

SECTION R507 DECKS (2012 VA USBC-Residential)

R507.1 Decks.

Wood-framed decks shall be in accordance with this section or Section R301 for materials and conditions not prescribed herein. Where supported by attachment to an exterior wall, decks shall be positively anchored to the primary structure and designed for both vertical and lateral loads. Such attachment shall not be accomplished by the use of toenails or nails subject to withdrawal. Where positive connection to the primary building structure cannot be verified during inspection, decks shall be self-supporting. For decks with cantilevered framing members, connections to exterior walls or other framing members, shall be designed and constructed to resist uplift resulting from the full live load specified in Table R301.5 acting on the cantilevered portion of the deck.

R507.2 Deck ledger connection to band joist.

For decks supporting a total design load of 50 pounds per square foot (2394 Pa) [40 pounds per square foot (1915 Pa) live load plus 10 pounds per square foot (479 Pa) dead load], the connection between a deck ledger of pressure-preservative-treated Southern Pine, incised pressure-preservative-treated Hem-Fir or *approved* decay-resistant species, and a 2-inch (51 mm) nominal lumber band joist bearing on a sill plate or wall plate shall be constructed with 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) lag screws or bolts with washers in accordance with Table R507.2. Lag screws, bolts and washers shall be hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel.

TABLE R507.2 FASTENER SPACING FOR A SOUTHERN PINE OR HEM-FIR DECK LEDGER AND A 2-INCH-NOMINAL SOLID-SAWN SPRUCE-PINE-FIR BAND JOIST^c,^{f, g} (Deck live load = 40 psf, deck dead load = 10 psf)

JOIST SPAN	6' and less	6'1" to 8'	8'1" to 10'	10'1" to 12'	12'1" to 14'	14'1" to 16'	16'1" to 18'
Connection details	On-center spacing of fasteners^{d, e}						
1/2 inch diameter lag screw with 15/32 inch maximum sheathing ^a	30	23	18	15	13	11	10
1/2 inch diameter bolt with 15/32 inch maximum sheathing	36	36	34	29	24	21	19
1/2 inch diameter bolt with 15/32 inch maximum sheathing and 1/2 inch stacked washers ^{b, h}	36	36	29	24	21	18	16

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm. 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa.

- The tip of the lag screw shall fully extend beyond the inside face of the band joist.
- The maximum gap between the face of the ledger board and face of the wall sheathing shall be 1/2 inch.
- Ledgers shall be flashed to prevent water from contacting the house band joist.
- Lag screws and bolts shall be staggered in accordance with Section R507.2.1.
- Deck ledger shall be minimum 2 x 8 pressure-preservative-treated No. 2 grade lumber, or other approved materials as established by standard engineering practice.
- When solid-sawn pressure-preservative-treated deck ledgers are attached to a minimum 1-inch-thick engineered wood product (structural composite lumber, laminated veneer lumber or wood structural panel band joist), the ledger attachment shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice.
- A minimum 1 x 9 1/2 Douglas Fir laminated veneer lumber rimboard shall be permitted in lieu of the 2-

inch nominal band joist.

h. Wood structural panel sheathing, gypsum board sheathing or foam sheathing not exceeding 1 inch in thickness shall be permitted. The maximum distance between the face of the ledger board and the face of the band joist shall be 1 inch

R507.2.1 Placement of lag screws or bolts in deck ledgers and band joists.

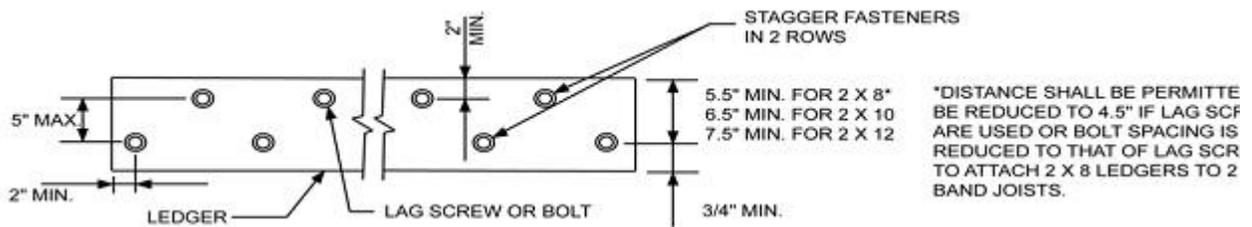
The lag screws or bolts in deck ledgers and band joists shall be placed in accordance with Table R507.2.1 and Figures R507.2.1(1) and R507.2.1(2).

