Drilling Middle Two-Tenths of Floor Joists

Code: 2018 Residential Code  
Section: R502.8  
Date: April 26, 2019

Question:  
Can a hole be drilled in the middle two-tenths of a floor joist span where the maximum diameter of the hole is one-third the depth of the member and less than 3-5/8"?

Answer:  
Yes. As long as the other requirements of Section R502.8.1 and R502.8.2 are met, you can drill a hole in the middle two-tenths of the span. For solid sawn lumber the edge of the hole must be a minimum of 2" from the edge of the lumber, 2" from other holes, and 2" from any notches. Limitations on hole diameters are:

- 2x6: 1-13/16"  
- 2x8: 2-3/8"  
- 2x10: 3-1/16"

Key Words:  
girders, solid lumber