
SUBJECT: RECESSED LIGHTING IN PREMIER SIPS

The primary considerations for the installation of recessed lighting in Premier SIPS include potential excessive cutting of the structural facing and excessive heat. (Refer to Premier SIPS ICC ESR-4524, Section 4.2.9.2, Holes in Panels, paragraph 2 and to Premier SIPS Technical Bulletin I-1.)

The SIPs facing is a key structural component. Therefore, excessive cutting of the SIP OSB facers, along with the foam core may lead to a reduction in the structural capacity of the SIPs. Heat buildup with recessed lights is the result of being installed in a fully insulated cavity. Although some recessed lights are designated for insulated cavities, these lights are not designed for the superior insulating performance of the rigid insulation solid core within the SIP.

Premier recommends the installation of surface mount, or track lighting when SIPs serve as the ceiling. If a flush appearance is desired, a cavity or soffit can be created by the installation of framing material attached to the surface of the SIPs before the installation of gypsum board. This creates a cavity or soffit in which lighting can be installed without cutting the face of the SIP. The use of recessed lighting is not recommended for application within a SIP.

However, if recessed lights are desired to be installed in a Premier SIPS, the engineer of record for the project should be consulted regarding the number and location of planned cuts in the SIPs. The engineer must review these cuts to ensure the structural integrity of the SIPs is not compromised. In addition, since the core of the SIP is rigid insulation, the opening into the SIPs will expose the rigid insulation core. A minimum of 2X dimensional lumber blocking or 1/2" gypsum board must be installed over the exposed rigid insulation prior to the installation of the light fixture.