

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

August 2004

## WTCA Update

[www.woodtruss.com](http://www.woodtruss.com)

### TATO 2: Not Your Average Side Dish by Molly E. Butz

*Measuring your experienced technical employees' knowledge can pay big dividends. Find out how!*

Your truss design department is fully staffed. Your projects are moving along as expected and you're pretty sure your truss technicians' skills are being used to the company's best advantage. Wouldn't it be great if you had a way to know for sure?

If only there was a test designed to determine a truss technician's level of knowledge and ability. Now there is: WTCA's Technical Assessment Test Online 2 (TATO 2). Similar in format to its predecessor, TATO 1, TATO 2 is a timed 50-question online test that you can administer to every individual in the department.

TATO 2 will allow you to obtain immediate feedback to compare with other's results or national averages. The information is divided into six key subject areas: Truss Math, Truss Standards, Structural Design, Building Codes, Wood Technology and 3D Visual Skills.

This industry-specific test was designed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the experienced truss technicians in your department. Once you have measured or benchmarked their abilities, you can focus on their training needs or reorient their work to fit their expertise. Steve Cabler, Vice President of Engineering at MiTek Industries, Inc., agreed. "For existing truss technicians, TATO 2 provides a very quick and effective method of accessing industry-specific skill levels and knowledge. It identifies weaknesses and allows downstream training to focus on the areas needing strengthening," said Cabler.

You may also want to consider using TATO 2 if you plan to hire seasoned technicians with several years of work experience. In this case, TATO 1 may be too simple to really decipher a technician's skills. TATO 2 will give you a more in-depth look at the candidate's proficiencies.

"This is a great tool that will offer our industry an opportunity to hire talented and qualified truss technicians," said John Herring, President and CEO of A-1 Roof Trusses, Ltd. TATO 2's interface parallels TATO 1's easy-to-use exam statistics page, which allows you to review time spent on each question, consider the average score and revisit each question so you'll know exactly which questions were answered incorrectly. Herring added, "In addition, it will bring the truss industry to a greater level of knowledge, as well as enhancing the integrity of that valued position. In my opinion, for those who use it, the test itself will elevate the type of applicant

and therefore pay huge dividends.”

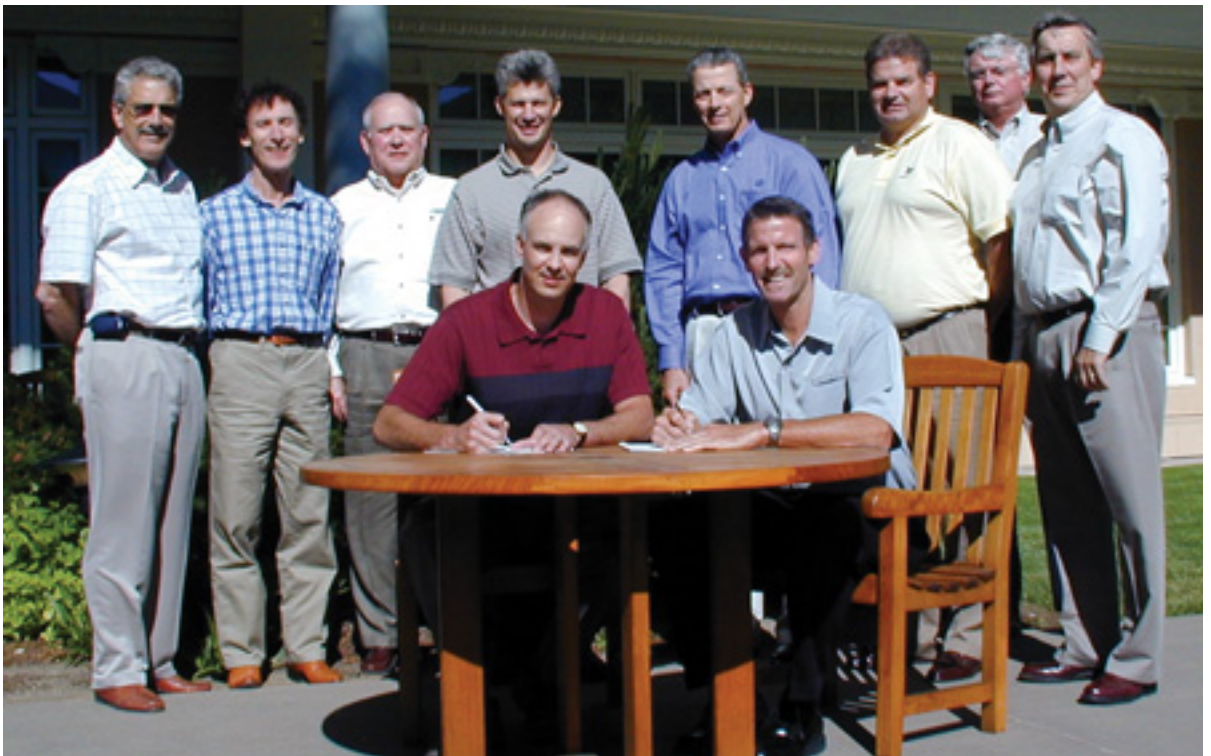
“I believe this will be an excellent tool, not only for assessing current staff, but also for evaluating new hires who come with ‘experience’ with trusses that our company interviews,” commented Richard A. Jamieson, Director of Design for U.S. Components, Inc. “The questions are challenging and are right on target with determining someone’s level of expertise,” said Jamieson.

