

DECK EVALUATION CHECKLIST

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Date: _____
 Builder: _____ Project Name: _____
 Lot Number(s) or Address(s): _____
 Superintendent: _____ Reported By: _____
 Certified Deck Builder: Y / N

I. Ledger Connection

A. Ledger attached to an acceptable wood rim joist? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Yes: Acceptable Rim Joist - Minimum 1" OSB Rim Joist

☐ Unable to Determine

No: Not Acceptable Rim Joist-Siding, Stucco, I-Joists, Non-structural material (foam)

Not Applicable: Free Standing Deck or Attached to Concrete or Block

1. Fastener Type? Circle One: Lag Screws / Machine Bolts / Other: _____

Diameter: _____ Length: _____

Hint: Nails & Carriage Bolts are NOT acceptable. Check if seen → ☐

2. Fastener Spacing: _____ inches Staggered: ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Any visible signs of red rust/corrosion: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain _____

B. Ledger attached to concrete or CMU? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

No: Not Acceptable or Not Allowed - Ledger Attached to Brick or Masonry Veneer

Not Applicable: Free Standing Deck or Attached to a Wood Rim Joist

1. Fastener Type? Circle One: Lag Screws / Machine Bolts / Other: _____

Diameter: _____ Length: _____

Hint: Concrete & Masonry Screws are NOT acceptable. Check if seen → ☐

2. Any visible signs of red rust/corrosion: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain _____

Notes/Comments

II. POSTS/FOOTINGS

A. Foundation type? Circle One: Footing / Pier / Other: _____

Hint: Patios & pre-cast piers do not qualify as proper footings for a deck. Check if seen → ☐

1. Size: _____ Depth/Thickness: _____

2. 12" below undisturbed ground? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Footing meets frost protection guidelines, if required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

B. Post size? Circle One: 4x4 6x6 8x8 Other: _____

C. Any visible signs of rot or cracks? ☐ Yes ☐ No

D. Any visible signs of red rust/corrosion? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E. Post-to-Concrete connection? Circle One: Cast-in-Place / Post-Installed

1. Cast-in-Place: Model#: _____ Fasteners: _____

2. Post-Installed: Model#: _____ Fasteners: _____ Anchor: _____

Hint: Look for 1" standoff height above concrete, code-required when supporting permanent structures that are exposed to the weather or water splash to help prevent decay at post and column ends.

NOTES/COMMENTS

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III. Post-to-Beam Connection

- A. Post size?** Circle One: 4x4 6x6 8x8 Other: _____
- B. Beam size?** Circle One: 2-2x 3-2x 4x 6x Other: _____
- C. Any visible signs of rot or cracks, especially if post is notched?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
- D. Post-to-Beam connection?** ☐ Yes ☐ No Model#: _____
- Has the Post-to-Beam connection been bent or modified? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Hint: Bending steel in the field may cause fractures at the bend line, fractured steel will not carry load & must be replaced.
 - Are all the nail holes filled with the proper fastener? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Are the girders alongside the post? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, is the girder attached with metal connector providing bearing? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Hint: The girder alongside the post attached by bolts or lag screws will result in perpendicular-to-grain stresses in the girder, which are prohibited by the AF & PA NDS and AF & PA DCA6
 - Are multiple members (built-up lumber) fastened together to act as a single unit?
☐ Yes ☐ No How? _____ Fastener type? Circle: Nails / Bolts / Screws
 - Any visible signs of red rust/corrosion: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, explain _____

Notes/Comments

IV. Joists and Joist Connections

- A. Joist:** Size: _____ Spacing: _____ Span: _____
- B. Joist hangers:** _____
Hint: Look for 1½" of bearing as required by code. Nails in ledger strips are subject to withdrawal, which is prohibited by the code. And, if used, ledger strips must be nailed directly underneath the joist with 3 or 4 nails (depending on the standard), concentrically placed right under the joist.
- C. Any visible signs of red rust or corrosion on the connectors or nails?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
- D. Has the hanger been bent or modified?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
Hint: Bending steel in the field may cause fractures at the bend line, fractured steel will not carry load & must be replaced.
- E. Does the hanger have "double-shear" nailing (LUS, HUS), see figure "A" ?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
- F. If the hanger has "double-shear" nailing, was the correct (full length) nail used for the joist into header nail?**
☐ Yes ☐ No (0.148 x 3" or 0.162 x 3½")
Hint: Do NOT use short 1½" nails for double-shear nailing as shown in figure "A".
- G. Are the correct nails installed in the hangers?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
 Circle One: 0.148 x 3" HDG or SS (10d common),
 0.162 x 3½" HDG or SS (16d common),
 0.148 x 1½" HDG or SS (header nail, only, for LUS joist hanger)
- H. Is there a connection at the point where the joist bears on the top of the beam?** ☐ Yes ☐ No Type: _____

