



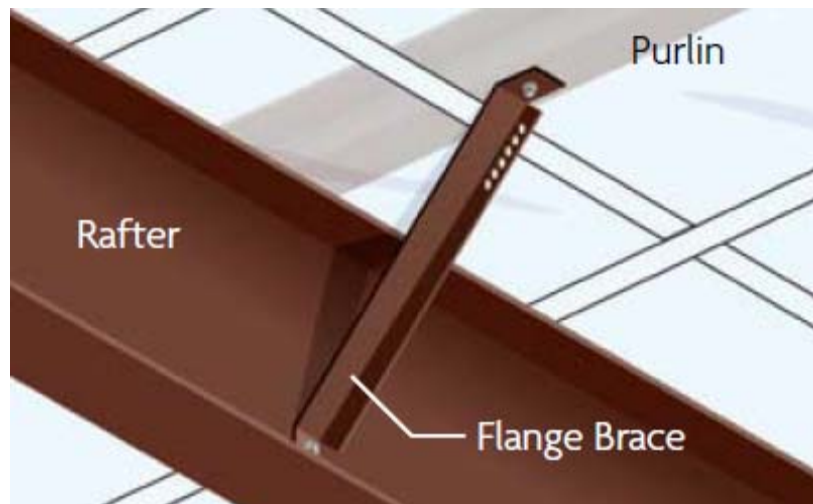
Technical Bulletin

Energy Saver FP™ System – Flange Brace Attachment

The Energy Saver FP™ Roof insulation system has a continuous vapor retarder that is installed underneath the purlins in a steel building. At the point where the fabric meets the rafters, it is notched around the purlins and either glued or taped to the top of rafters. Flange braces are steel building components that connect the purlins to the rafters. It is typical for flange braces to be bolted to the sides of the purlins and when they are, they must pass through the Energy Saver fabric in order to reach the rafter. We are often asked if it is permissible to connect the flange brace to the bottom of the purlin in an effort to minimize or eliminate the penetration through the vapor retarder. In fact, we are even asked we sell any accessories that might facilitate the relocation of the flange braces.

We researched this question with several steel building manufacturers and have learned that the location and connection of the flange braces is a **critical engineering detail**. Most erection drawings have notes which indicate that any modifications from the details shown on the drawings must be approved by the manufacturer and they specifically include “removing or moving any flange braces” in that topic. An engineer from one major manufacturer responded this question by asking “how responsible do you want to be for a building failure”?

This is not to say that alternate connections or methods are not possible and can be beneficial relative to the installation of any fabric liner system like the Energy Saver FP™. Our point is to emphasize that you should contact your steel building manufacturer **prior to the time you order the building** to see what options exist. Some use strapping to stiffen the framing. Some allow the flange brace to connect to a small steel angle which is bolted to the bottom of the purlin. Others make a flange brace that resembles the one shown below.



Anyone who implies that you can or should relocate flange braces is potentially putting your company at risk. Alternate connection is possible but should not be considered without approval from the steel building manufacturer prior to ordering the building.

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