

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## WTCA Update

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### BCSI: The Past, Present & Future of Bracing by Kirk Grundahl

*“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” —Proverbs*

In 1976, TPI produced Bracing of Wooden Trusses (BWT-76), which discussed temporary erection bracing, truss designer’s component bracing, and building designer’s bracing. In 1984, WTCA published its Jobsite Warning Poster (now known as WTCA-B1). In 1989, TPI released Recommended Design Specifications For Structural Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses (DSB-89), which outlined more thoroughly the topic of bracing, and provides an engineering design methodology. DSB-89 was intended to provide guidance on the design of structural bracing primarily geared for technical audiences such as licensed design professionals (architects, engineers and truss designers). A companion publication, Handling, Installing and Bracing (HIB-91), was developed by TPI to specifically tend to jobsite handling installing and temporary bracing issues. An HIB-91 summary sheet, which many refer to as the “orange sheet,” was also created from this work.

On March 15 1998, TPI held a focus group session with framers to understand temporary bracing from the perspective of those that actually have to implement bracing techniques. The conclusion from this focus group was that truss installers require a more simplified presentation to understand temporary lateral bracing. Armed with this set of facts and combined with many WTCA meetings on this topic, WTCA’s Management Committee and Board of Directors defined several policies and initiatives regarding industry bracing recommendation practices.

WTCA implemented these policies and initiatives through the continual revision and/or development of the following documents—the Warning Poster (WTCA-B1), Always Diagonally Brace for Safety (WTCA-B2), Construction Loading, Web Member Permanent Bracing: Brace it for Stability, Truss Repair and companion bracing related tags called “Warning and Permanent Lateral Bracing Required Here” that can be attached directly to trusses prior to installation. These documents all became part of our comprehensive jobsite safety package, not surprisingly called Jobsite Safety Package.

Additionally, we have suggested that component manufacturers print the truss placement diagram on the back of WTCA-B1 as way to ensure that if the placement diagram is used as a guide to install the trusses from, the warning poster will also be seen and reviewed.

All of these documents were created with the following thoughts in mind:

1. It is important to warn and educate those builders/contractors who are the end users of our

products.

2. The checklist that we have developed for the Jobsite Safety Package is intended to tie this educational process together into a planned approach that any person erecting and bracing trusses can follow.
3. One major goal of these documents is to reinforce the importance of diagonal bracing to anyone that is installing trusses for both temporary and permanent bracing applications.
4. We reviewed the actual framing practices used in the field and developed all of our documents to guide and provide installers with a way to properly handle, install, brace and load the trusses for a safe jobsite until the sheathing is applied to the top chord.

This process became even more valuable and exciting as the WTCA Executive Committee and TPI Board of Directors began to work more closely together on these issues. This work produced the following motions:

#### **MOTION 1**

At the May 6, 2003 meeting, it was unanimously agreed to the following roles and responsibilities for TPI and WTCA. TPI's role is to deal with: truss plate design, manufacturing and safety; individual truss design and engineering; consensus standards on individual truss design and engineering; building code regulations as they pertain to individual truss design and engineering; and machinery.

WTCA will take the lead in all other areas as they relate to component manufacturing, the use of trusses by component manufacturer customers and aggressive fulfillment of its mission statement.

#### **MOTION 2**

We agreed our industry is best served if we have a single set of documents that serve as our fundamental information base when dealing with the proper specification, storing, loading, handling, installing and bracing of metal plate connected wood trusses. We agreed that our desire is to have common publications available to the industry, to replace the various publications with different appearances or wording serving the same objectives.

#### **MOTION 3**

The HIB-91 booklet is now referenced on the truss design drawings. This makes it essential that a new or updated "parent document" be created. The desire by WTCA and TPI Boards is to have one document to reference on the truss design drawings rather than all the separate TTB information that has been produced. This updated parent document will be a compilation of the existing HIB-91 and TTBs.

The outgrowth of these motions was the mandate by both the TPI and WTCA Board of Directors to WTCA staff that there was an immediate need to replace all existing documents. This resulted in the creation of what we now call Building Component Safety Information (BCSI 1-03). An initial draft of this document was created by WTCA staff, and we held a meeting, open to the entire industry, on June 26 and 27 in Chicago to review and refine this first draft.

The feedback from all those in attendance at this meeting was this was one of the best (if not the best) meetings our industry has had in terms of gaining the benefit of valuable perspective, refining that perspective into items and tasks that could be implemented, and carrying out these tasks efficiently. Even better was the esprit de corps that was formed between the participants, the positive energy and fun that we truly had working together.

Since that time, a development plan was implemented to complete this work, which includes approval from both the WTCA and TPI boards and a complete legal review before the goal publishing date of October 1, 2003.

Simultaneously, we are working on a joint publications agreement with TPI and further solidifying the foundation of teamwork our groups have developed whose singular purpose is to advance and protect the component manufacturing industry. There really has never been a more exciting time to be part of our industry. By working together, the only limit to what we can accomplish is our imagination.

## WTCA Board Meeting Report

WTCA's last Board meeting took place on Friday, August 8, in Seattle, WA. Key issues discussed and acted upon were:

- We have reorganized WTCA's policies by subject matter rather than committee. The new format is now available on the web site at [www.woodtruss.com](http://www.woodtruss.com).
- Chapters provided updates on local activities.
- The Board reviewed the financials and priorities for the remainder of the year. Through June we are ahead of the operating budget by \$31,000 on the Net Operating Revenue and the Board approved an additional \$165,000 of budgeted expense, the majority of which will go toward the completion of the Building Component Safety Information document, related B-series document changes, technical work and the joint publications agreement with TPI; additional work on marketing our joint TTW programs; TTT marketing and related Truss Knowledge Online work that will make our online programs as effective as possible.
- The Board received updates from key supplier groups: lumber, plates, engineered wood and connectors.
- Each committee provided an update on activities since the last Board meeting in early May.
- The last two hours of the Board meeting were spent discussing the ramifications of the switch from CCA to ACQ for treated wood. The board heard presentations from Simpson Strong-Tie, USP Structural Connectors, Arch Wood Protection and Chemical Specialties. There is significant concern about ACQ's corrosive effects on connectors and plates and the Board will create a policy recommendation for any members who use treated wood for structural building components.

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