The votes are in, and if you’re looking for a quick, easy way to evaluate your current experienced technical staff or potential experienced new hire, TATO 2 is the answer. To purchase TATO 2, visit [www.wtcatko.com](http://www.wtcatko.com) or call WTCA staff at 608/274-4849 ext. 6 for more information.

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## WTCA & TPI Sign Joint Publications Agreement

Madison, WI  
—On May 26,  
2004, Wood  
Truss  
Council of  
America  
(WTCA)  
President  
Dan Holland  
and Truss  
Plate  
Institute  
(TPI)  
President  
Bill Turnbull  
turned a  
corner in  
structural  
building  
component  
industry  
history with  
the signing  
of a “Joint  
Copyright



**Pictured Above - Front Row: WTCA President Dan Holland and TPI President Bill Turnbull. Back Row: Ken Cloyd, Charlie Hoover, Dionel Cotanda, Kendall Hoyd, Tom Manenti, Wayne Masengill, Andy Schwitter and Tom Whatley.**

and Publishing Agreement.” The agreement, which encompasses the Building Component Safety Information (BCSI) 1-03 booklet, the B-Series Summary Sheets and all industry warning tags, is a significant step for the component industry as it provides building component manufacturers with a single set of documents that serve as a fundamental information base when dealing with

the proper specification, storing, loading, handling, installing and bracing of metal plate connected wood trusses.

"I'm very pleased to have finalized the details of this important industry agreement," remarked WTCA President Daniel Holland. "The incredible cooperative effort of TPI and WTCA has resulted in what I believe to be the best information the industry has ever been able to provide to its customers. Installers will enjoy a better understanding of truss installation as well as enhanced jobsite safety because of the documents this agreement reflects."

TPI President Bill Turnbull shared Holland's sentiments. "The Joint Copyright and Publishing Agreement is an excellent example of how TPI and WTCA can work together for the betterment and advancement of the wood component industry," he stated. "This document creates a unified source for component manufacturers to obtain important information containing industry accepted standards relating to safety and risk management. My congratulations and thanks to all the people that made it happen."

Effective January 1, 2004, BCSI 1-03 and the eleven related summary sheets replaced TPI's "Handling, Installing & Bracing" (HIB) Booklet and Summary Sheet and WTCA's Jobsite Warning Poster and Truss Technology in Building documents addressing jobsite safety when building with trusses. To learn more about these documents or place an order, visit [www.woodtruss.com/pubs](http://www.woodtruss.com/pubs) or call 608/274-4849 ext. 8.

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