Technical Bulletin

How to Read ICC Evaluation Service® ESR-1539P©
Part II: Fastener Basics, Table 1 Nail Types – Tables 2A & 2B Code Fastening Schedules – Table 3 Reference Lateral Design Values 2 By Members

Preface:

This is the second in a series of technical bulletins designed to provide a clearer understanding of the ICC Evaluation Service® evaluation report ESR-1539©.

This bulletin covers the Table of Contents, the fastener basics, applicable codes and information on the reference lateral design value of nails in some of the common species of wood used in building construction.

The driven fasteners (nails and staples) described in the evaluation report are used in engineered and non-engineered (prescriptive) structural connections and are primarily installed using power tools. This technical bulletin references **ESR-1539P© Issue Date 10/2025.** https://icc-es.org/report-listing/esr-1539P/

Background:

The first technical bulletin in this series: Terminology Used In ICC Evaluation Service® Report ESR-1539P© provides a brief description of several technical and administrative terms used.

The second technical bulletin in this series: Part I: Basic ESR Information covers the first four pages of ESR-1539P© and provides information on the document format, subject matter and product descriptions.

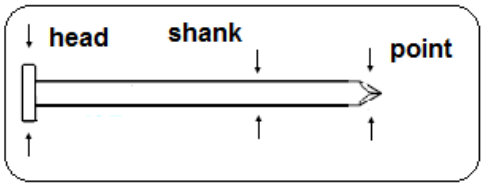
In October 2024, ESR-1539 was renamed ESR-1539P. P refers to Plan Pages and is a series of pages that provide metric (SI) values in Tables multiple tables. Information on the metric tables is provided elsewhere in this series of documents.

Table of Contents & Basic Fastener Styles

A pictorial representation of the various types of nail shanks and heads represented in the ESR along with the basic shape of staples.

Nails have three basic components to them:

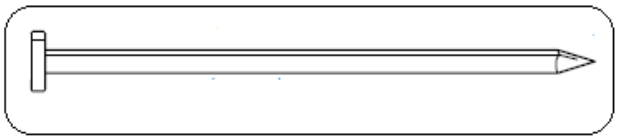
- Shank
- Head
- Point



Components of a Nail

Shank and head styles are addressed in ESR-1539P© and are referenced below.

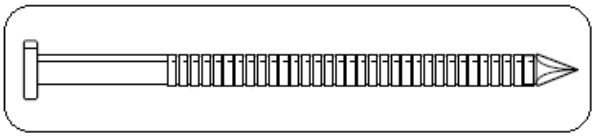
Smooth Shank Nails (S): Commonly used in wood framing and the attachment of sheathing e.g., (plywood, OSB, etc.) to wood framing, a smooth shank nail is made of steel and has a shank without deformation.



Smooth Shank Nail

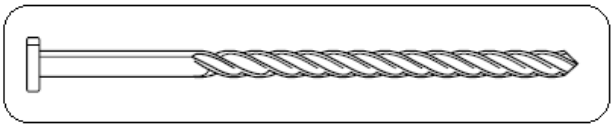
Ring Shank Nails (RS): A ring shank nail is comprised of a series of annular rings extending along the shank of the nail. They often vary in the number of rings per inch, depth of the ring and ring pattern based on manufacturer.

Targeted for use in softer woods like pines and firs, ring shank nails are commonly used in roof sheathing application where a higher resistance to removal (withdrawal) from the framing is required. As the nail is driven into the wood, the wood fibers are pushed away from the shank of the nail. After the nails have been driven, the wood fibers begin to relax and fill in the grooves of the rings formed in the nail shank.



Ring Shank Nail

Screw Shank Nails (Sc): A screw shank nail is made of steel with a helical or screw type twist extending along the shank. Similar to ring shank nails, they can provide higher resistance to withdrawal vs. smooth shank nails. They are often used for harder / denser woods. As the nail is driven, it twists and forms its own thread in the wood fibers. As with the ring shank nail, the depth and spacing of the twist or spiral in the nails differ by manufacturer.

