

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

January/February 1999

Member Perspective



"Managing Risk" by Don Groom:

As a truss manufacturer, if I had to list the greatest challenges facing our industry, at the top of that list would be liability exposure. Our company has as one of our top priorities the managing and controlling of this exposure. From safety in the workplace to wide load deliveries to in-field erection of our product, the risk is great.

Becoming actively involved with the Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) has been very rewarding for us. Over the past year we have seen the work that is being done by our collective membership through WTCA to assist companies in facing head-on critical issues in the industry today, and solving them. The work done enhances the work we do as an individual company, as it does for other companies as well-both members and nonmembers.

We at Stark Truss Company, Inc. were already working diligently to manage our exposure when we became involved with WTCA. We were coming up with ideas on what should be included in a jobsite package, what should and should not be signed in a contract document, etc. It was very refreshing for us to find that our national organization was working on these same issues in the interest of the entire industry. We found the real value of WTCA was the broad insight available through the committee work and board meetings and through this great solutions were usually found.

The work of WTCA includes:

1. Informing manufacturers as to what their responsibilities are and what they are not when it comes to designing, manufacturing, jobsite delivery, erecting and bracing;
2. Conducting Risk Management Seminars to educate the industry regarding liability issues and to help truss manufacturers to learn how to protect your business;
3. Providing technical training that is geared to assure all technicians within the industry have a well-rounded education. Most would not view this as risk management, but the decisions made by our technicians commit our businesses to take specific actions and accept certain responsibilities.
4. Implementing *WTCA QC* Version 3. The value of having detailed quality control records is so

important; and

5. Conducting truss technology workshops for building inspectors, specifiers and contractors so they better understand the truss industry and what should and should not be required of us as manufacturers.

It is my opinion the greatest need for the truss industry at this time is the continuing education process on the risks involved in the design, manufacturing, and sale of trusses. WTCA's focus on this issue is extremely important and should remain as one of the top priorities of the organization.

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