TABLE 507.2.1 PLACEMENT OF LAG SCREWS AND BOLTS IN DECK LEDGERS AND BAND JOISTS

MINIMUM END AND EDGE DISTANCES AND SPACING BETWEEN ROWS				
	TOP EDGE	BOTTOM EDGE	ENDS	ROW SPACING
Ledger ^a	2 inches ^d	³ / ₄ inch	2 inches ^b	1 ⁵ / ₈ inches ^b
Band Joist ^c	³ / ₄ inch	2 inches	2 inches ^b	1 ⁵ / ₈ inches ^b

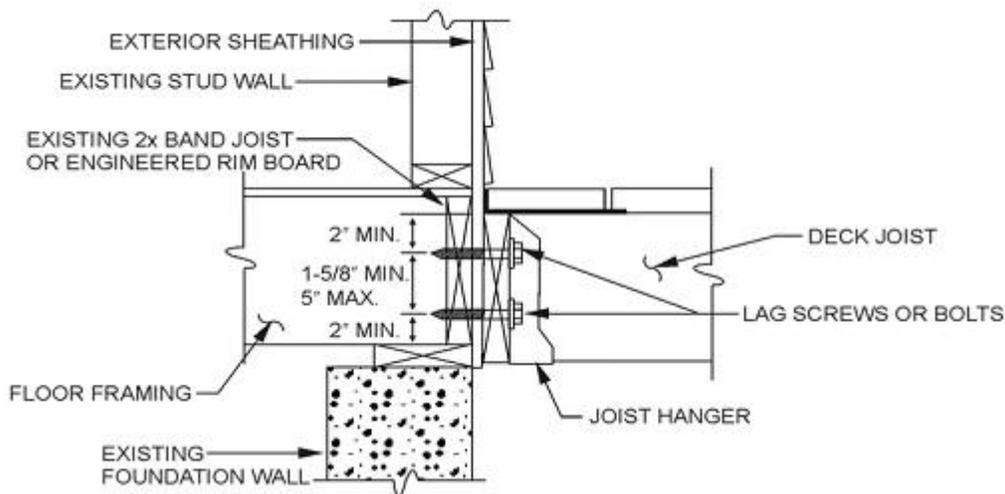
For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

- a. Lag screws or bolts shall be staggered from the top to the bottom along the horizontal run of the deck ledger in accordance with Figure R507.2.1(1).
- b. Maximum 5 inches.
- c. For engineered rim joists, the manufacturer’s recommendations shall govern.
- d. The minimum distance from bottom row of lag screws or bolts to the top edge of the ledger shall be in accordance with Figure R507.2.1(1).