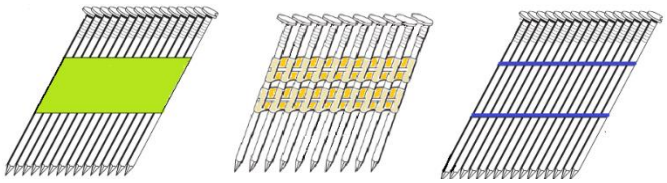


Screw Shank Nail

Full Round Head (FRH): The full round head nail is associated with the nails addressed in section 8.2.3.1 of ASTM F1667 and the common, box or cooler nails prescribed in the codes for use in diaphragms, shear walls and framing. The shank and the head are concentric to each other in a FRH nail. FRH nails can be driven with pneumatic nailers or hand driven with a hammer.

Round

Notched Head, D-Head & Offset Head: These head shapes allow for a larger number of nails to be closely spaced together when the nails are collated in paper tape, plastic strip or wire for use with power nailers. The collation is often formed at an angle that is compatible with the magazine of the nailer. This allows the point of the nail to be presented to the work surface at a 90º angle. Notched and D-heads are often referred to as "clipped" heads.



Paper ***Plastic*** ***Wire***

Angled Collation

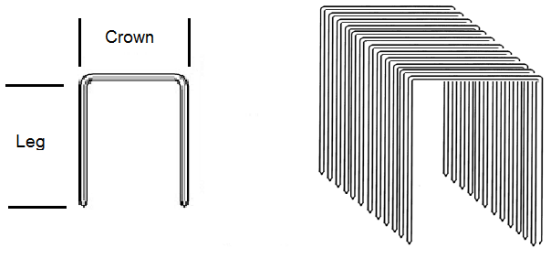
D-Head Offset Round Notched

Staples: Staples addressed in ESR-1539P© are made of plain, galvanized, or stainless steel wire. Galvanized and stainless steel provide varying levels of corrosion resistance. The minimum crown width prescribed in the codes is $^{7}/_{16}$ inch (11mm). The minimum leg length of 1½ inch (38mm) listed is based on the most restrictive fastener connection addressed in ESR-1539P©.

Unlike nails, which reference shank diameters in inches, staple crown and leg diameters are referenced by the steel wire gage. Gage is a measure of the diameter of the basic wire that makes up the staple. ESR-1539P© lists three gage sizes 14, 15, and 16 which are the prescribed sizes referenced in the codes.

Staple Gage	**NOMINAL WIRE DIAMETER (inch)**	**NOMINAL STAPLE WIDTH (inch)**	**NOMINAL BENDING MOMENT** (lbf-in.)
14	0.080	0.0855	4.3
15	0.0720	0.073	4.0
16	0.0625	0.064	3.6

Staples are collated into strips and held with polymer coatings.



Staples

Listing of Nail Sizes Included in ESR-1539P©

Table 1* (Figure A) provides information on the types and sizes of nails recognized in ESR-1539P©. The table is divided into two sections: nails described in ASTM F1667 and "Other Nails Addressed In This Report", which represents alternative nails recognized for specific applications.

The nails described in F1667 tables 5, 10 & 14 are recognized in the International Building Codes (IBC)® and International Residential Codes (IRC)® for use in the prescriptive connections identified in ESR-1539P© Tables 4-15.
*Referenced tables are directly related to ESR-1539P©

In 2024 metric (SI) references were added to specific Table 1 in ESR-1539P©

TABLE 1—NAIL TYPES AND DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED IN THIS REPORT[1]