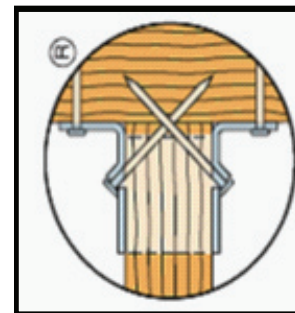


FIGURE "A"

Notes/Comments

V. STAIRS

A. Stair Rise: _____

1. Is the gap between risers less than 4"? ☐ Yes ☐ No

B. Stair Run: _____

C. Solid Stringer: ☐ Yes ☐ No

1. If, solid stringer; what connection supports the stairs? _____
Blocking/Fasteners _____ Hardware _____

D. Notched Stringer: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Hint: Based on DCA-6, span for notched stringers limited to 7' for Southern Pine.

1. Any visible signs of rot or cracks? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. What is the span of the stringer? ____ft. ____in.
3. Does the triangular opening formed by the riser, tread & bottom of the guard
(if present) create a gap > 6"? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E. Stringer:

1. What is supporting the stringer? Hardware _____ Other _____
2. What is the spacing of the stringer? _____ inches

(See Stairway Manufacturers' Association website: www.stairways.org to download "A Visual Interpretation of the 2006 IRC Stair Building Code".)

Notes/Comments

VI. DECK BOARDS

A. What type of decking boards? Circle One: Wood / Composite

1. Any visible signs of rot or cracks? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Any nails or screws exposed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Fastener Type? Circle One: Nail / Screw / Hidden

B. If, Composite Decking:

1. Gap per manufacturer's guideline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know Gap Spacing _____
2. Spacing of Joists per manufacturer's guideline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Joist Spacing _____

C. If, Hidden Fastener System; what lateral support has been provided?

Circle One: Cross Bracing / Angled Braces / Other: _____

Notes/Comments

VII. HANDRAIL ASSEMBLIES AND GUARDS

A. Guardrail Height? Circle One: 36" / 42" / Other: _____

B. Is there a Guardrail Post? ☐ Yes ☐ No Guardrail Post Spacing? _____

C. Is there a shear connection between the post and the frame? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1. If yes, what type? Hardware _____
2. If no, Circle One: Bolts, only / Lag Screws, only / Other _____

D. Is the guardrail post notched? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E. Any visible signs of rot or cracks? ☐ Yes ☐ No

F. Any signs of corrosion or rust in the hardware? ☐ Yes ☐ No

G. Is the opening between the balusters on the deck less than 4"? _____

H. Is the opening between the balusters on the stairs less than 4 3/8"? _____

I. Is the handrail graspable? ☐ Yes ☐ No

J. Does the handrail return to a post or safety terminal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notes/Comments

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VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Any signs of corrosion/red rust, not previously mentioned? _____
- B. All fasteners properly seated (flush with the connection) ? _____
- C. All connector holes properly filled (fill all round & obround holes)? _____
- D. All bolt holes drilled 1/32" to no greater than 1/16" larger than the bolt diameter? _____
- E. All bolts have washers on the wood side of the connection? _____
- F. Proper Finish for Hardware?
1. Connectors-circle ("Z" at the end of the product name = ZMAX® = G185)
Hint: G60 & G90 are not acceptable for most outdoor applications.
 G185 / Stainless Steel (316)
 2. Fasteners-circle
Hint: 303 SS, 304 SS, 305 SS may not be acceptable for applications which are considered at risk for chloride-related corrosion, de-icing or coastal salts.
 HDG mtg. ASTM A 153 / 304 SS / Other:_____
 3. Anchors-circle
Hint: Zinc plated or uncoated may not be acceptable, 304 SS may not be acceptable for applications which are considered at risk for chloride-related corrosion.
 HDG / Mechanically Galvanized (MG) / 304 SS / SS

Notes/Comments

Additional Comments:



NORTH AMERICAN DECK AND RAILING ASSOCIATION

North American Deck and Railing Association

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Deck Evaluation Form: <http://www.nadra.org/education.html>

Find A Builder: http://www.nadra.org/find_deck_builders.html

Deck Safety: http://www.nadra.org/consumers/deck_safety_month.html

Deck For A Soldier: http://www.nadra.org/consumers/deck_safety_month.html

Photo Gallery: http://www.nadra.org/consumers/deck_4_soldier.html

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