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

FIGURE R507.2.1(1) PLACEMENT OF LAG SCREWS AND BOLTS IN LEDGERS



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

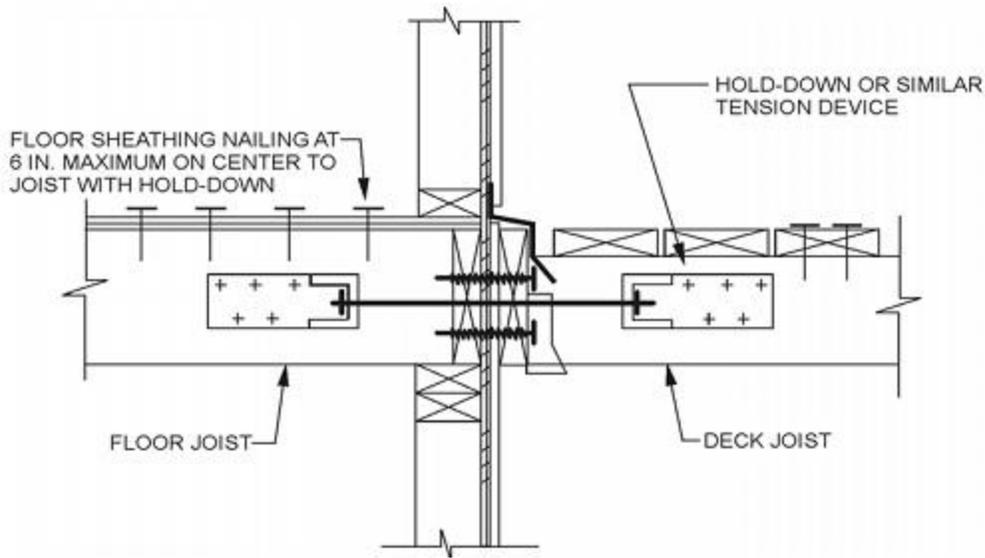
FIGURE R507.2.1(2) PLACEMENT OF LAG SCREWS AND BOLTS IN BAND JOISTS

R507.2.2 Alternate deck ledger connections.

Deck ledger connections not conforming to Table R507.2 shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice. Girders supporting deck joists shall not be supported on deck ledgers or band joists. Deck ledgers shall not be supported on stone or masonry veneer.

R507.2.3 Deck lateral load connection.

The lateral load connection required by Section R507.1 shall be permitted to be in accordance with Figure R507.2.3. Where the lateral load connection is provided in accordance with Figure R507.2.3, hold-down tension devices shall be installed in not less than two locations per deck, and each device shall have an allowable stress design capacity of not less than 1500 pounds (6672 N).



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

FIGURE 507.2.3 DECK ATTACHMENT FOR LATERAL LOADS

R507.3 Wood/plastic composites.

Wood/plastic composites used in exterior deck boards, stair treads, handrails and guardrail systems shall bear a label indicating the required performance levels and demonstrating compliance with the provisions of ASTM D 7032.

R507.3.1 Installation of wood/plastic composites.

Wood/plastic composites shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

R507.4 Decking.

Maximum allowable spacing for wood joists supporting decking shall be in accordance with Table R507.4. Wood decking shall be attached to each supporting member with a minimum of (2)8d nails or (2)#8 wood screws.

TABLE R507.4 MAXIMUM JOIST SPACING (inches)

MATERIAL TYPE AND NOMINAL SIZE	MAXIMUM JOIST SPACING	
	PERPENDICULAR TO JOIST	DIAGONAL TO JOIST ^a
5/4-inch thick wood	16	12
2-inch thick wood	24	16
Wood/plastic composite	Per R507.3	Per R507.3

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm

a. Maximum angle of 45 degrees from perpendicular for wood deck boards

R507.5 Deck joists.

Maximum allowable spans for wood deck joists, as shown in Figure R507.5, shall be in

accordance with Table R507.5. Deck joist shall be permitted to cantilever a maximum of one-fourth of the actual, adjacent joist span.

