

Year-End Message from the President
Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

Dear Members,

As we wrap up another year, I want to thank you for your dedication and contributions to the Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta. Together, we've achieved significant milestones and strengthened our industry.

Advocacy Efforts

This year, we've maintained active engagement with the Alberta Government regarding STANDATA for roof systems.

These discussions have been critical in ensuring practical, industry-informed solutions to regulatory challenges.

Your expertise and input have been invaluable in these efforts.

Key Highlights

- Delivered workshops to keep our members ahead of industry trends.
- Strengthened collaborations with stakeholders to create new opportunities and enhance our industry's influence.
- Fostered a united and supportive community through events and shared initiatives.

Looking ahead, 2025 offers fresh challenges and opportunities.

With your continued commitment, I am confident we'll navigate them successfully and further strengthen Alberta's truss industry.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you for being an essential part of WWTA.

Warm regards,

Derek Foss

President

Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

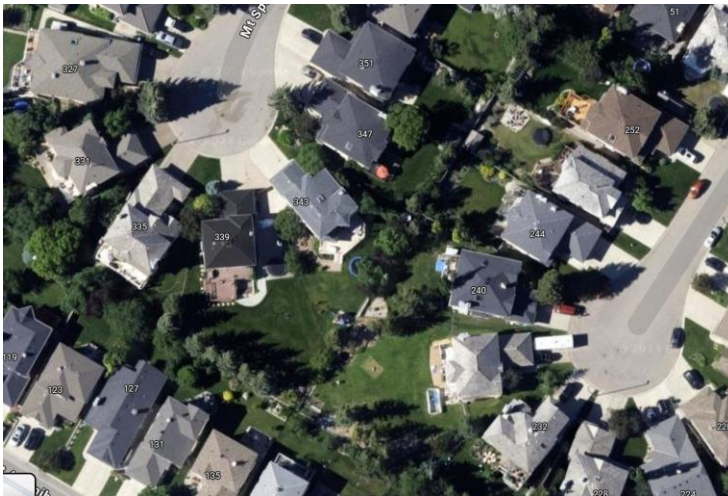
Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

Size and Complexity

During all the discussions around authentication of roof trusses the topic of complexity of roof systems keeps coming up.

I think this may be a perception as I remember some pretty complicated roofs in the 1980's. There were actually more I-joists sold that went into roofs than floors, with the 16" vented joist being the biggest seller, they usually had a big LVL hip beam going through the living room as well bearing somewhere in the middle of the house.

One thing that is different now is that we tend to supply all the bits and pieces that were normally "framed by others" which increases the types of trusses. It used to be that a framer was able to figure out how to install a 4 foot 2X4



Google Maps of roofs in Mckenzie Lake that were built in 1991



Google Maps of roofs in Mahogany built in 2021

The 2 pictures above represent the complexity of roofs built in 1991 and in 2021 in Calgary. Other than how much smaller the lots are and the maturity of the trees, it does not appear that the complexity of these roofs has really increased in 30 years to me, in fact it may be the opposite.

The price of the homes has gone up 4 ½ times though I doubt the price of the trusses has kept pace.

I am sure whatever the new requirements are, going forward municipalities are going to refer to 2.1.1(4) more often in the future.

2.1.1(4) If the size or complexity of a project may give rise to special safety concerns, the authority having jurisdiction may require the involvement of one or more registered professionals to authenticate all or part of the drawings and specifications and perform field reviews.

During our latest discussion with Municipal Affairs we were talking about what makes a roof complex. Is it size, shape, bearing, girders, spans, climatic conditions, loads?

Upon reflection I think that the answer is that usually a complex roof truss system goes on a complex house. These houses probably have other attributes that make the other systems complex including floor framing, walls, higher accumulation of loads, columns, cladding, and footings.

Considering this, common sense should lead to the conclusion that the overall structure may need some oversight by a professional, not just each individual component or system. Hopefully this is what municipalities realize and will require.

