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## Editor's Message Plant Safety Improves in Downturn

by Steven Spradlin

Safety is and always has been a moving target. Is it safe for me to fly a jumbo jet? Well believe it or not it is a bad idea because I haven't been trained to pilot jets. Is it safe for me to put a box of truss plates in my five-year-old's toy box? Well of course not without the proper instruction! My point is that just because we might want to do something doesn't make it safe. Given that we work with heavy presses, large industrial-sized saws and other dangerous equipment, we need to remember this.

However, there is one safety benefit I can point to from this latest housing and economic downturn. We've had less employee turnover (meaning less workers replaced). This has created a safer working environment in our plant. So two years of less work

has improved my experience modifier and lowered my workers' compensation costs.

So what do we do when business picks up and we have to hire new workers? The answer: I am making an investment in the future by implementing the SBCA Operation Safety program. I know that if we do the work now and have a system in place it will pay substantial dividends when our work flow returns and new hires become the norm. Can't wait!

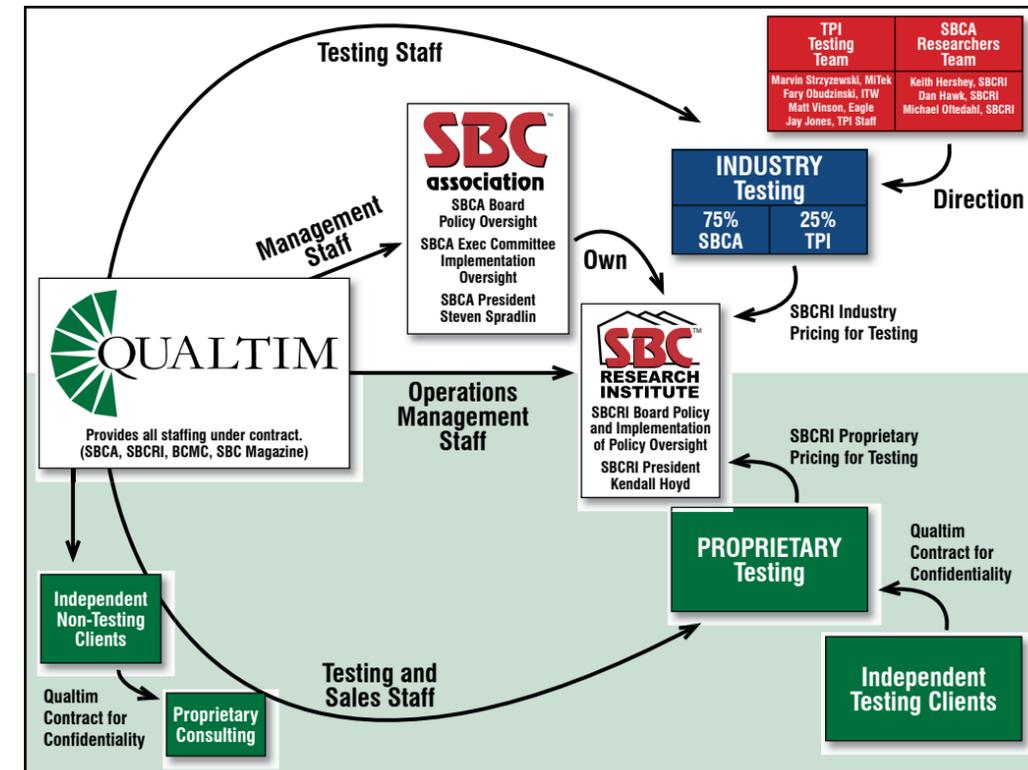
Speaking of personnel, working so closely with SBCA staff this year has been a learning process for me. I've been on the SBCA Board for about five years, yet it has taken working this closely with them to

fully understand the relationship between SBCA and Qualtim, the company that manages and provides staff for SBCA projects. I'm sure there are other people out there with similar questions.

The graphic above gives a good illustration of the relationship. Qualtim on the far left is a separate entity that provides services under contract. One of Qualtim's oldest clients is SBCA—21 years! Employees of Qualtim execute SBCA projects under the direction of the SBCA Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. Qualtim staff also performs work for the BCMC Show, SBC Magazine and SBCRI—all of which are SBCA activities. Qualtim then bills SBCA for the work at an hourly rate. Pretty simple huh?