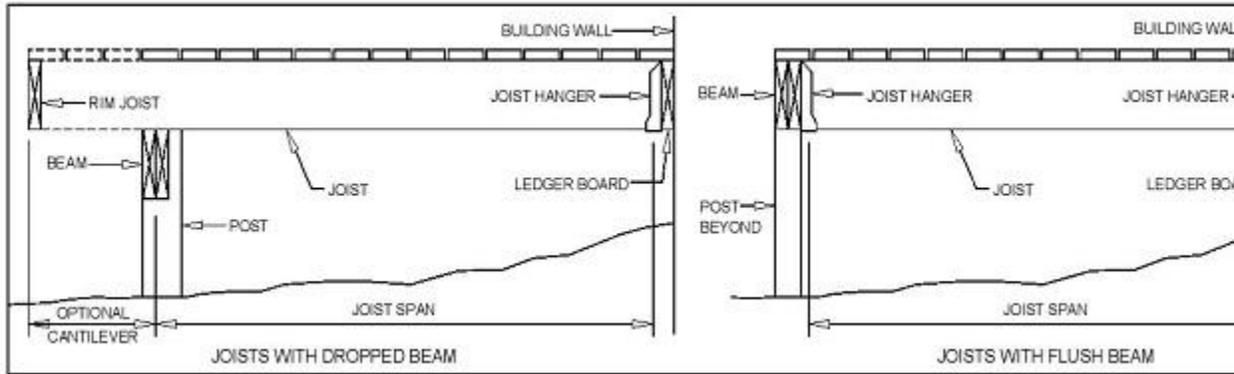


FIGURE R507.5 TYPICAL DECK JOIST SPANS

TABLE R507.5 DECK JOIST SPANS^a AND CANTILEVERS^a FOR COMMON LUMBER SPECIES

SPECIES ^b	SIZE	ALLOWABLE JOIST SPAN ^c			ALLOWABLE CANTILEVER ^{d,e}		
		Spacing of deck joists (inches)			Spacing of deck joists (inches)		
		12	16	24	12	16	24
Southern pine	2 x 6	9-11	9-0	7-7	1-3	1-4	1-6
	2 x 8	13-1	11-10	9-8	2-1	2-3	2-5
	2 x 10	16-2	14-0	11-5	3-4	3-6	2-10
	2 x 12	18-0	16-6	13-6	4-6	4-2	3-4
Douglas fir-larch ^f , hem-fir ^f , spruce-pine-fir ^f	2 x 6	9-6	8-4	6-10	1-2	1-3	1-5
	2 x 8	12-6	11-1	9-1	1-11	2-1	2-3
	2 x 10	15-8	13-7	11-1	3-1	3-5	2-9
	2 x 12	18-0	15-9	12-10	4-6	3-11	3-3
Redwood, western cedars, ponderosa pine ^g , red pine ^g	2 x 6	8-10	8-0	6-10	1-0	1-1	1-2
	2 x 8	11-8	10-7	8-8	1-8	1-10	2-0
	2 x 10	14-11	13-0	10-7	2-8	2-10	2-8
	2 x 12	17-5	15-1	12-4	3-10	3-9	3-1

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. Spans and cantilevers are given in feet and inches.

b. No. 2 grade with wet service factor.

c. Ground snow load, live load = 40 psf, dead load = 10 psf, L/Δ = 360.

- d. Ground snow load, live load = 40 psf, dead load = 10 psf, $L/\Delta = 360$ at main span, $L/\Delta = 180$ at cantilever with a 220 pound point load applied to end.
- e. Maximum allowable cantilever shall not exceed one-fourth of the actual joist span.
- f. Includes incising factor.
- g. Northern species with no incising factor.

R507.5.1 Lateral restraint at supports.

Joist ends and bearing locations shall be provided with lateral restraint to prevent rotation. Where lateral restraint is provided by joist hangers or blocking between joists, their depth shall equal not less than 60 percent of the joist depth. Where lateral restraint is provided by rim joists, they shall be secured to the end of each joist with a minimum of (3)10d (3-inch x 0.128-inch) nails or (3)#10x3 inch (76 mm) long wood screws.

R507.6 Deck beams.

Maximum allowable spans for wood deck beams, as shown in Figure R507.6, shall be in accordance with Table R507.6. Beam plies shall be fastened with two rows of 10d (3-inch x 0.128-inch) nails minimum at 16 inches (406 mm) on center along each edge. Beams shall be permitted to cantilever at each end up to one-fourth of the beam span. Splices of multi-span beams shall be located at interior post locations.