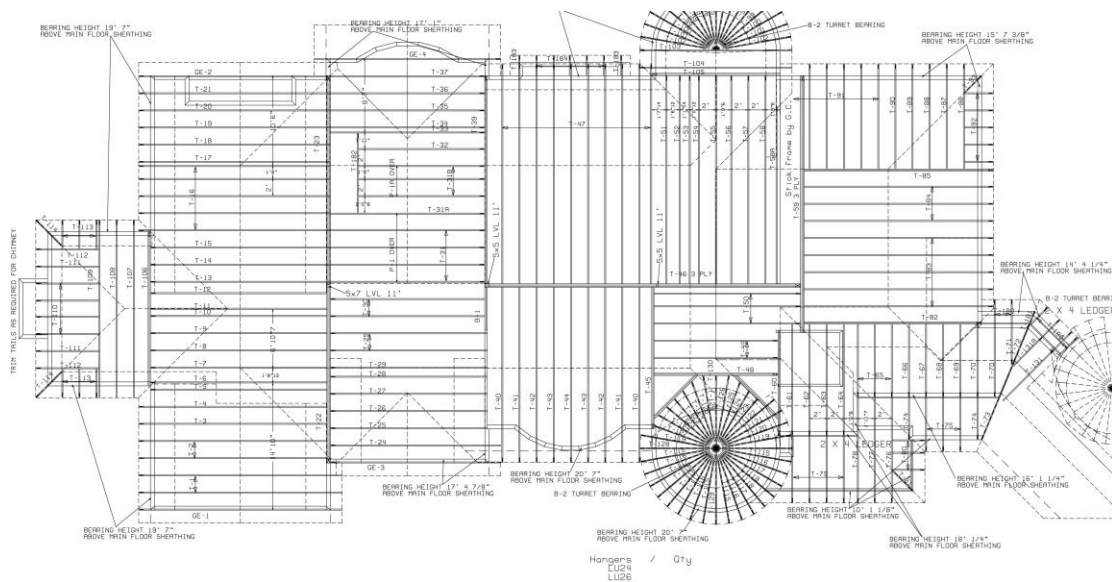
In a recent discussion with a builder we were talking about the code restriction of Part 9 that limits the span of any structural member to 12.2m (40'). The builder responded that: "I don't think any home builder has 'trusses' over the 40' span as the suppliers' designers typically place a girder truss to limit structure to the 40' maximum span."

When we do this, are we crossing over into becoming the building designer? Who is coordinating that the supporting structure is sufficient? If this system was required to be sealed by an engineer, what responsibilities might they be taking on beyond their scope of work.

If there was ever a problem who would the finger be pointed at?

The normal production house that goes on a 32' lot isn't really complex even if it has a series of girder trusses supporting other trusses. APEGA really seems to have concerns about girder trusses for some reason, and ensuring that they are loaded properly.

I think they are going to have to set some parameters about what a complex house is and in order to keep it simple without a bunch of criteria, it is most likely going to be based on square footage. After all, the bigger the house the bigger the price and the more likely that the architectural style will lead to complexity.



It would be understandable that a municipality could consider the above house complex and would be justified in asking for professional involvement as per 2.1.1(4).

Our industry should support this, as long as, the requirement is for a Structural Engineer of Record for the building, not just the roof system. If the requirement is just for a sealed roof truss placement plan due to size and complexity it does not meet the intent of the concern.

In a recent industry survey 88% of engineers surveyed believed that there is the potential of inadvertently assuming some liability for the overall structural design system of the building by sealing a placement plan. 53% stated that they would have problems limiting their responsibility to the design of the products they were supplying.

If you have builders that are in this market segment, they should be getting prepared for the requirement of requiring an overseeing professional, and we have to ensure that we are not becoming that professional.

If you have an idea for a commentary or would like to submit your own commentary for a future newsletter please let me know at dave@wwta.ab.ca

Economic Update

Housing Starts

In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 4983 in November 2024, a year-over-year increase of 45%. Canadian housing starts increased by 30% over the same period. Edmonton had another strong month with a 59% increase compared to November 2023, while Calgary was also up 41%. Housing starts in Alberta were up from 4394 in the previous month of October 2024.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Nov-24	Nov-23	% Change	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Change
Alberta	4983	3420	45.70%	42952	31734	35.35%
Edmonton	2143	1349	58.86%	16939	11427	48.24%
Calgary	2548	1808	40.93%	22652	18086	25.25%
Red Deer	15	11	36.36%	342	180	90.00%
Grande Prairie	16	37	-56.76%	182	111	63.96%
Lethbridge	65	14	364.29%	689	216	218.98%
Wood Buffalo	2	2	0.00%	26	24	8.33%
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	22345	17198	29.93%	210457	204604	2.86%

*Whitehorse Starts are for the quarter, statistics are not available monthly.