SHANK DIAMETER [inch (mm)]	NAILS DESCRIBED IN ASTM F1667				OTHER NAILS ADDRESSED IN THIS REPORT	
	TYPE AND PENNYWEIGHT	LENGTH [inches (mm)]	HEAD DIAMETER [inch (mm)]	SHANK STYLE	COMMONLY AVAILABLE LENGTHS [inches (mm)]	SHANK STYLES
0.092 (2.34)	6d cooler	1 7/8 (47)	0.250 (6.35)	Smooth, Ring, Screw	1 1/4 (32), 1 1/2 (38), 1 5/8 (41), 1 3/4 (44), 2 (51), 2 1/8 (54), 2 3/16 (55), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
0.099 (2.51)	6d box	2 (51)	0.266 (6.76)	Smooth	1 1/8 (28), 1 1/2 (38), 1 3/4 (44), 1 7/8 (47), 2 (51), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
0.113 (2.87)	6d common	2 (51)	0.266 (6.76)	Smooth	2 (51), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
	8d box	2 1/2 (63)	0.297 (7.54)			
	8d cooler	2 3/8 (60)	0.281 (7.14)			
0.120 (3.05)	–	–	–	–	2 (51), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63), 2 3/4 (70), 3 (76), 3 1/4 (82), 3 1/2 (89), 3 3/4 (95), 4 (101)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
0.131 (3.33)	8d common	2 1/2 (63)	0.281 (7.14)	Smooth	2 (51), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63), 2 3/4 (70), 3 (76), 3 1/4 (82), 3 3/8 (85), 3 1/2 (89), 3 3/4 (95), 4 (101)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
	Metal Hardware[2]	1 1/4 (32), 1 1/2 (38), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63)	0.281 (7.14)	Smooth, Ring		
0.135 (3.43)	16d box	3 1/2 (89)	0.344 (8.74)	Smooth	2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63), 3 1/4 (82), 3 1/2 (89), 4 (101)	Ring, Screw
0.148 (3.76)	10d common	3 (76)	0.312 (7.92)	Smooth	2 (51), 2 1/8 (54), 2 1/4 (57), 2 3/8 (60), 2 1/2 (63), 3 (76), 3 1/4 (82), 3 1/2 (89), 4 (101)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
	12d common	3 1/4 (82)	0.312 (7.92)			
	Metal Hardware[2]	1 1/4 (32), 1 1/2 (38), 2 1/2 (63), 3 (76), 3 1/2 (89)	0.281 (7.14)	Smooth, Ring		
0.162 (4.11)	16d common	3 1/2 (89)	0.344 (8.74)	Smooth	3 (76), 3 1/4 (82), 3 1/2 (89), 4 (101)	Smooth, Ring, Screw
	Metal Hardware[2]	2 1/2 (63), 3 (76), 3 1/2 (89)	0.281 (7.14)	Smooth, Ring		
0.180 (4.57)	–	–	–	–	5 3/8 (136)	Smooth
0.197 (5.00)	–	–	–	–	5 3/8 (136)	Smooth

For **SI:** 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

[1]See Appendix B for evaluated nail products for each listee.
[2]Nails intended for use with metal hardware such as joist hangers. See Appendix B of this report for associated designations on product labels.

Figure A – Table 1 from ESR-1539P©

Note the terminology used to describe the nails referenced in ASTM F1667. Nails used in framing and sheathing are often referred to as common, box or cooler nails. Tables in F1667 have been specifically defined for each nail type.

- Common nails are everyday nails for use in typical construction
  - They are often addressed with terminology such as 6d common, 8d common, etc.

- Box nails look like common nails but have smaller diameter shanks. In some cases, the head may be larger than a common nail for an equivalent shank diameter
    - They are often addressed with terminolgy such as: 6d box, 8d box, etc.
- Cooler nails have shank diameters, lengths, and head diameters smaller than box nails
    - They are often addressed with terminology such as 6d cooler, 8d cooler, etc.

Note:

6d common nails ≠ 6d box nails ≠ 6d cooler nails
(This rule applies to the other size nails as well.)

Alternative nails can differ from nails specifically referenced in ASTM F1667 by:

- Shank configuration (e.g., ring or screw shanks)
- Nominal shank diameter
- Length
- Head configuration (e.g., clipped or offset round heads)
- Proprietary coatings applied for corrosion protection or to assist in driving the nail.

Applicable Codes Used as a Basis for Connections Referenced in ESR-1539P

Attachment of Sheating to Framing

Figures B1 (Table 2A) provides a method to quickly look up the correct table in the codes to review the prescriptive fasteners for attaching sheathing to framing.

TABLE 2A—APPLICABLE FASTENING SCHEDULES IN THE CODES FOR ATTACHMENT OF SHEATHING TO FRAMING

CONSTRUCTION	CODE	TABLE NUMBER
Roof Sheathing Attachment	2024 and 2021 IBC	2304.10.2
	2018 and 2015 IBC	2304.10.1
	2024, 2021, 2018 and 2015 IRC	R602.3(1), R602.3(2)
Wall Sheathing Attachment	2024 and 2021 IBC	2304.10.2
	2018 and 2015 IBC	2304.10.1
	2024, 2021, 2018 and 2015 IRC	R602.3(1), R602.3(2), R602.3(3)
Floor Sheathing Attachment	2024 and 2021 IBC	2304.10.2
	2018 and 2015 IBC	2304.10.1
	2024, 2021, 2018 and 2015 IRC	R602.3(1), R602.3(2)

Figure B1- Table 2A from ESR-1539P©

Attachment of Framing to Framing

Figures B2 (Table 2B) provides a method to quickly look up the correct table in the codes to review the prescriptive fasteners for attaching framing to framing.

