



Wtca Update

TTT Recertification Moves Online

Less than six months remain to renew your lapsed TTT certification. Plus, exciting new recertification options coming in January 2007!

by Emily Patterson

Truss Technician Training (TTT) recertification is moving online! Beta testing is underway to allow TTT-certified technicians to report and track their recertification activities, and new online courses are in development to make recertifying easier than ever. Plus, the recertification period has been extended from two years to three years. While the new process is implemented, technicians whose certifications have already expired have been given a one-year grace period in which to recertify (the period began January 1, 2006). But act now—the grace period expires on January 1, 2007—just six months to go!

Instant Notification

Once the grace period has passed, WTCA will begin notifying technicians via email when their certification is about to expire. The system will send a reminder email to the student and his or her training manager 45 days prior to the expiration date on the technician's original certificate. If the technician doesn't recertify, reminder emails are sent again 15 days before the expiration date and on the expiration date itself. During the 2006 grace period, similar notification emails have also been sent to technicians whose certification has already lapsed.

New Ways to Recertify

Technicians can choose from a number of industry-related activities to create their own customized recertification program. The new process is based on a 12-point system, where technicians earn recertification credit by participating in qualifying activities. (See chart on facing page for a list of qualifying recertification activities and the number of points assigned to each.)

"Initial feedback from component manufacturers showed a high demand for an online recertification course," said Rachel Smith, P.E., WTCA's Director of Technical Education. "We wanted to give students the flexibility to build their online training and select topics à la carte, so we've developed a number of TTT recertification modules, which can be combined to fulfill the recertification requirement or used with other activities for a total of 12 recertification points."

The topics covered in the TTT recertification modules are generally not discussed in depth during the TTT courses, so the information is valuable to anyone in the truss industry regardless of the level for which they are recertifying. Some of the topics covered include an overview of BCSI 1-03, the International Building Code, partition separation, floor performance and fire rated assemblies. "The à la carte system allows individuals to choose the modules that interest them most, and they won't be forced to review material that does not pertain to their region or market," said Smith.

Online Reporting & Tracking

As an added convenience, students can now report and track their recertification activities online at www.wtcatko.com; select "Truss Technician Training," "TTT Recertification" and click the link to log in and see details on your certification. Earlier this year, three companies volunteered to serve as beta sites to test the new online system. "The beta sites have been very helpful in assisting us as we tailor the system to best meet component manufacturers' needs," said Smith.

Recertification Activities	Points
Participate in specialized online TTT course(s) that outline the industry's latest technical developments	2-6 points
Present a Truss Technology Workshop or technical seminar for building officials, the local HBA, fire service, etc.	12 points
Attend a WTCA Chapter Meeting	3 points
Attend a technical or Open Quarterly Meeting	4 points
Attend a WTCA Regional Workshop & Conference	6 points
Attend BCMC	6 points
Attend technical programs offered by Associate Members (e.g. plate, lumber, connector or EWP suppliers)	To be determined on a case-by-case basis
Complete an accredited college-level course that demonstrates the technician's desire to further his/her career	To be determined on a case-by-case basis
Other technical activities and programs	To be determined on a case-by-case basis

The information in the TTT Certification database is compiled from up to three different TTT databases that date as far back as 1997, explained Smith. "Our goal is to maintain the most up-to-date and accurate information possible, and we want technicians to provide us with feedback as they go through the recertification process so we can continue to enhance the system," she said.

For more information about the TTT recertification system, or if you have questions regarding your records, contact WTCA staff. **SBC**

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Billings, MT 59101-6253
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Mr. Victor Cantrell

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Mr. Lars-Erik Andersson

WoodSmart Solutions LLC

3500 NW Boca Raton Blvd
Suites 701 & 702
Boca Raton, FL 33431-5851
561/416-1972
Mr. Charles A. Morando

For more information about WTCA membership, contact Anna (608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com) or visit www.sbcindustry.com. Listing as of May 5, 2006.

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Open Quarterly Meeting Highlights: May 12, 2006, Washington, DC

The meeting opened at 8:03 a.m., and a sign-in sheet and an anti-trust statement were distributed. Don Groom thanked Allen Erickson and staff for a great Legislative Conference. The 2006 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Joe Hikel then provided a presentation on behalf of the Capital Area chapter, giving an overview of the market.

BCMC & SBC Magazine: Doug Folker reported on the current status of BCMC. He reviewed additional component manufacturer roundtables that are being added on Tuesday evening at 5:00 p.m. He gave an overview of a recent BCMC Committee conference call. He detailed the current exhibit space sales and number of exhibitors and thanked all the current sponsors for their participation. Staff reported on the upcoming issue of *SBC Magazine*. There was a request for continued participation in the One Minute Poll, which helps in the development of industry articles. Ad sales are up 30% over 2005. Staff encouraged the Board to remember to thank the advertisers for their tremendous support of the publication.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is working on the TPI joint venture agreement with the test facility. Lumber grading within finished trusses is an important topic we are addressing.

Nominating Committee: The Board voted unanimously to elect Ben Hershey as incoming secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Dixon reviewed the income statement and reported that the organization is in good shape compared to budget. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Legislative Conference Recap: Various members provided feedback on the conference. Legislative Chair Allen Erickson encouraged continued participation and relationship building. A discussion took place about the importance of increasing participation from members in future years, and each Board member was encouraged to bring at least one additional person next year.