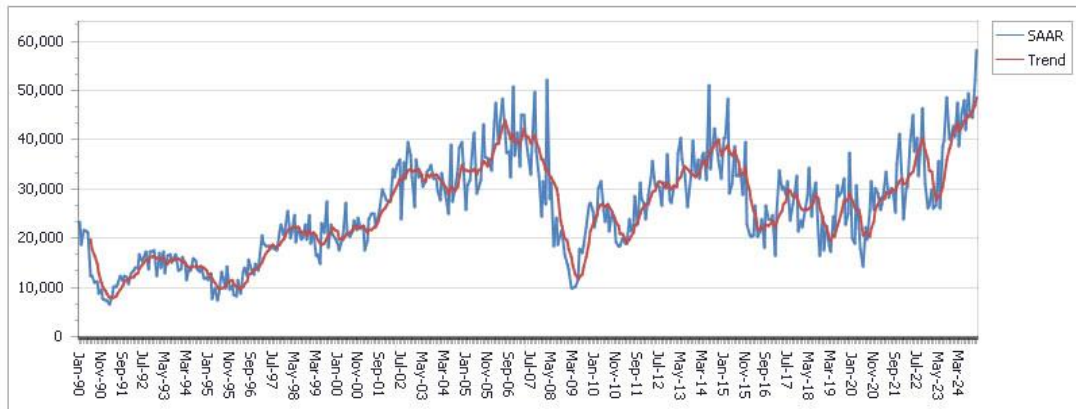
Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	NOV-24	NOV-23	YTD-24	YTD-23
Total	4,983	3,420	42,952	31,734
Single	1,644	1,254	14,334	11,150
Semi-detached	304	233	3,412	2,591
Row	617	521	5,966	4,990
Apartment	2,418	1,412	19,240	13,003

Shovels in the ground: Alberta housing starts spike in November

Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS | December 16, 2024

Housing starts* in Alberta hit the second-highest level on record in November, rising to 59,486 (seasonally adjusted annual rate).



The record of 59,924 was set in September 2007 during the housing boom of the mid-2000s.

The number of starts in November was 45% higher than the previous November with the year-to-date average 36% higher than in 2023.

The increase reflects a construction sector that is playing catch-up with two years of very strong population growth in the province.

New construction is tilted toward the Calgary and Edmonton metro areas at 93% of all housing starts in Alberta last month compared to about 66% of Alberta's total population.

According to Canadian Real Estate Association calculations, the price of a benchmark home increased for the 24th month in a row in Calgary and for the 19th month in a row in Edmonton (seasonally adjusted).

Looking at change over the last 12 months, the benchmark price in Calgary hit \$584,300 in November, up 4.4% compared to November 2023.

Edmonton's benchmark price remained lower than Calgary's at \$403,300, but grew faster at 7.7% higher than a year ago.

Meanwhile, the price gap in favour of Calgary fell for the 6th month in a row, dropping to \$181,000.

In both cities, benchmark prices were higher for single-detached homes, townhouses, and apartments.

It’s a different story in Canada’s two highest-price large metro markets of Toronto and Vancouver where the year-over-year benchmark price was down by 0.8% and 1.0%, respectively.

Of the six metro areas in Canada with a population of over one million, three posted year-over-year price increases in November (Calgary, Edmonton and Montreal) and three posted declines (Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa).

