



# Technical Services Information Bureau

October 18, 2024

California Building Standards Commission  
Attention: Public Comments  
2525 Natomas Drive Suite 130  
Sacramento, CA 95833

**Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(1), 11346.5(a)(15) and 11346.5(a)(17)**  
**Subject: Item 19 – Section 2507.3**

Dear California Building Standards Commission

We applaud the Division of State Architect for proposing new language that will enable an option for the “Earthquake” fastening of lath to horizontal wood supports.

The California Building Code, Section 2511.1.1 states the installation of lath shall follow ASTM C1063 (per table 2511.1.1) and the so called “earthquake” fastening is described in section 2507.3 for DSA and OSHPD projects. Even though it’s not clear, it is understood that these additional “earthquake” fasteners are installed at no more than 3 inches from the edge of each sheet of lath.

There are concerns regarding the language that is proposed for an option to the “earthquake” fastening to horizontal wood supports.

**No. 9 W&M gage minimum x 1 ½” long screws shall be permitted to be used in lieu of the staples if they include a minimum 1-inch diameter head or are installed with a 1-inch washer.**

## **Fastener Terminology**

To the best of our knowledge a “**No. 9 W&M gage minimum...**” screw is not available. This language refers to wires and nails, but not screws. The most common lath screw used in the lath and plaster industry is known as a No. 8 wafer head “lath” screw and is also referred to as a modified truss screw. A ring shank hook staple (“earthquake” fastener) has a shaft diameter 0.148”. as opposed to No. 8 lath screw that has a larger shank diameter of 0.164”.

## **Fastener Length**

The current proposal states: **1 ½” long screws shall be permitted....** The proposal has good intentions. However, the language does not consider that sheathing may be installed between the framing and lath. More appropriate language should include the depth of the fastener penetrating the wood framing member. An example is from ASTM C1063 (23), Section 7.3.3.4: “*Screws used to attach metal plaster base to horizontal and vertical framing members shall penetrate not less than 5/8”.*”

**The Diameter of Fastener Head and Inclusion of a Washer**

The proposed language states: **“if they include a minimum 1-inch diameter head or are installed with a 1-inch diameter washer”**. We contacted two different fastener manufacturers, and they do not make lath screws with a 1-inch diameter head. We suggest removing this verbiage as we believe it is unnecessary.

Per ASTM C 1861<sup>1</sup>, Table 3 requires screws to have a minimum head diameter of 0.437. This head diameter is achieved with the use of the modified truss (wafer head or pancake head) lath screws previously mentioned. The head diameter allows the screws to engage three full strands of expanded lath. The screw head diameter also engages the attachment points of welded wire lath without the addition of a washer. These are the minimum set forth by ASTM C1063<sup>2</sup> and we have not seen failures when the ASTM requirements are met.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit a public comment. Please feel free to contact me for further assistance or clarification. I can be reached at [bryan@tsib.org](mailto:bryan@tsib.org). I have also discussed this matter with the Wall and Ceiling Bureau (WCB), representing Northern California and we have their full support. WCB’s Technical Director Ben Dutarte can be [ben@wcbureau.org](mailto:ben@wcbureau.org).

Sincerely,



Bryan Stanley  
Architectural Specialist  
Technical Services Information Bureau

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<sup>1</sup> ASTM C1861: Standard Specification For Lathing and Furring Accessories, and Fasteners, for Interior and Exterior Portland Cement-Based Plaster

<sup>2</sup> ASTM C1063: Standard Specification for Installation of Lathing and Furring to Receive Portland Cement Plaster