

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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WTCA Update

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New Products & a Bright Future from WTCA Staff

What has WTCA done to help you lately? The new products keep coming to help you conduct your business in the most efficient, managed and profitable manner. In 2002, we have brought forward seven new pieces in the Truss Technology in Building (TTB) series, published the third edition of the Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Handbook (in both print and CD-ROM versions), and created the Jobsite Safety Package. We have developed a state-of-the-art online learning platform called Truss Knowledge Online (TKO), which has enabled us to make Truss Technician Training Level One and several new Truss Technology Workshop (TTW) programs available online. We worked with the Carbeck Structural Components Institute (CSCI) and the Houston (TX) Fire Department (HFD) on the comprehensive educational program CD for the fire service, The Wood Truss Industry & Fire Performance of Wood Trusses. In addition to the much anticipated approval of the new ANSI/TPI 1-2002, National Design Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Construction, we also received American National Standard (ANSI) approval on TPI/WTCA 4-2002, National Standard and Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction Using Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses. WTCA also published Commentary to ANSI/ TPI/WTCA 4-2002 after its approval in August.

All of the above are truly exciting accomplishments that hold great promise for the future. The one single event that shaped 2002 for our industry was the April 23, joint Executive Committee meeting between WTCA and TPI. More on that later, but don't be surprised to find that April 23 is forever marked in industry commemoration.

Let's review what has been rolled out this year and see where we're headed as we ring in 2003:

TRUSS TECHNOLOGY IN BUILDING (TTB)

The Jobsite Safety Package: This package is designed by component manufacturers and contains the key educational and safety documents every installer needs to have to install trusses properly: 11"x17" WTCA Jobsite Warning Poster (WTCAB1E), Truss Checklist for Handling & Installing Trusses (TTBHIBCHECK), National Standard & Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction Using Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses—ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002 (TTBWTCA4), Construction Loading (TTBCONSTLOAD), Fall Protection (TTBFALL), Web Member Permanent Bracing: Brace It for Stability (TTBPERM) and Always Diagonally Brace for Safety (TTBWTCA2). This fully meets your duty to provide sound information to reduce risk on the jobsite. You also have the option of customizing the Jobsite Safety Package to your company's individual requirements.

Construction Loading: How much is too much? This document answers the question by giving safe and reasonable stack heights for plywood, OSB, gypsum board, asphalt shingles and concrete block. It gives recommendations for good load placement on flat and pitched trusses, what sort of construction loading practices to avoid, and urges the user to make absolutely sure that no loads are placed unless the truss assembly is properly braced or sheathed. It is a component of the jobsite package.

Fire Resistance Rated Truss Assemblies: This four-page color document lists fire rated assemblies, reviews modification and substitution guidelines that apply to rated assemblies, and studies summaries of 45-minute and one-hour rated assembly reports.

Lumber Grades: This document explains the difference between visual, machine stress rated (MSR) and machine evaluated (MEL) grades of dimensional lumber and how to read all of these types of lumber grade stamps. It also provides a list of American Lumber Standard Committee approved grading agencies in the U.S. and Canada.

Checklist for Handling and Installing Trusses: This document provides a simple checklist for truss installers to use when handling and installing trusses. It is a component of the jobsite package.

Web Reinforcement: T-bracing, which is more correctly termed T-reinforcement, is one of the types of web reinforcing discussed in this document. L-reinforcement, scab reinforcement and metal reinforcement are also included. It explains when and why specific types of web reinforcement are necessary, provides graphics for each and instructs the user to refer to the truss design drawing for web reinforcement installation details.

Sprinkler Systems & Wood Trusses: Are you an expert on fire code provisions for wood trusses with sprinkler systems? If not, don't despair. This four-page document gives you important information on the key points of the NFPA 13 fire sprinkler standards. An essential design tool for building designers that clarifies the confusing provisions, restrictions, and exceptions for sprinklers in wood framed construction. You and your customers will love it because specifying wood trusses in sprinklered construction has never been easier!

