

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

January/February 2005

WTCA Update

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Recent Jobsite Package Change Increases Protection against Risk by Libby Walters

WTCA's Jobsite Package just got even more informative. Find out how you can use this tool to inform your framer customers.

The WTCA Jobsite Safety Package recently received a facelift that will give component manufacturers a leg up on risk management. The new package includes a general warning about the contents (in both English and Spanish) and language from WTCA 4-2002 National Standard and Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction Using Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.

The additional cover sheet language was a suggestion from WTCA component manufacturer member John Smith, risk manager for Foxworth-Galbraith in Dallas, TX. Since the advent of the Jobsite Safety Package in January 2002, Foxworth-Galbraith has distributed almost 30,000 WTCA Jobsite Packages.

Smith said, "The new warning language on the Jobsite Package cover sheet is an additional tool to make builders and framers aware that handling, installing and bracing roof truss components requires specialized planning and training." Smith also noted in addition to the contents of the Jobsite Safety Package, component manufacturers can take advantage of WTCA resources for builders and framers who don't have access to programs for the development of these specialized skills. The Building Component Safety Information (BCSI) 1-03 booklet is one such resource that provides framers recommendations for safety on the jobsite when handling, installing and bracing wood trusses.

The new and improved Jobsite Safety Package isn't just attracting the attention of component manufacturers. WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel responded enthusiastically to the change, recounting a claim in which the package's presence would have been a convincing defense:

"I was recently asked by a component manufacturer to evaluate a letter they had received from a framing contractor's attorney. The letter was addressed to both the general contractor and the component manufacturer for a project where the central dispute revolved around the alleged absence of truss installation and bracing recommendations and the duties of the component manufacturer with regard to bracing. The total dollars involved in the claim will easily exceed \$150,000. It occurred to me how easy it would be to respond to these demands

had the component manufacturer provided the standard WTCA Jobsite Safety Package using the cover sheet that refers to the National Standard and Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction using Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses. My reply would have been: 'see the enclosed...end of story.'"

For more information about the WTCA Jobsite Safety Package, visit WTCA's product catalog.

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