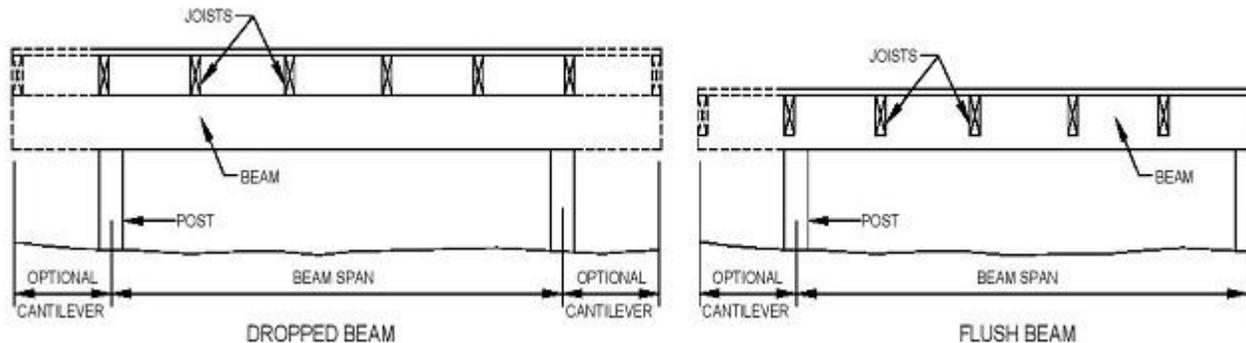


FIGURE R507.6 TYPICAL DECK BEAM SPANS

TABLE R507.6 DECK BEAM SPAN^a LENGTHS^{b,c}

SPECIES ^d	SIZE ^e	DECK JOIST SPAN (feet) LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO:						
		6	8	10	12	14	16	18
Southern pine	2-2x6	6-11	5-11	5-4	4-10	4-6	4-3	4-0
	2-2x8	8-9	7-7	6-9	6-2	5-9	5-4	5-0
	2-2x10	10-4	9-0	8-0	7-4	6-9	6-4	6-0
	2-2x12	12-2	10-7	9-5	8-7	8-0	7-6	7-0
	3-2x6	8-2	7-5	6-8	6-1	5-8	5-3	5-0
	3-2x8	10-10	9-6	8-6	7-9	7-2	6-8	6-4
	3-2x10	13-0	11-3	10-0	9-2	8-6	7-11	7-6
	3-2x12	15-3	13-3	11-10	10-9	10-0	9-4	8-10
Douglas fir-larch ^f , hem-fire, spruce-pine-fire,	3x6 or 2-2x6	5-5	4-8	4-2	3-10	3-6	3-1	2-9
	3x8 or 2-2x8	6-10	5-11	5-4	4-10	4-6	4-1	3-8

redwood, western cedars, ponderosa pine ^g , red pine ^g	3x10 or 2-2x10	8-4	7-3	6-6	5-11	5-6	5-1	4-8
	3x12 or 2-2x12	9-8	8-5	7-6	6-10	6-4	5-11	5-7
	4x6	6-5	5-6	4-11	4-6	4-2	3-11	3-8
	4x8	8-5	7-3	6-6	5-11	5-6	5-2	4-10
	4x10	9-11	8-7	7-8	7-0	6-6	6-1	5-8
	4x12	11-5	9-11	8-10	8-1	7-6	7-0	6-7
	3-2x6	7-4	6-8	6-0	5-6	5-1	4-9	4-6
	3-2x8	9-8	8-6	7-7	6-11	6-5	6-0	5-8
	3-2x10	12-0	10-5	9-4	8-6	7-10	7-4	6-11
	3-2x12	13-11	12-1	10-9	9-10	9-1	8-6	8-1

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- Spans are given in feet and inches.
- Ground snow load, live load = 40 psf, dead load = 10 psf, $L/\Delta = 360$ at main span, $L/\Delta = 180$ at cantilever with a 220 pound point load applied at the end.
- Beams supporting deck joists from one side only.
- No. 2 grade, wet service factor.
- Beam depth shall be greater than or equal to depth of joists with a flush beam condition.
- Includes incising factor.
- Northern species with no incising factor.

R507.7 Deck joist and deck beam bearing.

The ends of each joist and beam shall have not less than 1.5 inches (38 mm) of bearing on wood or metal and not less than 3 inches (76 mm) on concrete or masonry for the entire width of the beam. Joist framing into the side of a ledger board or beam shall be supported by approved joist hangers. Joists bearing on a beam shall be attached to the beam to resist lateral displacement.

R507.7.1 Deck beam to deck post.