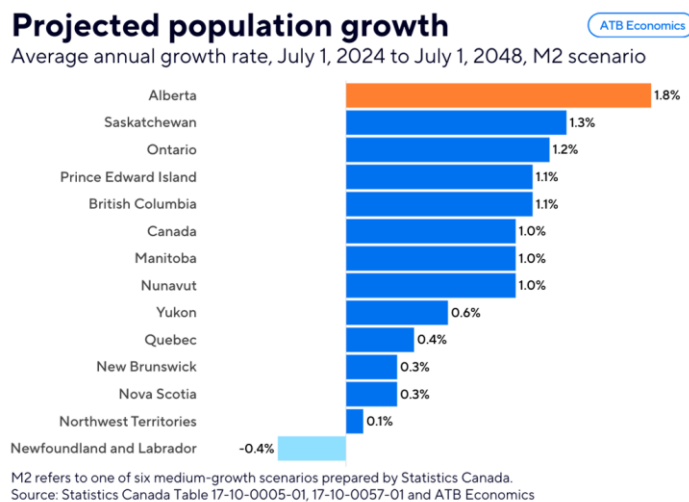
The price growth in Calgary and Edmonton reflects tight supply and strong demand on the back of rapid population increase.

Demographic directions: Alberta’s population projected to keep growing

New [population projections](#) show that, although growth slows relative to the blistering pace set over the last two years, Alberta’s population expands in all ten of the scenarios put forward by Statistics Canada.

Between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2048, Alberta is projected to add between 1.48 million people in the low-growth scenario and 3.21 million people in the high-growth scenario. This translates into an average annual growth rate of between 1.2% and 2.2%.

Alberta accounts for 23.6% of Canada’s total growth between 2024 and 2048 and records the largest annual percentage change of any province or territory (see the chart below). The stronger population growth in Alberta stems from a steady stream of net interprovincial migration and higher natural increase.

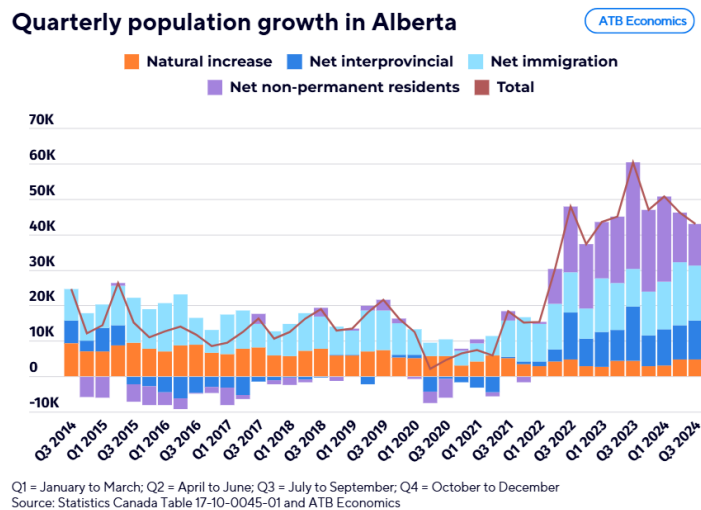


A popular place: People continue to flock to Alberta

In data released this week, Alberta once again led all provinces in population growth in the third quarter of 2024. The province added almost 43,000 people in the three-month period. This represents a quarter-over-quarter growth rate of 0.9%, outpacing all provinces and territories for the fifth straight quarter. Alberta’s population stood at 4.93 million as of October 1, 2024.

Over the latest one-year period (ending Oct 1, 2024), the population expanded by 3.9%. That’s a slowdown from the previous quarter (4.4%), but still nation-leading and far surpassing the national increase of 2.3%.

Why is Alberta’s population growing so much faster? The short answer is interprovincial migration. Alberta recorded its 13th consecutive quarter of net inflows (that is, more people coming than leaving) from other parts of Canada, with a third quarter tally of 10,810. It’s also the ninth straight quarter that Alberta has led all provinces in interprovincial gains.



The 2022-2024 wave of interprovincial migration looks different than in the past. It’s not the classic energy investment boom, which typically leads to low unemployment and lures people to the province. It’s broader than that, with a range of sectors supporting job growth.

But the real differentiator this time around is housing affordability. We explored this in detail in May, and the trend has continued. This is not to say that many Albertans aren’t struggling with affordability (prices have jumped since 2021 and inflation has been running hotter than the national average as of late). Rather, it’s that housing remains relatively more affordable than in other markets—namely B.C. and Ontario, where many folks are coming from (see chart). A stunning 72% of net interprovincial migrants over

the last year were added from B.C. and Ontario, a much higher share than the last two energy-driven migration waves (2004-08 and 2011-2014).