Chapter Policy Development: The Board reviewed the draft resolution on the topic of developing relationships between legislators and chapters, including the creation of a seat for a Legislative Relationship Chair in each chapter. Likewise, a policy was reviewed on the topic of creating a resolution about building relationships with fire officials and holding plant tours for fire service personnel. The Board unanimously approved both resolutions.

NLBMDA Joint Legislative Conference in 2007: The Board discussed having a joint Legislative Conference with the National Lumber & Building Material Dealers organization starting next year. The board provided feedback that this was a good idea since there are so many synergies and common membership.

Industry Research Plan Update: The goal is to get the facility built by the end of the year. TPI has presented WTCA with a joint venture proposal and staff will be drafting a term sheet for both organizations to review.

Review of Tech Note Approach: Staff reviewed the WTCA *Tech Notes* that had recently been created and asked members to provide information about any technical issues in the marketplace that would benefit from having an industry position with a united voice. We're also planning to create Management Notes that have the same concept. We can solve a lot of problems jointly through this process.

Key Industry Supplier Update - Truss Plates & Steel: Mike Cassidy reported that TPI has been very busy with the update of the TPI-1 Standard, which started in January. Project Committee meetings are coming up on May 16. TPI made an outreach to industry folks impacted by the standard by sending 900-1000 requests to participate in an open forum. Regarding steel pricing, there is a lot of upward price pressure right now, particularly due to zinc.

Key Industry Supplier Update - Connector Industry/Steel: Staff reported that there's a lot of controversy right now in the new residential and building code with respect to shear wall design. WTCA has written a couple of letters in support of going back to 2000 code language as it is clearer and we believe best represents current understanding of performance. Component manufacturers need to understand exactly how to apply their wall panel products based on the code and WTCA will be very involved in this topic in the upcoming code cycles and in producing a guide on how to build walls to the code.

Key Industry Supplier Update - Lumber: WTCA and the Mid South chapter had a good meeting with the Southern Forest Products Association in April. With regard to the issue of U.S./Canada softwood lumber trade, the agreement is a very positive outcome for our industry.

Issues Going on in the Market: Board members brought up the following issues:

- Numerous fire trainer contacts occurred with our membership regarding "trusses without plates" (OpenJoist 2000). WTCA is working with Open Joist to educate the fire community on this topic—the fact is that the adhesive burns more slowly than the wood, so this is a misunderstanding.
- The Wisconsin Chapter and WTCA staff are working on a residential code issue regarding how ANSI TPI 1 is being applied. At this point, TPI 1-2002 is not being allowed based on the existing state code language—the state has said that because they have adopted the 1995 standard, truss manufacturers can't use the 2002 standard.
- In Iowa, they have had a few incidents of people leaving the ridge open in agricultural buildings for ventilation purposes. Component manufacturers are now being asked to fix situations where connector plates are falling off. These trusses were not made to be exposed to the elements. WTCA will help create a *Tech Note* on this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m. **SBC**

The next WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting will be held August 2-4 in San Diego, CA. For more information, contact WTCA staff at 608/274-4849 or wta@sbcindustry.com, or visit www.sbcindustry.com.

Call for Nominations



Hall of Fame

Awarded each year at BCMC to an individual member of WTCA who has advanced the interests of WTCA and the structural building components industry.

1986	Staton Douthit Dr. Stanley K. Suddarth	1996	Lee Vulgaris
1987	Dave Chambers Don Percival	1997	Kirk Grundahl
1988	Don O. Carlson	1998	Bob Ward
1990	Leonard Sylk George Eberle	1999	John R. Herring
1991	John Mannix Bill Alcorn	2000	Thomas J. Manenti
1992	Rip Rogers	2001	Bernie Boilen
1993	Tom Carbeck	2002	Koss Kinser
1994	Michael Conforti	2003	Merle Nett
1995	Don Hershey Bill McAlpine	2004	Richard Brown Andy Schwitter
		2005	Suzi Grundahl
		2006	Attend the annual meeting at BCMC to find out!

Email nominations for this year's Hall of Fame inductee to WTCA at fame@sbcindustry.com or fax them to 608/274-3329 by July 15, 2006.



Board of Directors

As required by WTCA Bylaws, we would like to announce the opening for nominations for service as a Regular Member Representative on the WTCA Board of Directors. The requirements are:

- Directors shall take office at the first WTCA Quarterly Meeting following BCMC.
- Directors must attend WTCA Open Quarterly Meetings.
- Directors must be willing to be involved in WTCA Committee activities, with the purpose of advancing WTCA's mission.

Email nominations for WTCA Board of Directors openings to WTCA at nominations@sbcindustry.com or fax them to 608/274-3329 by July 15, 2006.



Bowman Industry Enthusiast Award

Awarded each year at BCMC to an individual supplier member of WTCA who has enthusiastically supported the structural building components industry.

At BCMC 2005, the inaugural award was presented to:

Mike Bugbee
Simpson Strong-Tie Company

Email nominations for this year's Bowman Industry Enthusiast Award to WTCA at bowman@sbcindustry.com or fax them to 608/274-3329 by July 15, 2006.

SBC Leadership Award



New for BCMC 2006!

Awarded to an individual whose
vision,
innovation
and/or
creativity
has advanced the SBC industry.

Email nominations for the SBC Industry Award to sbcaward@sbcindustry.com or fax them to 608/274-3329 by July 15, 2006.

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