



International Beams Inc.
418 rue St. Dizier
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3P8

Phone: (866) 457-4043

Technical Bulletin (TB-LVL-1)

Subject: Ripping of International Beams LVL

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This technical bulletin is intended for use with International Beams Inc. products and offers general guidelines for topics that may not be covered in our literature. Appropriateness of details for a specific project should be evaluated by a qualified designer. This technical bulletin may be periodically updated. Check internationalbeams.com to ensure that you have the most recent version.

Occasionally, it is necessary to rip down IB LVL (laminated veneer lumber) to a shallower depth that is not one of our standard manufactured depths. A “ripped” cut is one that occurs along the length of the beam parallel to the grain. There is no structural penalty for ripping down IB LVL. In fact, this is how our standard depths are manufactured from wider billets in the manufacturing plant.

Design / installation considerations:

- The LVL must be structurally evaluated for the material properties of the shallower depth.
- The cut should be consistent and straight along the length of the LVL. Uneven cuts may present issues with installation of finish materials.
- The ripped edge will lose the factory-applied sealant. The purpose of this sealant is to inhibit moisture absorption which can cause the LVL to swell or warp. Thus, it is important to install the ripped LVL as soon as possible, or maintain the LVL in a dry condition until it can be installed. See the IB LVL Design Manual for proper storage and handling of LVL's.
- Maintain product labelling and grade stamps on the portion of ripped LVL that is used.