

LP introduces new simply better I-joist specifically designed for the UK

New LP SolidStart 225i was tailor made to match UK specifications and building methods

It may come as a bit of a surprise that a major North American building products manufacturer has created an I-joist that is tailor made to fit both the UK traditional build as well as the timber frame sectors.

Widely recognised as a world leader in engineered wood products (EWP), LP Building Products is a global company headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, US, with manufacturing facilities in both North and South America. Having set its sights on the UK, the company is now introducing the LP SolidStart 225i... a simply better I-joist. It is the first and only I-joist product specifically manufactured for use in the UK.

The web of every LP SolidStart 225i is made of a specialty grade of OSB, the most preferred web material available today. The result is an engineered I-joist that is stiffer kilo for kilo than most traditional timber. Because its moisture content is more consistent than that of timber, the 225i is far less prone to issues such as twisting, warping and shrinking. The result is a light, strong I-joist that makes true and uniform floors and ceilings possible for residential and light commercial construction.

In addition to the benefits of using an I-joist, LP is counting on strategic product sizing to help make the LP SolidStart 225i a success. The

225i matches UK brick and block coursing, enabling a tighter air seal to help comply with Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) Level 3 requirements. It also matches standard EU glulam depth, so the materials can be brought together easily, safely and more economically when creating floors. Of course, it also perfectly matches 29mm LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board depths in timber frame construction.

LP SolidStart 225i outspans most shallower I-joists, as well as some narrower 240mm and 241mm-deep I-joists. The 225i is ideally suited to both traditional build and timber frame building methods. Wider (63mm) flanges offer easier nailing for increased stability and floor performance. Pre-stamped 38mm diameter knockout holes are standard for electrical and water lines, yet the product can accommodate a very large 148mm diameter service hole at mid-span to keep the ducting for the new CSH Level 3 flush in the ceiling. All LP SolidStart products sold in the UK meet the standards of the British Board of Agrément (BBA) and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

"The LP SolidStart 225i is the first realistic direct substitute for traditional 8x2 and 9x2 timber floor joists and roof rafters," said Al Huber, engineered wood products international sales manager at LP. "This product is simply

made to make sense for the UK market. It's as close to a one-size-fits-all I-joist as you will find, so dealers only need to inventory one item. It is available in both pre-cut lengths like timber as well as longer lengths without the timber premium, so it's going to make life a lot easier for builders and dealers alike. Stocking is even easier with LP's dealer-friendly small, 29-piece mini-packs, or if you prefer you can even order by the piece. And it has real green benefits."

The green benefits Mr Huber mentions are likely to prove another plus for LP's new product. The engineered timber used in LP SolidStart 225i is created primarily from smaller, fast-growing trees. LP uses the entire log when creating LP SolidStart LSL Rim Board. A full 80% of the log goes into the product, while the remaining 20% is bark, sawdust and water reused in the manufacturing process. Chain of custody is certified by both the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Builders looking for strategies and alternatives to meet the new CSH will find a friend in the new joist. "The use of LP SolidStart 225i is a straightforward way to comply, while its sized-to-fit design saves time and reduces waste," Mr Huber said. "The LP SolidStart 225i was specifically built for the UK. With our simply better approach, the 225i finally offers small- to medium-sized builders and dealers an easy and less complicated alternative to their traditional 8x2 floor joists." ■



The first I-joist specifically created for use in the UK, the LP SolidStart 225i is sized to fit the way the UK builds