In addition, there is a high share of remote workers who are now working out of province but live in Alberta. The remote work trend, accelerating after the pandemic, allows for physical separation between place of work and place of residence, even if that happens to be in another province. That doesn't completely explain the influx (out of province remote workers have actually fallen since 2022), but it's one piece of the puzzle.

On the international front, we're seeing some early signs that inflows of temporary residents are easing, with the federal government reducing its targets. The increase in non-permanent residents was 11,662—the smallest since the second quarter of 2022. Net permanent immigration remained strong at 15,582 last quarter.

In our economic outlook released yesterday, we are expecting Alberta's annual population growth to slow in 2025 by more than half to 1.9%, primarily due to a pullback in international migration. Homebuilders are trying to keep pace with frenzied demand and, impressively, home starts surged last month to the highest since 2007. While slower population growth will provide some breathing room, we expect 'catch-up' construction to continue and are forecasting 45,600 housing starts next year. For the labour market, we see a slower pace of population subtracting from economic growth (less spending in the economy), while also putting downward pressure on the unemployment rate (due to a slowdown in the number of job seekers).

US Housing Starts, Permits, and Completions Show Mixed Results in November

On December 18, the US Census Bureau reported that privately-owned housing starts in November were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,289,000. This is 1.8% below the revised October estimate of 1,312,000 and 14.6% below the November 2023 rate of 1,510,000. Single-family housing starts were at a rate of 1,011,000; this is 6.4% above the revised October figure of 950,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 264,000.

Building permits are the forward-looking portion of the report, and in November privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,505,000. This is 6.1% above the revised October rate of 1,419,000 but 0.2% below the November 2023 rate of 1,508,000. Single-family authorizations were at a rate of 972,000; this is 0.1% above the revised October figure of 971,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 481,000.

Privately-owned housing completions in November were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,601,000. This is 1.9% below the revised October estimate of 1,632,000 but 9.2% above the November 2023 rate of 1,466,000. Single-family housing completions were at a rate of 1,038,000; this is 3.3% above the revised October rate of 1,005,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 544,000.

Interest Rates

The Bank elected to go jumbo (a 50-basis point cut) in December, bringing the policy rate to 3.25%.

Our sense is that it was not a slam dunk move. There are still some things for the Bank to worry about that could have justified a slower pace—for example, continued wage pressures and early signs of a consumer and housing rebound. Those of us in the jumbo camp pointed to persistent economic weakness (six consecutive quarters of falling per capita GDP), nearly a year with inflation in the 1-3% control range, and an unemployment rate hitting a seven-year high (ignoring the pandemic period).

A few interesting things from the Wednesday announcement we'd like to note:

- Downward revisions likely coming. A new forecast from the Bank won't be released until the end of January, but the Bank said that recent indicators along with the federal government's lower immigration targets point to downward revisions to their October growth forecast.
- Reference to tariffs. The Bank didn't say much about this, other than it adds uncertainty. On the one hand, tariffs are inflationary. On the other hand, they weaken demand. Our view is that the tariff threat may have encouraged the Bank to go deeper now to guard against economic troubles down the road.
- GST cut/rebate treated as 'transitory'. The Bank is focused on the inflation trend, and said they will look past the 'transitory effects' of these measures.

But the most important quote (from the press conference) was this:

“with the policy rate now substantially lower, we anticipate a more gradual approach to monetary policy if the economy evolves broadly as expected.”

This is a strong signal that unless anything drastic happens, they're going back to the boring 25-basis point moves. Our forecast is for 3 more 25-basis point cuts in 2025, bringing the policy rate to 2.5% by June.

Shifting sands: Alberta's economy in 2025 and 2026-ATB

The economy is entering 2025 with momentum driven by robust oil production, surging home construction, and a recent jump in employment. At the same time, the province has faced rising unemployment as more job seekers come to Alberta and, as in the rest of the country, persistent cost-of-living challenges.