TABLE 2B—APPLICABLE FASTENING SCHEDULES IN THE CODES FOR FRAMING CONNECTIONS

CONSTRUCTION	CODE	TABLE NUMBER
Wall Framing	2024 and 2021 IBC	2304.10.2
	2018 and 2015 IBC	2304.10.1
	2024, 2021, 2018 and 2015 IRC	R602.3(1)
Ceiling and Roof Framing	2024 and 2021 IBC	2304.10.2
	2018 and 2015 IBC	2304.10.1
	2024, 2021, 2018 and 2015 IRC	R602.3(1)
Floor Framing	2024 and 2021 IBC	2304.10.2
	2018 and 2015 IBC	2304.10.1
	2024, 2021, 2018 and 2015 IRC	R602.3(1)

Figure B2- Table 2B from ESR-1539P©

Lateral Design Values

Figure C (Table 3 in ESR-1539©) provides information on the Reference Lateral Design Values (Z) for four common wood species typically used in construction.

The (Z) values listed are dependent on several factors:

a. Nail length
b. Nail diameter
c. Nail penetration depth into main member
d. Side member thickness
e. Specific Gravity of the wood members being nailed together.

Figure C assumes that both the main and side members are of the same wood species and are both '2-by' members (e.g., 2x4, 2x6, etc.) which have a nominal minimal thickness of 1½ inch (38mm).

TABLE 3—REFERENCE LATERAL DESIGN VALUES OF FACE NAILED SINGLE SHEAR CONNECTIONS OF "2-BY" MEMBERS TO OTHER MEMBERS OF SAME SPECIES[1,2,3,4,5,6]

NAIL DIMENSIONS		REFERENCE LATERAL (Z) DESIGN VALUES BASED ON SG_{NDS} (lbf)			
Length (inches)	Nominal Shank Diameter, *D* (inches)	0.42 (e.g., Spruce-pine-fir)	0.43 (e.g., Hem-fir)	0.50 (e.g., Douglas Fir-larch)	0.55 (e.g., Southern Pine)
3 1/2	0.162	120	122	141	154
3 1/4	0.148	100	102	118	128
3	0.148	100	102	118	128
3 1/2	0.135	88	89	103	113
3 1/4	0.131	82	84	97	106
3	0.131	82	84	97	106
2 1/2	0.131	63	64	74	81
3 1/4	0.120	69	71	81	89
3	0.120	69	71	81	89
2 1/2	0.113	54	56	64	70
2 3/8	0.113	47	49	56	61
2 1/4	0.099	36	36	42	46

For **SI:** 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 lbf = 4.45N, 1 psi = 6.89 kPa.
For the SI version of Table 3, see Table 3-P of the ISANTA Metric Supplement to ESR-1539.

[1]Design values are based on a normal load duration and must be multiplied by all applicable adjustment factors in the NDS.
[2]Table is based upon a 1 1/2-inch actual thickness of both attached member and receiving ("main") member.
[3]Design values are for connections in which the nail shank is driven into the side grain with shank axis perpendicular to wood fibers.
[4]Tabulated values are based on a minimum F_{yb} of 100,000 psi for nail diameters of 0.135 inch or less, and a minimum F_{yb} of 90,000 psi for nail diameters of 0.148 and 0.162 inch.
[5]Calculations are based on a connection in which both members have the same SG_{NDS}.
[6]Reference lateral design values apply to nails with either a smooth shank or a deformed shank.

Figure C - Table 3 from ESR-1539P©

Additional Note: Footnotes to NDS Tables 12N-12R state that a nail must penetrate a miniumum length of 6 times the diameter of the nail (6D) into the main member, but if penetration is less than 10 times the diameter (10D) a reduction in the lateral design value (Z) must be taken. The reduction calculation is provided in the footnotes of the NDS tables.