English/Spanish version of WTCA-B2 (Temporary Bracing): We've added Spanish to the very popular Temporary Bracing brochure.

TTBs in the Works: Already in the production pipe-line are new titles including:

- Drywall Cracking and Crowning
- Girder Truss Ply-to-Ply Connections
- IBC Provisions that Relate to Structural Building Components

Additional TTB projects on the horizon include:

- Chord Notching and Drilling
- Horizontal Deflections
- Update on Mold

- Snow Loading Design Considerations

TRUSS KNOWLEDGE ONLINE (TKO)

In 2002, WTCA developed the TKO learning platform that will be built upon and greatly expanded in the years to come. Members and industry professionals will be able to access state-of-the-art online training and resources when it is convenient to them. Through this electronic forum, students are able to train at their own pace, train at times that fit into their schedules, and do so without travel cost or complications.

First up for the TKO process was Truss Technician Training (TTT) Level I, introduced in mid-August. TTT Level II is on schedule in the development process to be online and available during the first quarter of 2003. For details on WTCA's new TKO learning platform, see the Technology column on page 56 for Part 4 of "Web-Based Education: A New Paradigm" series.

Future developments for TKO:

- Truss Technology Workshops (offering CEUs too!)
- TTT Level III and Plan Reading
- Safety Training Manual and Certification
- Protecting Your Business (Risk Management)
- Quality Control (QC) training
- Professional Truss Builder for Plant Personnel
- Manager Certification
- Building on the BCMC Educational Tracks to create full component business tools for members
- Develop cooperative online training programs with aligned industry associations to benefit all organizations

ANSI/TPI 1-2002

ANSI/TPI 1-2002, National Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Construction, was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on March 25, 2002 and is scheduled for implementation on May 1, 2003.

Component manufacturers will most assuredly be interested in reading Chapter 3, Quality Criteria for the Manufacture of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses. These eight pages are the heart and soul of your in-plant quality assurance process, which we highlighted in detail in the November 2002 issue of SBC.

As directed by both Boards, WTCA and TPI continue to work together on the harmonization of the QC Inspection process while maintaining the third-party autonomy. WTCA is working with TPI as we revise the software program to match up with the new standard with the goal of making in-plant QC as efficient as it can possibly be. Then it is on to the work of helping plants become certified using the WTCA QC in-plant program as your key to monitoring quality using a solid quality management information system.

ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002

National Standard and Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction Using Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses (ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002) has been developed in accordance with the consensus protocol of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), through the Truss Plate Institute (TPI). It is based on WTCA 1-1995, Standard Responsibilities in the Design Process Involving Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses, which was originally developed through an open consensus-based committee approach spearheaded by the WTCA Engineering Review Committee.

ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002 is intended as a comprehensive and thorough approach to the clarification of design responsibilities when wood trusses are incorporated into a building or structure. ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002 is not intended to restrict the work that a component manufacturer undertakes, but rather seeks to define specific scope of work considerations as one begins the contracting process for a given project. The intent of this document is to serve as a guide for possible language that can be included in contracts. Additionally, it is the intent of this document to point out when one party is asking another party to a contract to expand their typical scope of work. If any party expands their typical scope of work, strong consideration needs to be given to getting properly compensated for this expanded role in the project, as well as the expanded business risk.

As we head into 2003 we will continue the process of harmonizing the language of ANSI/TPI/WTCA-4 with that of Chapter 2 of ANSI/TPI-1.

WTCA/TPI TEAMWORK

As stated earlier, April 23, 2002 was a red letter day in the history of the relationship between WTCA and TPI through the litmus test that continues to evolve through the implementation process. The future holds much promise on being as effective and efficient as our two groups can be on fostering common industry goals for common good. May we never forget the lessons of this very important day for everyone in our industry and build something together that is very special indeed.

For more information on the exciting work being done on behalf of WTCA visit our web site at www.woodtruss.com.

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