

# **STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)**

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### **WTCA QC**

"Why Use *WTCA QC*? Reason #1?"

by Jay Edgar

#### **REASON #1: SET THE STANDARD FOR QUALITY, BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES IT FOR YOU**

For many truss manufacturers, quality control is not an important issue because everyone knows they build a quality product and their customers aren't complaining. Unfortunately, there is another point of view. Wood trusses do not always have the best reputation in the construction industry in terms of quality. The International Building Code (IBC), which will be available for adoption in 2000, pinpoints trusses specifically, requiring them to be third-party inspected. A change WTCA proposed to this inspection requirement was voted down 9-0 by the code committee. Their reasoning was that they felt wood trusses were more prone to mis-manufacture than any other manufactured wood product!

Why do wood trusses have this reputation when other manufactured components do not? Other industries have been much more proactive in implementing in-plant quality procedures than our industry has. This has given the steel and wood I-joist industry greater credibility. As a result, architects & engineers, building officials and code officials have more confidence that they make a quality product.

By using WTCA QC, you have the opportunity to instill confidence in the specifiers and building officials in your area, and stem the tide of restrictive codes. All you need to do is show them data from WTCA QC. Seeing creates believers.

In the long run, implementing a quality program like WTCA QC is the cheapest, easiest choice to make.

Otherwise, we might find that building officials have created code language that progressively restricts the use of our products, or that it becomes much more expensive for us to comply with the code. Being more proactive would also go a long way to increase the credibility of our industry in the marketplace. Remember: perception is reality!

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