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SCDA Update

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Importance of SCDA to the Engineered Wood Products (EWP) Industry by Carl Seidler

We are all witnesses to the ongoing momentum of EWP in our building industry, particularly in the current decade. As the installation of EWP has continued to blossom, there has become an increasing need for proper and continued EWP technical training for the many individuals responsible for "designing" these products. While many companies employ designers for specifying EWP, in the past we relied on training provided by the individual proprietary manufacturers. However, it is the many fundamental principles of design that must be deeply entrenched, and then repeatedly cultivated, before we can excel with implementing proprietary knowledge.

As a result, and due to widespread industry technical demands, SCDA was formed, and is now creating a multi-level EWP industry certification exam, to help ensure that the individuals involved in specifying EWP are doing so properly and with increasing capabilities.

BENEFITS TO SCDA MEMBERS (EWP MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, PRO DEALERS, ETC.)

Once a member of SCDA, your company benefits from being able to quantitatively measure the technical abilities of your EWP designer(s), and then gain value-added results from ongoing SCDA training classes. SCDA testing is based on results relative to the student's industry peers. This "testing and training" provides ongoing levels of results, from which the employer immeasurably benefits by:

1) Decreased liability and claims, which may more than offset the cost of your SCDA membership.
2) Tested progress—Employers may choose to "test" a potential hire during the interviewing process, and then also choose to correlate the EWP designer's compensation with their increasing levels of SCDA training and competence.
3) Increased EWP sales and gross profit dollars—Your EWP customers will gravitate toward properly designed EWP Products.

SCDA EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

I. Math Skills (trigonometry, algebra, conversions, etc.)
II. Wood Science (physical and structural properties of wood, etc.)
III. Building Codes (ICBO, BOCA, SBCCI, local jurisdictions, etc.)

IV. Engineered Wood Terminology (glossary of EWP and framing terms)
V. Span and Load Types (simple, multiple, cantilever, uniform, triangular, etc.)
VI. Load Adjustments (live, dead, roof, snow, lateral, etc.)
VII. Load Development and Distribution (tributary, uplift, calculating reactions, etc.)
VIII. Joist Selection (choosing the correct and available joists for each application)
IX. Beam Selection (choosing the correct and available beams for each application)
X. Fasteners and Accessories (choosing the correct and available products for each application)
XI. Blueprint Reading (load transferring, scaling, bearings, symbols, elevations, etc.)
XII. Computer Generated Product Selection (defaults, input, selection, etc.)
XIII. EWP Product Standards (trademarks, grades, etc.)

If your company strives to both train for, and supply, industry leading EWP design capabilities, contact SCDA staff at 608/271-1176.

SBC HOME PAGE

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).