

Head of Wall Fire Joint

The Many Types of Tested Head-of-Wall UL Assemblies

Part 2 of 7

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The previous bulletin covered the reasons for requiring a head-of-wall fire joint. In this bulletin, we will explore the various types of head-of-wall joints necessary for different wall systems. Since each of our buildings is unique and being constructed for the first time, every wall condition and head-of-wall joint has its own specific details that must be tested for compliance with these dynamic joints. Most fire-stopping companies have tested different wall types with these various head-of-wall conditions. As Construction Managers, it is our responsibility to ensure that each condition is properly documented and submitted. This bulletin will provide a brief overview of the most common types of these conditions.

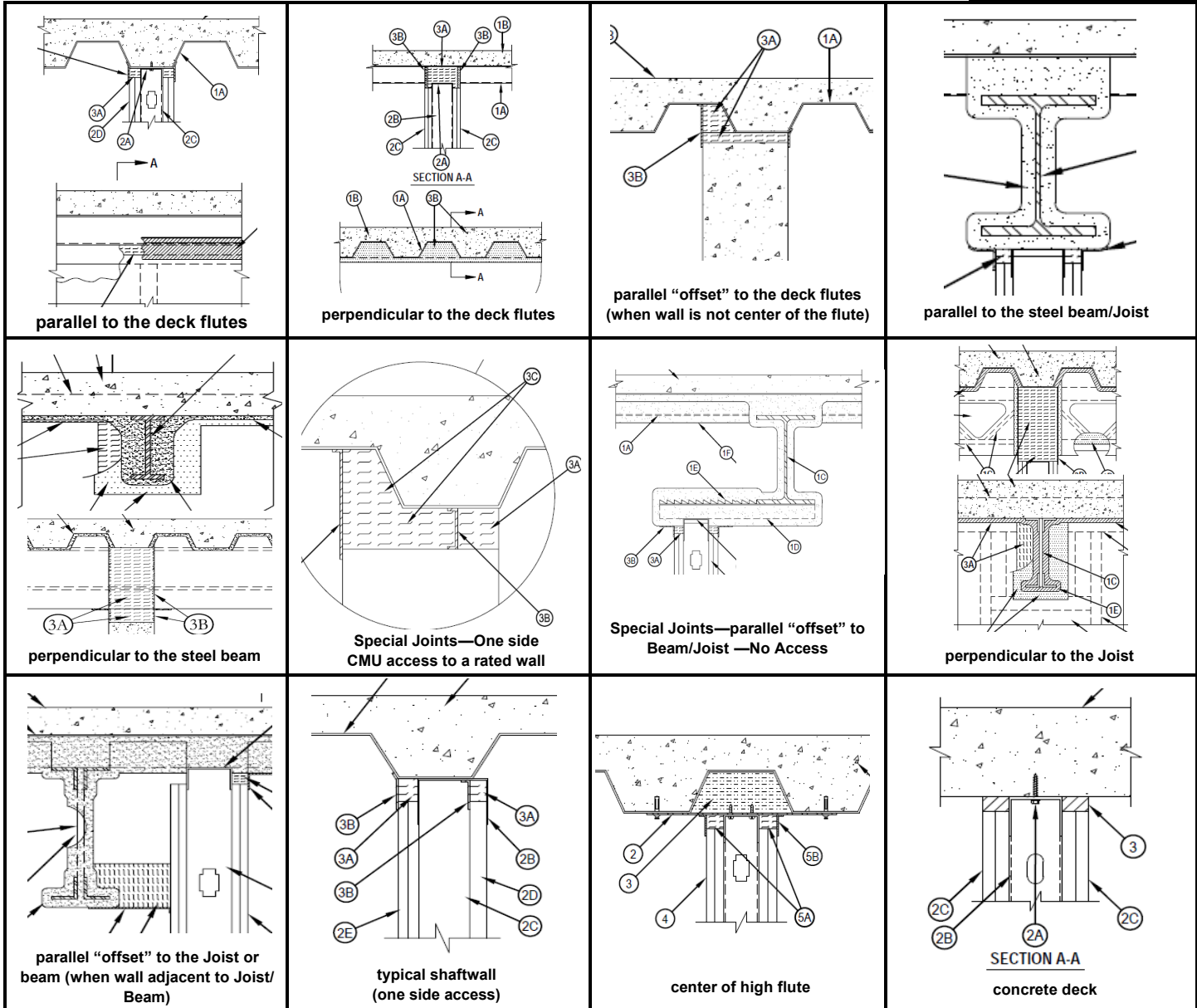
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- Head-of-Wall fire joints are needed for each wall type and head condition. Each condition needs a tested joint system which identifies each condition and installation instructions.
- Different wall types include a typical rated drywall partition, shaftwall partition, and CMU partition. Each one of these partitions will have different head-of-wall construction joints, depending on the construction of the floor or wall and the wall orientation to the structure.

The following is a sample list of different head-of-wall construction joints that could be needed for each partition type (your project will vary):

Head of Wall Fire Joint Bulletins will address:

- I - What is a "Head of Wall" fire joint & why do we need it.
- II - Types of UL Assemblies.
- III - How to read a Head of Wall & what to look for – Typical Wall & Shaft Wall.
- IV - Engineering Judgments and 3rd Party Verification – How to read an E.J.
- V - Deflection calculations & Compression limitations
- VI - Mineral Wool Installation
- VII - Concerns with the different types of fire stopping materials – Spray, Sealant, Mechanical



Note that these examples are from UL Assembly test reports and are only a representative diagram of the UL Assembly—each wall type (drywall, shaftwall, & CMU) are similar. The next technical Bulletin will discuss how to read a UL tested Head-of-wall assembly and what to specifically review.