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"The Reason for Three: *WTCA QC* Lumber Inspection" by Ryan J. Dexter

*WTCA QC* users use three basic in-plant inspections (Effective Teeth, Truss Assembly and Lumber) to maintain consistent, high-quality production. Of the three inspections, only Effective Teeth and Truss Assembly are required for certification. One may wonder why the Lumber Inspection is included in the program, as it is not required for certification, and it does not focus on the manufacturing process. Like the other inspections, it is included to help improve the quality of your finished product.

The Lumber Inspection portion of the program is used to track the quality of lumber coming in from suppliers. This inspection involves recording dimensional accuracy, moisture content, and excessive knots, wane, twists, etc., of purchased lumber for each size, species and grade. Information on the mill and grading agency is also recorded. By having a record of the quality of lumber coming from vendors and their mills, you can more accurately determine which suppliers are contributing to your goal of building quality trusses.

It is an obvious point that the quality of trusses being manufactured in a plant can only be as high as the raw materials going into them. Lumber inspection not only gives you a way to monitor the lumber as it arrives at the plant, but also allows you to graphically track changes in lumber quality over time by vendor and mill.

Several users of *WTCA QC* have told us that this is an extremely valuable part of the program. It gives them the opportunity to have more meaningful communication with their lumber suppliers. Imagine having the ability to fax your supplier a chart showing what has been happening with the quality of the lumber they shipped over the past two months, or six months, or year—*WTCA QC* allows you to do this! Likewise, this inspection gives you the opportunity to make an even more educated buying decision because it provides a clearer sense of the overall quality of lumber that is received from each mill.

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To discuss how all three inspections of *WTCA QC* can become powerful tools in your plant, contact *WTCA* at 608/274-4849. You can also find the information on the *WTCA* web site at [www.woodtruss.com](http://www.woodtruss.com).

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