

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

BCSI

BUILDING COMPONENT SAFETY INFORMATION

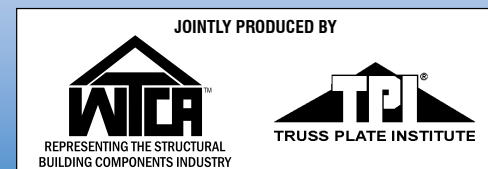
Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing, Restraining
& Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses



NOTICE



NOTICE! WARNING! CAUTION! DANGER!



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A look back on the evolution
of BCSI over five years.

at a glance

- The industry's most comprehensive handling and installation guide—BCSI—has been around for five years.
- In 2003, the Boards of TPI and WTCA voted to jointly make standard documents for the proper handling, installing and bracing of wood trusses.
- BCSI made way for a Jobsite Package with contents that would sufficiently educate and instruct jobsite laborers about handling components.
- BCSI has become an industry best practice.

BCSI Celebrates 5 Years

by Libby Maurer

It's hard to believe the industry's most comprehensive handling and installation guide—BCSI—has been around for five years! If it seems like the industry's go-to jobsite safety resource has been around far longer, it's no doubt a testament to its usability and staying power. Here, the reasons for its success now (and in the future!).

Teamwork: TPI & WTCA Put Their Heads Together

The collaboration of TPI and WTCA during the development of BCSI brought the two associations together like never before. Prior to BCSI, each organization offered its own version of bracing documents for the marketplace; TPI produced HIB-91 and WTCA offered its Warning Poster and Truss Technology in Building (TTB) documents. The language was not common, some of the concepts were conflicting, and although not intentional, in some ways they competed with each other. In short, the message being spread to the construction industry was not consistent.

At one landmark meeting in May 2003 the Boards of TPI and WTCA passed a motion to jointly create a new set of standard documents as a base for the proper specification, storing, loading, handling, installing and bracing of metal plate connected wood trusses. It was also agreed that the new set of documents would replace the various TPI and WTCA publications with different appearances or wording serving the same objectives. The WTCA and TPI Boards desired to have one document to reference on the truss design drawings rather than all the separate TTB information that has been produced. This updated parent document would be a compilation of the existing HIB-91 and TTBs.

This resulted in the creation of what we now call *Building Component Safety Information (BCSI 1-03)*. An initial draft of this document was created and an open industry meeting was held to review and refine this first draft.

In addition to the new parent document, WTCA and TPI (under the direction of TPI President Charlie Hoover) worked on a joint publications agreement that would establish a 50/50 revenue sharing plan from the sales of the new documents.

The BCSI project was made possible by the unified collaboration of the Boards as well as others in the industry. Thus, the final product represents the consensus of the entire industry in relation to the handling, installing and bracing of wood trusses. This solidified the foundation of teamwork the groups shared and united them in the singular purpose to advance and protect the component manufacturing industry. And it brought the working relationship between TPI and WTCA to a new level.

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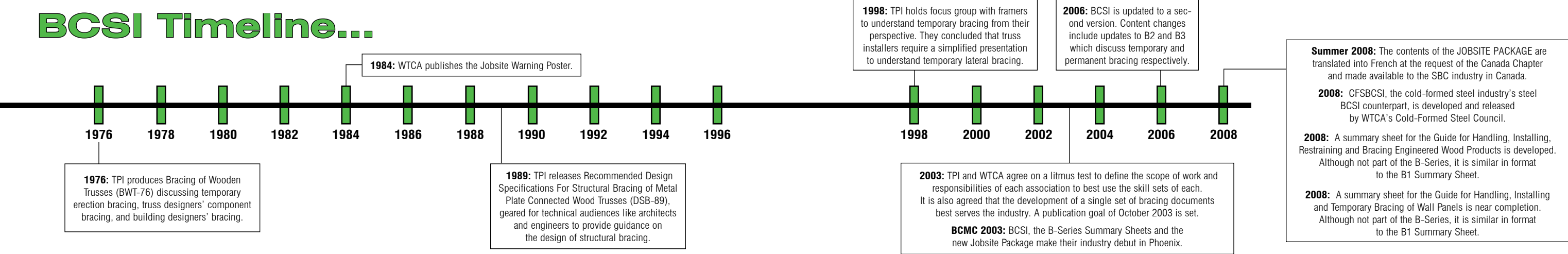
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BCSI Timeline...



BCSI Celebrates 5 Years

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BCSI Is a Risk-Reducing Power Document

Thanks to the massive collaborative effort, BCSI filled many component manufacturer needs. Perhaps the most important is an industry-approved risk management tool that goes the distance for component manufacturers in a lawsuit.