Continued on page 8

An unexpected benefit  
of being slow



### at a glance

- ❑ Committing to SBCA's Operation Safety program now will pay substantial dividends when it comes time to hire again.
- ❑ SBCA has a long-time contract with Qualtim, the company that manages and provides staff for SBCA projects.
- ❑ Since the downturn began in 2008, SBCA's annual budget has gone from \$6 million to \$2 million.

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1 - Alpine Speed Roll TW Floortruss Machine	1 - Metra-Cut Speed Rafter Cutter	1 - Pacific Automation Gantry System w/ Wizard Set-up System
5 - ASI Stretch Roller Bed Trailers	1 - Mitek EasySet 7000000/1000 Component Saw	1 - Paslode Sub Component Nailers
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2 - Clary 329 Short Cutters II	2 - Monet B500 Component Saws	1 - Robbins 7 Station Lumber Carousel
1 - EMSI Model #305 20' Lumber Conveyor	2 - Pacific Automation Auto 8's	1 - Speedcut MetraCut w/Mango Automation
60 - Factory Wagons	2 - Pacific Automation 5 Strand Live Decks	1 - Speedcut EWC Web Saw
1 - Jager TTS Auto Stacker	4 - Pacific Automation Auto-Roll 14TR	1 - Spida RA Saw with Hain Measuring Unit
1 - Klaisler RolSplice Machine	1 - Pacific Automation Auto-Roll 14' capacity	1 - TCT Model 1150 Lineal Saw (2005)
2 - Klaisler G2450 Floor Gantry w/Auto-Stackers	2 - Pacific Automation 125'	
5 - Klaisler Powered Outfeed Roller Systems		
2 - Koskovich Auto-OMNI, 5 Heads with Ink Jet Printer		

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—Chris Lambert, Southeastern Materials, Inc.

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## Editor's Message

Continued from page 7

Qualtim and SBCRI have a similar relationship. Let's look at the right side of the graphic now. First of all, SBCA owns SBCRI. Qualtim employs a talented group of staff that is responsible for two tasks: 1) doing testing projects to provide the structural building components industry with an accurate technical foundation that will lead to growth through value engineering, and 2) growing a testing business of outside clients so that SBCRI is sustainable when SBCA cannot fund industry testing. Therefore our folks focus on two types of testing: proprietary and industry. Proprietary testing involves independent clients that seek confidential testing and analysis. This work is performed through Qualtim to ensure a “fire-wall” for confidential testing information.

Industry testing, however, is conducted under the direction and thorough frequent communication between the TPI Testing Team and SBCA Research team. The current members of these groups are listed below.

### TPI Testing Team:

- Marvin Strzyzewski, MiTek
- Gary Obudzinski, ITW
- Matt Vinson, Eagle
- Jay Jones, TPI Staff

### SBCA Research Team:

- Keith Hershey, SBCRI
- Dan Hawk, SBCRI
- Michael Oftedahl, SBCRI

The current goal of the SBCA Research work is to conduct assembly Research and Development (R&D) and modeling work to advance our industry's very important optimum value engineering concepts. Right now, TPI is funding testing to conduct individual or assembly testing of metal plate connected wood components with the primary focus on improving ANSI/TPI 1 and related design methodology. Industry testing work has been and will continue to be shared on the members-only reporting website [www.sbcricri.info](http://www.sbcricri.info).

The long-term sustainability of SBCA and Qualtim are very closely tied. Since our peak in 2006, SBCA has gone from an annual budget of \$6.2 million to \$2.4 million. Given this, it has been necessary for Qualtim staff's priorities to shift to focus on building other business outside of its SBCA contract so as to not deplete SBCA cash reserves. There have been extremely tough decisions made by SBCA and Qualtim in doing this, but we have managed the budget and our cash position very well. Our collective goal has been to retain Qualtim's knowledgeable and hard-working people who have gained knowledge and expertise about SBCA over the last 20 years of serving our industry. The Finance and Executive Committees will continue to keep a close eye on SBCA's budget and make adjustments as necessary.

