

by Ryan J. Dexter, PE.

Learn which version of BCSI to use per code.

The 2006 International Residential Code (IRC-06) references the *Building Component Safety Information* booklet *BCSI 1-03* in two locations—R502.11.2 and R802.10.3.

R502.11 Wood trusses.

R502.11.2 Bracing. Trusses shall be braced to prevent rotation and provide lateral stability in accordance with the requirements specified in the construction documents for the building and on the individual truss design drawings. In the absence of specific bracing requirements, trusses shall be braced in accordance with the Building Component Safety Information (BCSI 1-03) Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing & Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.

R802.10 Wood trusses.

R802.10.3 Bracing. Trusses shall be braced to prevent rotation and provide lateral stability in accordance with the requirements specified in the construction documents for the building and on the individual truss design drawings. In the absence of specific bracing requirements, trusses shall be braced in accordance with the Building Component Safety Information (BCSI 1-03) Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing & Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.

BCSI 1-03 is a good practice guideline for bracing floor and roof trusses. However, this edition is out of print and is no longer available from either WTCA or TPI. It was replaced in October 2006 with an updated version.

Since many states have recently adopted the IRC-06, many people have asked questions about the *BCSI 1-03* reference. This article has been written to clarify the code reference to *BCSI*.

Question

The IRC-06 references *BCSI 1-03* as the standard for bracing trusses, but it's been called to my attention that a version called *BCSI* also exists. Should I use the code referenced edition?

Answer

BCSI 1-03 was replaced by an updated edition in 2006 entitled, *Building Component Safety Information: Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing, Restraining & Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses*. The current edition is available from WTCA, and can be ordered on the website (www.sbcindustry.com/bcsi.php) or by phone (608/310-6716). *BCSI* is an installation guideline and as such is not a referenced design standard. The methods and procedures in *BCSI* are intended to ensure that the overall construction

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at a glance

- ❑ The IRC 2006 references *BCSI 1-03* in two locations—R502.11.2 and R802.10.3.
- ❑ In 2006, *BCSI 1-03* was revised and retitled *Building Component Safety Information: Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing, Restraining & Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses*.
- ❑ Although *BCSI 1-03* is referenced in IRC 2006, you should use the most recent version of the booklet—*BCSI*.



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Technical Q&A

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techniques employed will put floor and roof trusses in place safely. These recommendations for handling, installing, restraining and bracing trusses are based on the collective experience of leading personnel involved with truss design, manufacturing, and installation. It is appropriate to use the most current recommendations available.

The *BCSI 1-03* document replaced *HIB-91* which was referenced in the *IRC-00* and *IRC-03*. The full title of *HIB-91* is the *Commentary and Recommendations for Handling Installing & Bracing Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses*.

BCSI, and its predecessors *HIB-91* and *BCSI 1-03*, are considered installation instructions, guides or recommendations as their titles indicate. *IRC-06* discusses installation guides in the following section:

R106.1.2 Manufacturer's installation instructions. Manufacturer's installation instructions, as required by this code, shall be available on the job site at the time of inspection.

Sections R502.11.2 and R802.10.3 reference *BCSI 1-03* because that was the only edition available at that time—but it is always been the intention for *BCSI* to contain the most current installation instructions. As such, *BCSI* contains the following precautionary note to its users:

This Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing, Restraining & Bracing Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses (BCSI) may be edited, changed, revised or withdrawn at any time. Purchasers and users of this guide are advised to visit the Products section of www.sbcindustry.com to confirm that this edition is the most current information available. Use only the latest edition. Additionally, errata and updates are published periodically and are available at www.sbcindustry.com/bcsi.php.



Courtesy of Truss Plate Institute.

IRC-06 Chapter 2 contains this definition of installation instructions (like *BCSI*):

MANUFACTURER'S INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS.

Printed instructions included with equipment as part of the conditions of listing and labeling.

The term "equipment" can be a little misleading; it is intended to include products and a variety of items (in addition to equipment) that typically require special installation instructions. Here are some examples of products for which the *IRC* recommends consulting an installation guide. Although they are not specifically called out within the *IRC*, structural building components also fall into this category.

R308.6.8 Curbs for skylights. All unit skylights installed in a roof ...shall be mounted on a curb ...unless otherwise specified in the manufacturer's installation instructions.