Example: (Figures D & E)

Given:
Nail Diameter = 0.131 inch
Nail lengths: 2½ , 3, 3¼ inch
6D penetration = 6 x 0.131 = 0.786 inch
10D penetration = 10 x 0.131 = 1.31 inch
a. 2½ inch nail penetrates into main member 1 inch
b. 3 inch nail penetrates into main member 1½ inch
c. 3¼ inch nail penetrates 1½ inch and extends through the main member.

Analysis:
a. The 2½ inch nail penetrates greater than 6D into the main member, but less than 10D. The (Z) value is reduced per NDS requirements.

b. The 3 inch nail penetrates greater than 10D into the main member, so there is no reduction in the (Z) value.

c. The 3¼ inch nail has greater than 10D penetration into the main member, so there is no reduction in the (Z) value even though the nail extends through the main member.

TABLE 3—REFERENCE LATERAL DESIGN VALUES OF FACE NAILED SINGLE SHEAR CONNECTIONS OF "2-BY" MEMBERS TO OTHER MEMBERS OF SAME SPECIES[1,2,3,4,5,6,7]

NAIL DIMENSIONS		REFERENCE LATERAL DESIGN VALUES FOR SPECIFIC GRAVITIES OF: (lbf)			
Length (inches)	Nail Shank Diameter (inches)	0.42 (e.g., Spruce-pine-fir)	0.43 (e.g., Hem-fir)	0.50 (e.g., Douglas Fir-larch)	0.55 (e.g., Southern Pine)
3 1/2	0.162	111	113	131	143
3 1/4	0.148	100	102	118	128
3	0.148	100	102	118	128
3 1/2	0.135	88	89	103	113
3 1/4	0.131	82	84	97	106
3	0.131	82	84	97	106
2 1/2	0.131	63	64	74	81
3 1/4	0.120	69	71	81	89
3	0.120	69	71	81	89
2 1/2	0.113	54	56	64	70
2 3/8	0.113	47	49	56	61
2 1/4	0.099	36	36	42	46

Figure D - Table 3 from ESR-1539P©
Emphasis and annotation added for clairty of design example

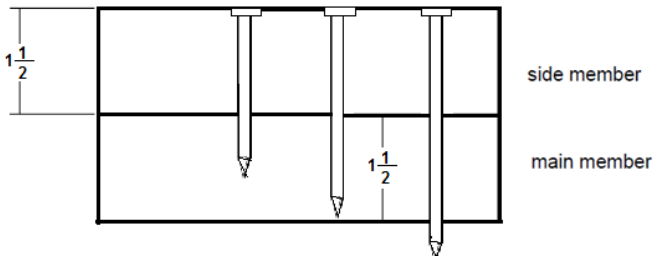


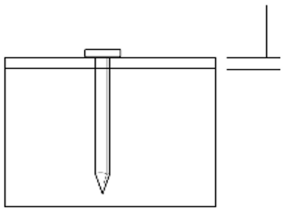
Figure E

Equations for calculating the Z value are referenced in Appendix A of ESR-1539P©

Lateral Design Values for Face Nailed Single Shear Connections of Steel Side Members to Wood Member was added to the report. (see Figure G)

Table 4 is based on the engineering equations for calculating metal to wood lateral design values and are the same as those used in wood to wood connections as referenced in Appendix A of ESR-1539P©

Metal hardware manufacturers and the NDS reference gage thickness for the steel side members. The range of typical steel thicknesses for hardware manufacturers and the NDS are referenced in Table 3B.



Referenced steel thickness varies between information published by hardware manufacturers and the NDS

TABLE 5—REFERENCE LATERAL DESIGN VALUES OF FACE NAILED SINGLE SHEAR CONNECTIONS OF STEEL SIDE MEMBERS TO WOOD MEMBERS[1,2,3,4,5]