Unfortunately, the frequency and severity of claims asserted against manufacturers in our industry has been increasing—even when they have done nothing wrong. It is no longer enough to produce quality components on time; now you have to protect yourself as well.

From the BCSI parent document eventually came shortened versions of each chapter called B-Series Summary Sheets. Documents B1, B2, B3 and B4 (and an additional checklist) together became known as the critical elements of the JOBSITE PACKAGE.

BCSI made way for a JOBSITE PACKAGE with contents that would sufficiently educate and instruct jobsite laborers about handling components. The delivery of this package to every job supplied would also serve component manufacturers well in the event of litigation. Moreover, there could be no dispute as to whether the techniques represented in the documents differed from manufacturer to manufacturer—the information in the package was agreed upon through an industry consensus process and has become an industry best practice.

WTCA legal counsel Kent Pagel was closely involved in the development of BCSI. “While it would seem a truss collapse lawsuit would be easily defended if the manufacturer could prove the direct cause of the accident was either improper installation or bracing, unfortunately that result is not typical,” he said. “So why not take advantage of the state-of-the-art materials prepared by industry professionals?”

Color-Coded Graphics Encourage Implementation

Another reason for BCSI’s rapid-fire success is its readability and emphasis on color-coded bracing graphics. Because of its

BCSI Statistics	
Total Booklets Sold	
26 Chapters	7560
Everyone	100000
Chapter Presentations with BCSI	
26 Chapters	130

graphical nature, BCSI truly has universal appeal, especially to those on the jobsite who don’t read English and even for those who are more comfortable with pictorial representations than words. Engineers and truss manufacturers alike have commented on its understandable graphics to illustrate proper bracing and erection techniques, rather than relying heavily on text. This feature no doubt enhances the ease of understanding and therefore promotes proper implementation.

WTCA Chapters Instrumental in Spreading BCSI Message

BCSI would not be as widely known in the field today had it not been for the help of WTCA Chapters. From Florida to Washington, chapters have embraced BCSI and actively promoted its use to their local builders, framers and other professionals.

Shortly after BCSI was released in 2003, a Truss Technology Workshop (TTW) was developed. Through this presentation, WTCA Chapters took the BCSI message to the streets! They were relentless in showcasing the new bracing and installation material to their customers and others in the field.

Since fall of 2003 when BCSI was made available, 26 chapters have distributed 7,560 booklets. Currently, 100,000 total booklets have been purchased. That means chapters have accounted for about 7.5 percent of the total number of booklets distributed—a pretty big contribution!

Español! Français!

Any installation and safety guide worth its weight should be understood globally. In the case of BCSI, it’s not just the pictures and graphics that get it done. The booklet and summary

sheets were translated into Spanish—a measure to ensure that the construction industry’s increasing Hispanic workforce could read the safety concepts in their native language.

When the Canada Chapter of WTCA formed in 2007, it named as its first project the translation of the JOBSITE PACKAGE documents into French. (Not only for French-speaking jobsite laborers, but also to comply with the Canadian doctrine of “official bilingualism,” which establishes that all Canadian workers are entitled to workplace documents translated in the nation’s official languages—French and English.) Again, BCSI’s versatility was spotlighted.

One member of the Canada Chapter said “A truss is a truss. It doesn’t matter where it’s built.”

Will China want BCSI next? Maybe not, but work is currently underway with SBCA’s Australasia Chapter to convert BCSI to a format they can use.

Positioned for Adaptability to Additional Products

Cold-formed steel manufacturers belonging to WTCA formed

the Cold-Formed Steel Council (CSFC) in 2006, and one of their first priorities was to adapt BCSI to cold-formed steel. It was similar to the conversion of HIB in that the cold-formed steel industry used an HIB conversion for CFS trusses. “CFSBCSI is a great risk management tool for your business. Now that we have a guide like this available, all steel manufacturers ought to use it,” said Mike Noonan, CFSC co-chair.

Currently, portions of BCSI are being adapted to serve the engineered wood products and wall panel industries. As our evolution to the Structural Building Components Association continues and our operations embrace a “council” format, you can see that BCSI’s adaptable format will serve the association well in its charge to represent all types and styles of building components.

Imagination Our Only Limit

A product like BCSI makes you realize what belonging to an association is all about. This is the kind of work our industry is capable of when it gets together. Looking back on five years of BCSI, you start looking forward to the next five and the five after that. By working together, the only limit to what we can accomplish is our imagination. **SBC**

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