

June/July 2001

## Our Legal Reality

### "Reducing Your Risk" by Kent J. Pagel

As we know, the work WTCA does in the publications area is intended to both PROMOTE and PROTECT the business interests of its members. Protection is best accomplished through education and instruction. I find that publications such as the WTCA Job Site Warning Poster, warning tags and the TTB series of documents do a great job of educating.

Lawyers, risk managers and insurance representatives familiar with the structural components industry universally agree that component manufacturers should develop programs and policies that are strictly followed to minimize exposure to liability and expense arising out of jobsite handling, installation and bracing practices. In my opinion, one very good way to begin this process is through developing a comprehensive jobsite submittal or delivery package. Before long, a company will realize reduced liability from jobsite claims or incidents (e.g., back-charges, a truss collapse or construction defect suit filed years after installation) through implementation of this risk management practice.

Not only do the WTCA Jobsite Warning Poster, the warning tags and the TTB publications help to genuinely warn and instruct erectors, the commonality and linkage that exists with these documents is extremely beneficial. For example the warning tags and the TTB publications make direct reference to the warning poster thereby conveying a consistent and repetitive message that is important to those handling, erecting and bracing the components this industry manufactures and provides.

Imagine how effective a jobsite delivery package would be (and how professional your company would appear) if you assembled a package with a form cover letter or check-off system that included the following.

#### FOR TEMPORARY BRACING:

- Your company's placement plan printed on the back of the WTCA Job Site Warning Poster (the framer would have a difficult time stating that he never received any kind of warning poster).
- The Always Diagonally Brace for Safety TTB.
- [Standard Responsibilities in the Design Process Involving Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.](#)

#### FOR PERMANENT BRACING:

- Highlighted permanent web member bracing locations on your truss design drawings.
- The Web Member Permanent Bracing: Brace it for Stability TTB.

## MISCELLANEOUS, BUT IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS:

- The How to Read a Truss Placement Plan TTB.
- The Partition Separation Prevention and Solutions TTB.
- The Fall Protection TTB.
- The Considerations for Contractors that Build with Wall Panels TTB.
- The How to Read a Truss Placement Plan TTB.

Certainly, I am not recommending a one-size-fits-all approach. As with the effectiveness of utilizing standard provisions when drafting a suitable customer contract, there are real benefits to be derived with considering a consistent approach and supplying at least some of these materials on all deliveries. For more information, review my four-part "Jobsite Submittal or Delivery Packages" series of articles published in the [May](#), [June/July](#), [August](#) and [November](#) 2000 issues of *WOODWORDS*. A compilation of these articles is also available by contacting WTCA.

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Kent J. Pagel is a senior shareholder of the Houston, Texas firm of Pagel, Davis & Hill, a Professional Corporation. Mr. Pagel serves as the outside general counsel to WTCA and can be reached at 713/951-0160 or [kjp@pdhlaw.com](mailto:kjp@pdhlaw.com).

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