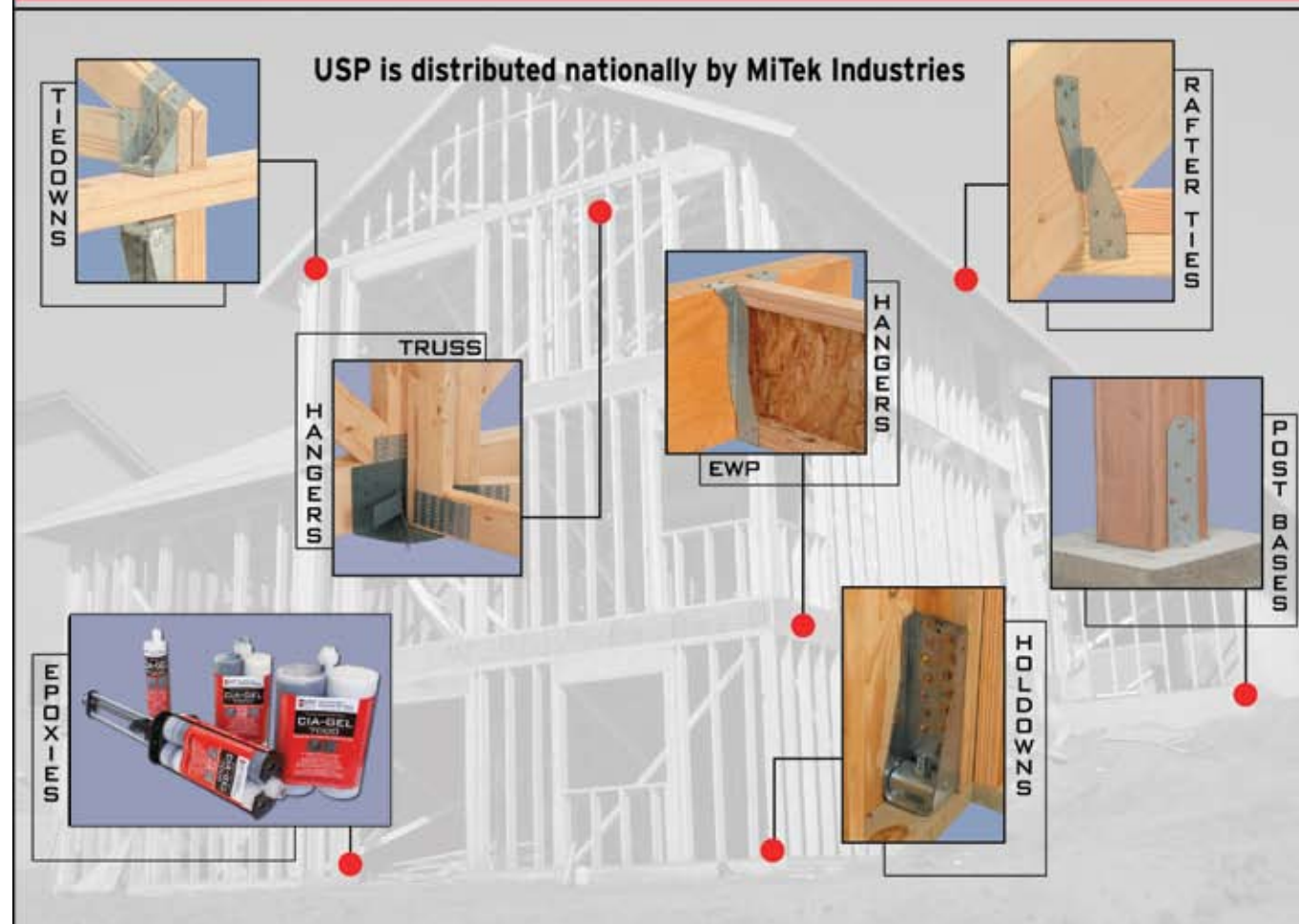
R314.5.2 Roofing. The thermal barrier ...is not required when the foam plastic in a roof assembly or under a roof covering is installed in accordance with the code and the manufacturer's installation instructions...

R402.3 Precast concrete. Approved precast concrete foundations shall be designed and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Although the *IRC-06* refers to *BCSI 1-03*, for the best and safest approach for truss installation, one should always use the latest edition (which at time of printing is October 2006) when handling, installing, restraining and bracing metal plate connected wood trusses. **SBC**

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