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TKO Training Paths: An Educational Roadmap for New Production Crew Members by Libby (Maurer) Walters

www.wtcatko.com

Put some direction into your training and education plan! Discover TKO's easy and eco-nomical training path for new production crew members.

Truss plant new hires generally need to be trained, even if they have past experience in a manufacturing industry, primarily due to the cultural changes that they will face coming into a new operation. The TKO Training Path for new production crew members is there to aid this integration process by helping to focus on operational fundamentals with training emphasis on safety and quality control issues these employees are likely to encounter while working in the truss plant. These issues are important to address early in their employment to avoid costly safety mishaps and to ensure that quality control is not sacrificed during their initiation into the production environment. The TKO Training Path was designed to help component manufacturers lower their operation's training costs and overall exposure to risk.

Before assuming the production crew duties, new plant employees can start their training with the online Truss Basics course, an introduction to the elements of truss design and manufacturing. Truss Basics is short - it can be completed in less than ten hours - and will give new hires a brief overview of practical truss design applications, without bogging them down with excessive details. There is no certification exam following the completion of Truss Basics.

WTCA Operations Safety Certification (OSC) is the next stop along the training path for new production staff. The OSC program includes online modules for plant production employees to view before obtaining the safety certification. Understanding the elements of safety in the truss plant is of critical importance for everyone, but especially for new crew members. Plant employees have the option of becoming specialists in a number of safety topics. For instance, employees operating heavy equipment such as saws may be interested in becoming a Lockout/Tagout specialist.

We've all heard it before: quality control is only truly achieved when the entire company embraces a culture of quality and makes it a priority with every task. The production staff is an integral part of this notion of company-wide focus on quality control. The WTCA web site provides some valuable information on quality control and is a great way for new production employees to become familiar with industry quality criteria. More specifically, this is an opportunity for them to discover what is expected of them in order to produce a quality truss day in and day out.

The BCMC online seminars round out the training path for new production staff. The Building

Component Manufacturer's Conference seminars vary in length and topic, but are all geared toward component manufacturers. Seminars of particular interest to students on this path include:

- The BCMC 2002 Production Track with segments on Production Efficiencies, Hiring and Retaining Production Employees and Managing the Small Things.
- The BCMC 2003 Wall Panel Seminars with segments on Breaking into the Market: A Framer's Story, Nuts and Bolts of Daily Wall Panel Management and Selling Wall Panels: Managing the Customer and the Process.

After completion of all the elements of this path, production staff will be better educated, which is intended to result in stepped-up operations safety, employee buy-in to the importance of quality control, and may even return insurance cost savings over the long run.

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