

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

September/October 2002

SCDA Update

www.scdainfo.com

SCDA Technical Skills Evaluation – The Exam & Protecting Process by SCDA Staff

As reported in the [August issue of SBC Magazine](#), the Structural Component Distributors Association is aiming to raise the bar for technical competency in the engineered wood products industry by offering a multi-pronged approach to education. The first step of this approach is the SCDA Technical Skills Evaluation, which will test the skills of all technical staff and determine their specific strengths and weaknesses in several technical areas. This evaluation will serve as a foundation for subsequent SCDA training and certification programs, the second step in the process.

This evaluation is comprehensive in scope, as well as lengthy, in order to accurately gauge the technical aptitude of each individual. The exam is meant to be administered in two four-hour sessions at a neutral proctoring site. It was the consensus of the SCDA Board that administering the evaluation at a proctored site would ensure the integrity of the process.

Industry professionals interested in taking the evaluation will receive a detailed instruction sheet outlining the steps necessary to receive and complete the exam. The evaluation candidate is instructed to select a proctoring facility, such as a library, bank or school. Once the site is confirmed, SCDA staff will send the exam to a representative at the proctoring site. The student is responsible for arranging an exam schedule with the site, with the restriction of completing the evaluation within 30 days and spending a maximum of eight testing hours on it. Once the exam is completed, the proctoring site will send it back to SCDA staff, who will grade it and report the results to the candidate.

The exam consists of 143 questions and is separated into eight sections, each of which will include math, engineering and general technical questions pertaining to the engineered wood products industry. A set of sixteen sample exam questions (two questions from each of the eight sections) and exam registration forms are available on the SCDA web site.

Sample Question #1:

Wood Science

Given: Assuming the density of a given piece of wood is 70 pcf (lb/ft³).

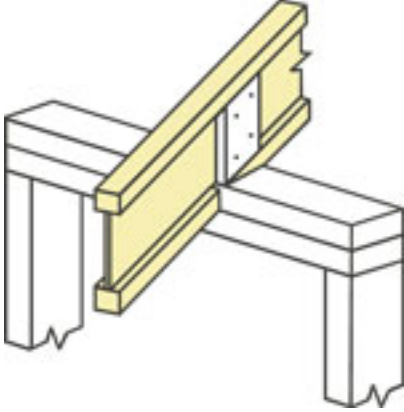
Find: The weight per linear foot of a:

- (a) 1x4
- (b) 2x4
- (c) 2x8

Sample Question #2:

Terminology

What term best describes the figure shown below?



Contact SCDA at 608/271-1176 for more information about the exam process.

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

Copyright © 2002 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).