth, United Kingdom; Hamburg, Germany; Mexico City, Mexico; Tokyo, Japan.) For Caribbean/Latin America, contact headquarters in Tacoma.

The product use recommendations in this publication are based on APA – The Engineered Wood Association's continuing programs of laboratory testing, product research, and comprehensive field experience. However, because the Association 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. Because engineered wood product performance requirements vary geographically, consult your local architect, engineer or design professional to assure compliance with code, construction, and performance requirements.

Form No. Z802
Revised March 1998/0100

A P A

The Engineered Wood Association