Wishing you a SAFE and productive month! **SBC**

*SBC Magazine encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Do you have an article idea for a future issue or a topic that you would like to see covered? Email your thoughts and ideas to [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).*



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## It's More Than Spring Cleaning... OSHA's New Combustible Dust Standards

Given OSHA's proposed new safety standards regarding the production, collection and disposal of combustible dust, here are the top ten things you should do:

- 1. Don't Ignore the Problem:** Enforcement under OSHA's current National Emphasis Program (NEP) on Combustible Dust is a top priority. Think you're immune? According to OSHA, they conducted 1097 combustible dust inspections from October 2007 to June 2009 and over 25 percent (235) of them were in wood working facilities. If you've had an OSHA inspection during the past five years, it's highly likely you will see them again soon for a combustible dust inspection.
- 2. Citations Are Plentiful:** From those 1097 inspections, 4,926 violations were cited. Of those citations, OSHA considered more than 74 percent of them to be serious. SBCA staff has been contacted by multiple component manufacturers who have received serious combustible dust citations.
- 3. Communication Is Key:** OSHA states that the most common offense is hazard communication. In other words, employers need to effectively communicate the hazards combustible dust pose to their employees' health and safety.
- 4. Evaluate Your Risk:** OSHA's NEP on Combustible Dust is very clear on what its inspectors are looking for during an inspection. Knowing how much sawdust you create, where it collects and how often it needs to be collected and disposed is half the battle.
- 5. Make a Plan:** OSHA also states that the second most common offense cited is for inadequate housekeeping. Having a formal, documented housekeeping plan can be a significant deterrent to citations during a combustible dust inspection.
- 6. Stick to the Plan:** Once you have a formal housekeeping plan, your employees need to be adequately trained on how they should effectively and safely execute the collection and disposal duties contained in the plan.
- 7. Don't Hesitate to Revise:** For the first year, every three to six months you should re-evaluate your housekeeping program to ensure it is addressing your combustible dust risk. Also work to incorporate the feedback of your employees. Given their proximity to the problem, they will likely have good ideas on how to improve your plan.
- 8. Resist Being a Maverick:** If you have a combustible dust inspection conducted at your facility, immediately contact SBCA. We can help you put together a strategy to deal with any resulting citations based on the work we have done with other component manufacturers. Don't go it alone, you may find yourself in deeper water than you expect.
- 9. You'll Have a Fit if You Retrofit:** Eleven percent of the combustible dust citations issued by OSHA relate to electrical issues. By way of illustration, two component manufacturers have been issued significant citations attempting to reclassify them as Type II woodworking facilities. This can mean completely retrofitting all of the wiring, electrical outlets and service boxes in the entire facility. It also presents a problem because no component saw manufacturer currently produces a machine rated to run in a Type II environment.
- 10. Don't Reinvent the Wheel:** Fortunately, SBCA has already created an industry-specific combustible dust housekeeping program for component manufacturers to address the new standards established by OSHA. This online training program includes pertinent information on OSHA combustible dust inspections, how to assess your risk and how to create and implement a formal housekeeping program. The program also has a training module for employees on how to implement the housekeeping plan you adopt. For more information, contact Sean Shields at [sshields@qualtim.com](mailto:sshields@qualtim.com). **SBC**

*Author's Note:* There is no current timeline for adoption of these standards. However, the proposed rule changes can be found online at [www.sbcmag.info/dust](http://www.sbcmag.info/dust).

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I had to pull all the paperwork from the shop floor, change the opening, resubmit the drawing, insert it in the stack of paper and take it back to the floor. I actually had to shut down production to make the change in the opening. Now I just make the change in ShopNet and it is seamlessly inserted into the production for the day. No shutting down of the line."

Shane Morris — Designer/IT  
HD Building Systems, Franklin, Indiana

## MBA<sup>®</sup>



"Overall MBA<sup>®</sup> has been very well accepted by everyone here. It is a core application, and we would not consider running the business without it. As the business

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Mike Boulet — Owner  
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"We were amazed at how easy the MiTek software tied into the Virtek laser projection system. The lasers, along with the MiTek software, helped improve the productivity on our shop floor.

I love their customer service — if we have a problem, we call up MiTek and it is taken care of."

Mike Kaufman — Manager  
Truss Systems, Sunnyside, WA

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