

September/October 2000

From Our Readers:



Dear Rachel,

I was re-reading the article in a recent *WOODWORDS* ("[Why Use WTCA QC? Reason #7: Get a Handle on Your Lumber Substitutions,](#)" June/July 2000, p. 44) about lumber substitutions and just had a couple of comments.

- 1) Even moving to a higher grade in the same species can be tricky. Example #1 Non-Dense has lower $F_{c||}$ and E values than #2 Dense lumber.
- 2) When checking to be sure that the six values you listed are equal to or greater than the lumber specified, you should also be sure the COV is higher. If you are trying to substitute a visual grade when a machine grade is specified, you could have a problem since the buckling coefficient is lower for visual than for MEL and MSR. This can effect both $F_{c||}$ and F_b . By the way, this can be an advantage when going from visual to machine grade. The substitute machine grade could have a lower $F_{c||}$ or F_b but actually have a higher allowable value because of the higher buckling coefficient.
- 3) In one paragraph it says "There may be instances where one value drops and the substitution is still acceptable." This is certainly true (such as in my second point), however, the example given is a case where only one value rises and all other drop. Even if the F_b is controlling, again you must also consider the E value that could be lower even if the F_b is higher than the specified lumber.

I agree with your summary that substitutions should be made only after re-analyzing the design or when following clear guidelines prepared by or approved by the truss engineer. That has been my advice here. Also, I point out that allowing one grade to be substituted for another does not mean that the reverse is true.

David Harris,
Shoffner Industries, LLC, Burlington, NC

Dear Editor,

I have found your magazine to be very informative and a great tool in my job as an inspector. I would like to get a copy of ANSI-TPI 1-1995 that you refer to so much. I have been to the ANSI web site but they stated they had no such document. Any help you can offer will be appreciated.

Terry Durrough,
Coweta County Building Dept., Newnan, GA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since WTCA sells ANSI/TPI in a joint sales arrangement with TPI, Terry should have his copy by now.

WOODWORDS,

Just read Bill Loeffler's article on "[Technology & Truss Hangers](#)" [June/July 2000, p. 23](#) A very important point to remember is the fasteners used to install hangers. I am seeing misapplication or incorrect fasteners too often and worse yet is the code inspectors who do not know the difference. Component failure will not be the fault of poor inspection it will fall in the lap of the installer, supplier and manufacturer.

Robert Riggs,
TrimJoist Corporation, Lexington, KY

Kirk,

I read the article in *WOODWORDS* about your [TV interview thing \(April 2000, p. 17\)](#), and also saw the video of the story yesterday. I've never done a TV interview, but have done several on radio for various reasons (though never under that kind of pressure). What I've found is that it's a good idea to have two people in the interview instead of one.

One person can be thinking while the other is talking. Seems you always get stumped by at least one question that gets thrown at you. With two people, you have a better chance that one will come up with a good response to the question. Also, it takes off a bit of the pressure. If the interviewer tried to lead the questions into a "trap," the person who isn't being questioned is more likely to catch it.

Thanks, and best wishes,

Ron Strohbeck,
Truss/Slater, Virden, IL

We are a small, non-profit consortium of non-profit home builders. WOODWORDS has been a help in explaining the whys of trusses to our carpenters.....Keep up the good work.

Jack Rival
Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Berea, KY

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

Copyright © 2000 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from SBC Magazine, call 608/310-6706 or email editor@sbcmag.info.

The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).