



Code Connection

Building Code Involvement at National & Chapter Levels

by WTCA Staff

United on the national and local level, component manufacturers have a greater influence on building code changes that benefit the industry.

With the dominance of the International Code Council (ICC) family of codes in the building code marketplace, one would expect there to be a greater uniformity across the country than when there were three model codes plus a number of local codes. However, local adoption of the ICC codes does not give us the complete uniformity that we would like. Due to local amendments as well as adoption of different editions of the ICC codes, a component manufacturer cannot assume that adoptions of the International Building Code (IBC) or International Residential Code (IRC) are the same from code jurisdiction to code jurisdiction.

WTCA and TPI are actively involved in monitoring, participating in and attempting to influence the direction that building codes are going at both the national level and local levels. It is important that WTCA chapters and the national organization participate in the process with the same set of goals. TPI/WTCA have developed a Code Development Policy to create and propose code changes that serve the best interest of the component manufacturing industry with broad-based support from building code officials and structural engineers, as well as to monitor code changes proposed by others.

WTCA chapters perform an important role in this process through monitoring local building code issues and being as actively involved with local code processes as practical.

WTCA chapters perform an important role in this process through monitoring local building code issues and being as actively involved with local code processes as practical. Our goal is to deal with proposed code changes that might affect component manufacturing as early as possible. Since there is an active involvement in building code and professional engineering issues at the national level, our industry will be best off to utilize the resources and experience that WTCA's Engineering and Technology (E&T) committee and TPI Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has to offer. Here are just a few reasons to work together on issues like this:

- There may already be a code resolution that has been discussed and developed by WTCA and TPI.
- There may be alliances within the national code development community that can be tapped.
- There is an existing process for reviewing code change proposals.

at a glance

- ❑ We have learned that collaboration with all interested parties usually results in code changes that are better and more easily implemented.
- ❑ TPI and WTCA have developed a code change policy to guide industry code developments.
- ❑ The WTCA E&T Committee and TPI TAC are great resources of industry knowledge that can help to avoid pitfalls.

Here are few additional recommendations for Chapters:

- Develop a Code Committee to monitor local and statewide code developments. This can typically be accomplished through periodic monitoring of state and local web sites.
- Provide frequent feedback to the WTCA E&T Committee and work with them and TPI TAC to develop the tactics needed as code changes take place.
- Develop local and state relationships with groups involved in the code process or in the interpretation or enforcement of building codes such as engineers, state PE boards, state agencies, builder organizations and material supplier organizations.

Continued on page 24

TRIAD—THE NAME YOU KNOW AND TRUST
IS THE TOTAL SOLUTION TO YOUR WALL
PANEL EQUIPMENT NEEDS...

High volume or low volume, **Triad** is there for you...

FULLY AUTOMATED, SEMI-AUTOMATED,
MANUAL OPERATIONS—**TRIAD** HAS BEEN THE
TRIED AND TRUE LEADER FOR OVER 40 YEARS.



TRIAD SMARTWALL SYSTEM



TRIAD/MERRICK
MACHINE CO
Equipment For Wood & Steel
Framing, Stair Manufacturing

PO BOX 130, ALDA, NE 68810
PH: 800-568-7423 OR 308-384-1780 EXT. 133

For reader service, go to www.sbcmag.info/triad.htm

Code Connection

Continued from page 22

Here is a brief summary of the TPI/WTCA Code Development Policy referenced above:

- Code change issues and needs should be submitted to TPI TAC or WTCA E&T for review and analysis.
- The WTCA E&T Committee will apply all existing knowledge, draft concepts and supporting arguments and work with the chapter on the best possible approach to revolving the issue at hand.
- All work will be reviewed by at least one TPI TAC and WTCA E&T member.
- Support of building code officials or other interested parties that are willing to collaborate in reviewing, revising, improving and embracing the code change proposal will be sought.
- Once we have completed our homework, we will implement the best approach.

Although the process may appear involved, much of it is done through email and teleconference meetings, expediting the process. Every effort is made to ensure the best probability that truss industry generated code change proposals will be viewed favorably, adopted and implemented. **SBC**

For more information about how to get involved in the code process, contact WTCA staff at 608/274-4849 or codes@woodtruss.com.

Roll Off Wall Panels Damage Free!



Starting at \$25,950

A • N U • P R O S P E C T

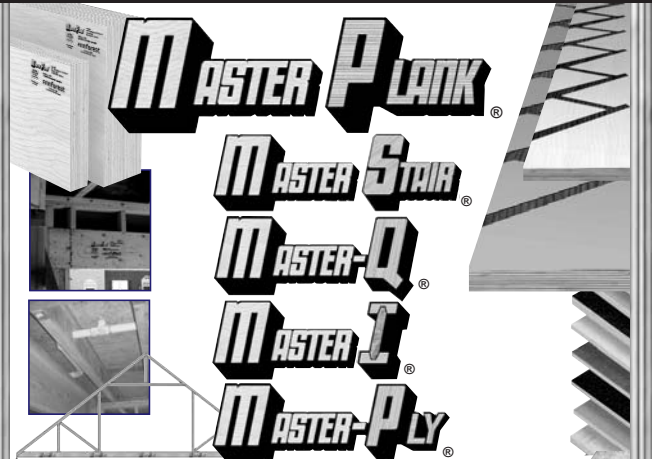
100 South Service Road • P.O. Box 89 • St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1A9

(519) 349-2202

1-800-615-5122

For reader service, go to www.sbcmag.info/anuprospect.htm

STRONG • LIGHTWEIGHT • STABLE



BUILDING A TRADITION OF QUALITY PRODUCTS

- LVL Attractive Beams & Headers
- LVL Structural Stair Stringer Blanks
- LVL Specialty Plywood
- LVL Truss Chords (Alpine™ & MiTek® plate values)
- LVL 3-1/2" One-Piece Garage Door Headers
- LVL Scaffold Plank & Other Industrial Applications

*We produce thousands of products from wood...
The only limit is your imagination.*

finnforest Finnforest USA
Engineered Wood Division

www.finnforestus.com • 800/622-5850 • Fax: 586/296-8773

For reader service, go to www.sbcmag.info/finnforest.htm

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

www.sbcmag.info

Dear Reader:

Copyright © 2005 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) .



6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719
608/310-6706 phone • 608/271-7006 fax
www.sbcmag.info • admgr@sbcmag.info