SUBJECT: Permissible Use of Vacuum in Hole Cleaning for Simpson Strong-Tie® Adhesive Anchoring Systems

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter addresses the use of a vacuum in place of compressed air in the hole cleaning techniques for SET-3G™, SET-XP®, ET-HP® and AT-XP®.

The evaluation reports for SET-3G (ICC-ES ESR-4057), SET-XP (ICC-ES ESR-2508), ET-HP (ICC-ES ESR-3372) and AT-XP (IAPMO UES ER-263) present characteristic bond strength values for reinforcing bars and threaded rods installed per our recommended installation instructions. The instructions note that the concrete dust is to be removed from the hole with oil-free compressed air (80 psi. min.) for a specified time duration.

Based on tension tests conducted by Simpson Strong-Tie at our ISO 17025-accredited laboratory, it has been determined that holes for SET-3G, SET-XP, ET-HP and AT-XP anchors may alternatively be cleared of concrete dust using a vacuum in place of compressed air. Note that the hose of the vacuum must be capable of reaching the bottom of the hole during vacuuming, similar to the compressed air nozzle. Additionally, the specified time duration for vacuuming must be the same as the time duration specified for compressed air. Lastly, the drilled holes must be brushed as is noted in the applicable evaluation reports. Please see the installation illustrations below for further details:

The information in this letter is valid until 12/31/2020 when it will be re-evaluated by Simpson Strong-Tie. Please visit strongtie.com for additional pertinent information. If you have questions or need further assistance regarding this matter, please contact the Simpson Strong-Tie engineering department at 800.999.5099.

Sincerely,

SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY INC.