We project Alberta's GDP to continue to outpace the national economy, growing by 2.5% in 2025 and 2.3% in 2026. This growth is fueled by strong energy sector performance, emerging sectors like technology and petrochemicals, and continued gains from interprovincial migration.

[ATB Quarterly Economic Outlook](#)

Lumber

Lumber prices have rebounded to around \$560 per thousand board feet, up from a seven-week low of \$531 on December 16th, driven by strong demand and supply constraints. U.S. existing home sales rose by 4.8% in November, the highest in eight months, reflecting growing momentum in the housing market, with more buyers entering as job growth continues, housing inventory rises, and consumers adjust to mortgage rates between 6% and 7%. Additionally, building permits surged by 6.1% in November, the highest level since February 2024, signaling strong future construction activity. On the supply side, production cuts and mill closures are restricting lumber availability as Western Forest Products reduced output by 30 million board feet, and Canfor Corp. shut two mills, cutting annual production by 670 million board feet. These supply limitations, coupled with U.S. tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber and rising import tariffs amid the China trade dispute, are pushing prices higher.



[Tolko announces layoffs at 2 mills](#)

<https://cofi.org/press-statement-cofi-responds-to-ndp-green-agreement/>

[Duties on Canadian lumber have helped US production grow](#)

Quality Control

Best Knots of 2024

As it is the end of the year and as we all like best of lists, here are my best knots for 2024. If you have some pictures of knots or other lumber defects that you would like to share, please get them to me and perhaps they can make the next list.

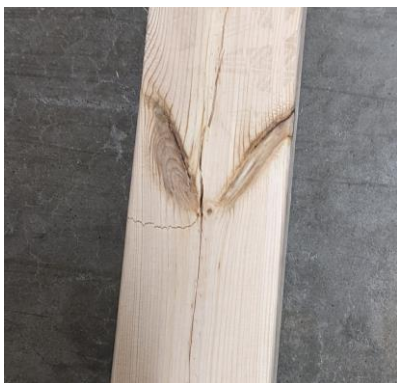
Number 10



Number 9



Number 8



Number 7



For more detailed information on knots look at past WWTa newsletters February to May 2022.

Number 6



Number 5



Number 4



Number 3



Number 2



Number 1



Number 1 shows that the branch was still growing after the truss was built. Thanks to Kevin Holden at Davidson Enman Truss for this one.

Health and Safety Toolbox

Protective Safety Eyewear and Fit testing

In the February 2024 newsletter we touched on fit testing for hearing protection. Fit testing should also be used for protective eyewear.

A key aspect of ensuring safety eyewear performs is the fit. If the fit is good, it is more likely to be worn and provide the intended protection. Many workers complain that their safety eyewear is uncomfortable, restricts their field of vision, is subject to fogging, or is simply not stylish. When workers complain about wearability, a major contributing factor can be the “**one size fits all**” approach that many organizations take to safety eyewear management.

The impact of ill-fitting eyewear can have serious consequences and increasingly, employers and manufacturers are paying special attention to the need for fitting safety eyewear for today’s diverse workforce. New designs are more stylish and better prioritize the “fit factor” across a wide range of wearers. This is important because a particular design or style of safety eyewear that one employee finds comfortable may be uncomfortable to another. Differences in face size, shape, and facial features all come into play and can impact comfort. Optimizing your safety eyewear “fit factor” is critical for four important reasons: protection, comfort, visual performance, and durability. Let’s look at each of these more closely.

Protection

Safety eyewear must fit properly in order to best provide the designed and tested protection. This means being fit closely to the face to protect against flying dust or debris. The fit needs to align with the wearer’s facial contours and not dig into their forehead or cheeks. The arms need to be the proper length so that there is a proper fit over the ears.

Properly fitted safety eyewear provides good coverage of the soft tissue areas around the eyes. The gaps between safety eyewear and the face need to be optimized. If it is too big, debris can enter. If it is too small, the safety eyewear may rub uncomfortably against the face. CSA safety standards state that the gap should be 6mm or less if there are flying projectiles or 6-8mm in other environments. A gauge is available for some safety eyewear to allow you to measure this gap as part of the process of properly assessing the fit.

