

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

November 2004

Code Connection

Third Party Inspections by WTCA Staff

Under certain building codes, component manufacturers are required to have third party inspections, which is not the same as an in-plant quality control program.

Code Connection is a new monthly column that will address specific building code questions. As this issue's theme explores quality control topics, the following question relates to third party quality inspections.

QUESTION:

Are truss manufacturing operations required to have third party inspections?

ANSWER:

Yes, if a component manufacturer ships trusses into code jurisdictions that have adopted and enforced any of the following: the International Building Code (IBC) 2000 or 2003 editions (see Section 2303.4); the Uniform Building Code (UBC) 1997 (see Section 2321.3); or the BOCA National Building Code (NBC) (see Section 2313.4 and 1705.2); or if local codes require it.

Specifically, IBC 2003 states: "1704.2 Inspection of fabricators. Where fabrication of structural load-bearing members and assemblies is being performed on the premises of a fabricator's shop, special inspection of the fabricated items shall be required by this section and as required elsewhere in this code."

As discussed in the feature article ["In-Plant Quality Control & Third Party Inspection Agencies: Working Together to Raise the Bar on Quality"](#), this is not the same as having an in-plant quality control program, like In-Plant WTCA QC. These are two separate but complimentary programs. The local building code jurisdiction requires you to participate in the third party inspection process. You have the option to implement and practice a regular in-plant quality control program.

The quality standard introduced in ANSI/TPI 1-2002 serves as the basis for the in-plant quality control process which is then audited by a third party inspection organization.

TPI 1-2002 states it in this manner:

3.1.1 Chapter 3 is the quality standard for the manufacturing processes of metal plate connected wood trusses, and shall be used in conjunction with a manufacturing quality assurance procedure and a truss design. These provisions shall be included in the quality assurance program of each Truss Manufacturer.

3.1.2 Metal plate connected wood trusses shall meet the minimum manufacturing quality requirements specified in this chapter, so that design assumptions are met.

3.1.3 Truss Manufacturers and inspection agencies shall establish methods that document the application of these quality assurance procedures throughout the manufacturing process. The Truss Manufacturers' methods shall be subject to periodic audit for compliance with the requirements of this standard by an approved inspection agency, where required by local authorities having jurisdiction, or other means.

As more and more jurisdictions adopt the International Codes (I-Codes), there will be more and more of a need to enlist a third party inspection agency. You may wish to adopt a formal in-plant quality control program like In-Plant WTCA QC that will provide you with a day-to-day measure of your quality and a state-of-the-art quality management information system.

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