STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE
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From Our Readers

I greatly appreciate your continued mailing to me of the “Components” magazine. The March issue very effectively addresses a topic which has significantly plagued the industry—i.e., long span truss installation stability. The buckling characteristics of these products is not easily understood by the typical construction worker and resulting accidents have been very costly re: life/injury and property damage. Those responsible for such projects must avoid tempting shortcuts. The success percentage of these long span truss installations continues to be far too low. You’ve highlighted the topic very well. Readers take note!

–Sherman A. Nelson P.E., Oceanside, OR

Please create a “5 Truss Superstructure TTB" or web-pages based on your life-saving approach. Success stories may prompt more engineers to follow your lead and answer the call of HIB/BCSI for “a P.E. on 60'+ spans.” Builders Supply of Petersburg, VA, worked with a GC on 60' scissor (church) trusses with great success a couple of years ago using the identical technique. The “Superstructure” approach is applicable (to a lesser degree) on two-story houses, since ground bracing is usually too long to be effective. It appeared that the “60' thick steel bar” was attached to the bottom chord, so that it actually relieved the gravity-induced lateral buckling of the top chord. This seemed more effective than “stiff-backs,” which are 2x6's or 2x8's nailed like an “L” brace to bottom chords.

Please keep growing our knowledge base on this crucial issue, and let us know how we can assist.

Thanks, sincerely,

–Joe Kannapell, P.E., MiTek Industries, Inc.
Charlottesville, VA

> Editor’s Note: Thanks for the thoughts! This article is the precursor to our long span erection B-series document. We are getting in the habit of writing SBC articles with content that we are going to potentially use in a TTB or B-series document.

To submit a letter to “From Our Readers,” email editor@sbcmag.info.

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).