

## From Our Readers:



Via Email:

The OSHA boys and girls are hard at it. Bureaucrats have a way of improving their position by creative regulation. We, hard working citizens, do not have the intelligence to be aware of the potential injuries that can occur within the industry in which we work day after day, year after year. We must have the input of "big brother." Look for higher costs and some regulations on which compliance is nearly impossible. For instance, how does one "tie off" (fall protection) workers installing wood trusses when the product they are installing is the only thing to which a workman could tie his safety harness? Sort of a chicken/egg thing. That's why the industry has emphasized the necessity to provide protection during installation. This is where the majority of serious accidents occur. Substantial temporary bracing is essential during installation—for protection of the workmen. OSHA inspectors are aware of TPI/WTCA installation recommendations and I have seen them on the accident site looking for BWT and HIB documents. This falls into their construction safety area and is well understood. Even worse, however, is the possibility of OSHA regulations in the truss plant. I believe there are probably many places in the average truss plant the inspectors could find a need for a regulation or two, or forty! If I can be of any help in this area, let me know.

John E. Meeks, P.E.  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

---

Dear Rachel:

In regard to the questions for a "truss manufacturer that specializes in trusses built of solid timbers" ("Do-It-Yourself Trusses," *WOODWORDS*, March 2000), I support your answer to have them contact someone that specializes in heavy timber truss construction. As it is with metal plate connected truss construction, the key to properly built bolted trusses is quality engineering and quality control during fabrication: quality built steel side plates and joints.

We have been providing bolted truss designs for a number of truss fabricators on the west coast for over ten years. Engineering with split ring connectors (or shear plates) is a very old technology and has become almost a "lost art," even though the current AITC manual shows

design procedures. I have a timber design manual dated 1942 that states the “modern connectors” were introduced in 1933 under the trade name of TECO, short for the Timber Engineering Company of Washington, DC.

We have Design Manuals for the TECO Timber Connectors from both Cleveland Steel Specialty and Silver-TECO. Both manuals have identical TECO information. Our customers that manufacture bolted trusses are also fabricators of metal plate connected wood trusses. Today’s custom homes can have a combination of both types of trusses, allowing the truss fabricator an additional source of revenue by also providing the bolted trusses.

Regards,

Aaron M. Reed, P.E., MBA,  
Deadlines Engineering, Inc.  
Morro Bay, California

---

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

Copyright © 2000 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from SBC Magazine, call 608/310-6706 or email [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).

The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).