

Recommended Design Rules for accel-E™ Wall Panels

Updated (Oct./2/2008)

Note: many floor plans and elevations can be accommodated with the accel-E STEP™ system, but the following provides a guideline to generating the most economical and easily installed design solution.

Reference the accel-E S.T.E.P.™ Code Compliance Research Report (CCRR-0121) issued by Architectural Testing, Inc. for additional code related information at www.archtest.com.

To allow for the simplest design and most economical use of the accel-E™ panel, follow the ABT Best Design Practice details DT1 through DT16 (available as a PDF):

1. PRE-PLANNING:
 - a. Maximum Two Story load bearing building:
 - i. Heavier loadings and/or stories can be accommodated with the use of additional stud framing attached to each panel stud.
 - b. Keep building aspect ratio (length/width) to a maximum of 3:1.
 - c. Adhere to In Line Framing methodology:
 - i. All roof, wall, and flooring members spaced the same (24" o/c) and align vertically
 1. Framing spacing of 4'-0" o/c can be accommodated with the use of additional stud framing attached to each panel stud.
 - ii. Maximum member centerline offset = ¾".
2. FOUNDATION:
 - a. Use appropriate foundation width: veneer + air space + panel depth (DT3, DT4)
 - i. Ex.) 3 5/8" brick + 1" air space + 8" accel-E panel cannot be properly installed on a 12" CMU foundation wall
3. FLOOR SYSTEM (Steel or Wood Joists):
 - a. Adhere to In Line Framing methodology:
 - i. All roof, wall, and flooring members spaced the same (24" o/c) and align vertically
 1. Framing spacing of 4'-0" o/c can be accommodated with the use of additional stud framing attached to each panel stud.
 - ii. Maximum member centerline offset = ¾".
4. ACCEL-E™ WALL PANELS:
 - a. Minimize or avoid using sloping load bearing walls.
 - b. Minimize or avoid using wall lengths less than 3'-0" (in plan).
 - c. Minimize or avoid using wall heights or header sections less than 2'-0" (in elevation)
 - d. Minimum space between openings varies from 6 ½" to 1'-0" (DT5)
 - e. Minimum outside corner to opening distance varies from 9 ¾" to 1'-2 ¼" (DT9 through DT12)
 - f. X-Bracing requires a horizontal distance of (0.5)*(wall height) to be designed and installed.
 - g. For curtain wall connections, reference sheets DT13 through DT16