Deck beams shall be attached to deck posts in accordance with Figure R507.7.1 or by other equivalent means capable to resist lateral displacement. Manufactured post-to-beam connectors shall be sized for the post and beam sizes. All bolts shall have washers under the head and nut.

Exception: Where deck beams bear directly on footings in accordance with Section R507.8.1.

R507.8 Deck posts.

For single level wood-framed decks with beams sized in accordance with Table R507.6, deck post size shall be in accordance with Table R507.8.

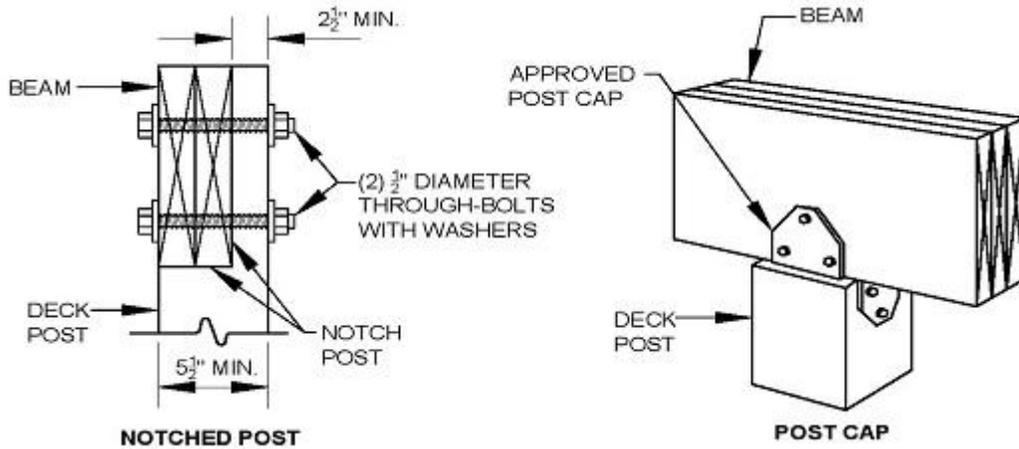


FIGURE R507.7.1 DECK BEAM TO DECK POST

TABLE R507.8 DECK POST HEIGHT^a(feet)

DECK POST SIZE	MAXIMUM HEIGHT ^a
4x4	8
4x6	8
6x6	14

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. Measured to the underside of the beam.

R507.8.1 Deck post to deck footing.

Posts shall bear on footings in accordance with Section R403 and Figure R507.8.1. Posts shall be restrained to prevent lateral displacement at the footing. Lateral restraint shall be provided by manufactured connectors installed in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions or by a minimum post embedment of 12 inches (304.8 mm) in surrounding soils or concrete piers.

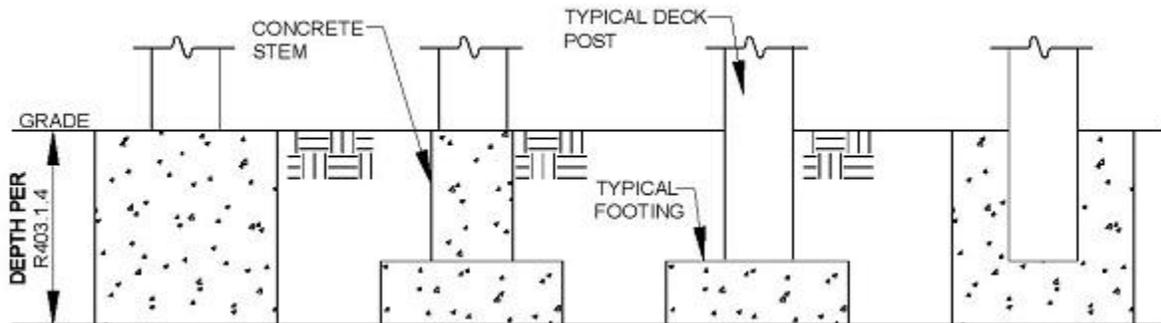


FIGURE R507.8.1 TYPICAL DECK POSTS TO DECK FOOTINGS