STEEL SIDE MEMBER THICKNESS[6] (inch)	REFERENCE LATERAL DESIGN VALUES (lbf)														
	SG = 0.42 (e.g., Spruce-pine-fir)					SG = 0.50 (e.g., Douglas Fir-larch)					SG = 0.55 (e.g., Southern Pine)				
	Nail Diameter (inch)					Nail Diameter (inch)					Nail Diameter (inch)				
	0.131		0.148		0.162	0.131		0.148		0.162	0.131		0.148		0.162
	Nail Length (inches)					Nail Length (inches)					Nail Length (inches)				
	1 1/2	2 1/4, 2 3/8, 2 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2	2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/4, 2 3/8, 2 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2	2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/4, 2 3/8, 2 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2	2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2
ASTM A653, Grade 33 Steel Side Plate															
0.033 - 0.036	82	82	97	97	117	94	94	112	113	136	102	102	122	123	147
0.044 - 0.048	83	83	97	98	117	95	95	112	114	136	102	102	122	124	148
0.055 - 0.060	84	84	97	99	118	96	96	113	115	138	104	104	122	125	149
0.068 - 0.075	86	86	98	102	121	98	98	114	118	140	106	106	123	127	151
0.097 - 0.105	93	93	103	108	127	105	105	118	125	147	113	113	128	135	159
0.127 - 0.134	102	102	109	118	137	115	115	126	135	157	124	124	135	146	170
0.171 - 0.179	116	116	123	137	157	132	132	138	154	177	142	142	149	166	190
0.228 - 0.240	111	116	119	140	168	127	132	137	160	192	138	144	148	174	209
ASTM A653, Grade 40 Steel Side Plate															
0.033 - 0.036	83	83	97	98	117	95	95	113	114	137	103	103	123	124	149
0.044 - 0.048	84	84	98	99	118	96	96	114	116	138	104	104	123	125	150
0.055 - 0.060	86	86	99	101	120	98	98	115	117	141	106	106	124	127	151
0.068 - 0.075	89	89	101	104	123	101	101	117	121	144	109	109	126	130	155
0.097 - 0.105	97	97	107	113	132	110	110	123	130	155	118	118	133	140	164
0.127 - 0.134	108	108	115	124	143	122	122	133	143	168	131	131	143	154	178
0.171 - 0.179	116	116	127	141	167	133	133	145	161	193	145	145	157	175	203
0.228 - 0.240	112	116	120	141	169	128	133	137	161	193	139	145	149	175	210
ASTM A36, Steel Side Plate															
0.250	111	117	117	139	169	128	134	137	162	194	139	145	157	186	222

For **SI:** 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 lbf = 4.45N, 1 psi = 6.89 kPa.
For the SI version of Table 5, see Table 5-P of the ISANTA Metric Supplement to ESR-1539.

[1]Design values are for normal load duration as defined in Section 2.3.2 of the NDS and must be multiplied by all applicable adjustment factors in the NDS.
[2]The tabulated values have been calculated in accordance with the Yield Mode Equations in Section A1.2 of Appendix A of this report. Side member dowel bearing strengths (F_{es}) used to calculate design values are 61,850 psi for ASTM A653, Grade 33; 75,600 psi for ASTM A653 Grade 40; and 87,000 psi for ASTM A36 side member material.
[3]Lateral design values are based on F_{yb} = 100,000 psi for 0.131-inch diameter nails; and F_{yb} = 90,000 psi for 0.148 and 0.162-inch diameter nails.
[4]Wood member must be of sufficient thickness for the nail point to be fully embedded in the wood.
[5]Specific Gravity (SG) values must be SG_{NDS} or SG_{eq}, as applicable.
[6]These thicknesses are base metal thicknesses and are based on typical steel thicknesses described in various ICC-ES evaluation reports for metal hardware and on the thicknesses addressed in Table 12P of the NDS.

Figure G – Table 4 taken from ESR-1539P®

Referenced Documents:

ANSI/AWC NDS-2024 National Design Specification for Wood © American Wood Council 2024

ANSW/AWC 2021 Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS)©
©American Wood Council 2020

ASTM F1667/ F1667M-21a Standard Specifications for Driven Fasteners: Nails, Spikes and Staples
© ASTM International December 2021

2024, 2021, 2018, 2015 International Building Code (IBC) © International Code Council Inc. ®

2024, 2021, 2018, 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) © International Code Council Inc. ®

AC116 ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Nails
© ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) ® September 2024

AC201 ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Staples
© ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) ® March 2024

ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-1539P©
© ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) ® October 2025

The RV Evans Co.
2325 E Logan Street
Decatur, Illinois 62526
https://rvevans.wordpress.com/2013/07/15/the-difference-between-screw-shank-nails-and-ring-shank-nails/

Components of Nail, Smooth Shank Nail, Ring Shank Nail and Screw Shank Nail Sketches courtesy of Senco Brands

Collated Nails Sketches courtesy of PrimeSource Building Products

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