[CSA Z94.3.1-16](#) recommends that the eyewear fit should be assessed every two years or whenever significant changes occur to an employee’s physical condition.

[3m Eyewear Fit Testing System](#)

Comfort

Well-fitted safety eyewear is more comfortable to wear, even for extended periods of time. Compliance of use is very closely related to wearer comfort. Poor-fitting safety eyewear can cause headaches and discomfort on the bridge of the nose and the tops of the ears. This can be a challenge because facial structures can vary so much from worker to worker. For example, the facial structures of men and women are different, and the facial structures of people of different ethnicities can be different. Designers working with engineers engage in thorough research and development, leading to innovative safety eyewear designs that account for differences in the height, width, or location of cheekbones, nose bridges, and ears, as well as overall head size and shape.

Compatibility with other personal protective equipment, like hard hats, earmuffs, and respirators is another important factor affecting fit and comfort. Ensuring that all the required personal protective equipment fits comfortably together is a key to wearer compliance. This is one of the major reasons that a good fit in safety eyewear can be a challenge. If the safety eyewear isn't comfortable it will not be worn.

Visual Performance

If safety eyewear fits properly, lens distortion can be minimized, and the wearer's vision will be unobstructed, ensuring that they can see in all directions without any major blind spots. This is a key aspect of the field performance of safety eyewear. Obstructions or lens distortion can create a visual impairment that can increase the risk of incident and injury. Anti-scratch coatings increase performance, and this will further increase wearer confidence in their PPE, leading to greater wearer compliance.



Durability

Proper fit also reduces the likelihood that the safety eyewear will become dislodged and dropped. Proper handling leads to fewer scratches and this may increase the longevity of the safety eyewear. A proper fit also involves ensuring the eyewear stays put while the wearer moves their head through the full range of normal motions such as left-to-right, up-and-down, and shaking the head, even when in hot and humid conditions.

OHS Code changes

On December 4, 2024, Alberta's government updated Part 27: Violence and Harassment, Part 33: Explosives, and Part 37: Oil and Gas Wells, and also made miscellaneous editorial amendments across the OHS Code. During a transitional period between December 4, 2024 and March 30, 2025, work site parties can comply with either the updated provisions or the prior provisions. Starting on March 31, 2025, work site parties will need to comply with the updated provisions.

Most of the updates reflect best practices, standards and equipment that industry was already using. The updates also help align Alberta with other Canadian jurisdictions, which promotes labour mobility and inter-provincial trade. Where it makes sense, the changes focus on health and safety outcomes rather than prescriptive requirements to give employers and workers the flexibility in how health and safety outcomes are achieved. Other updates to the OHS Code also include editorial changes to improve clarity, remove duplication and correct errors.

The updates received strong support from workers, employers and health and safety professionals and we appreciate their valuable input. If you would like to learn more about the input we received on these changes, you can read the “what we heard” report [here](#).

The regulations amending the OHS Code, which contain the details of the changes, can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Informational resources will be available in the coming months. To provide stakeholders with information on future work that is planned for the OHS Code, the three-year plan and timelines have been updated. For more information on the 2023-2026 plan, please see [OHS Code Review Plan](#). If you have questions about the changes or the OHS Code review process, they can be submitted at any time to lbr.ohsreview@gov.ab.ca.

WCB Premium Rate Information for Employers

[2025 premium rates highlights.pdf](#)

Free webinar on occupational health and safety and disability management

Alberta OHS and WCB-Alberta are hosting a free upcoming webinar to provide employers with information about occupational health and safety and disability management, including:

- how to develop and implement health and safety management systems,
- how to achieve a Certificate of Recognition (COR) or a Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR) and earn rebates from participating in these programs,
- an overview of Alberta's workplace injury statistics,

- the illness and injury prevention resources that are available on the OHS Resource Portal,
- how you can support your workers with effective disability management practices,
- resources that can help build return-to-work plans so your injured workers get back to work safely, and
- steps you can take to help reduce workers' time away from work and reduce your overall premium costs.

This free webinar will take place on January 28, 2025, at 9 a.m. To register or get more details, [click here](#) or email JET.Connect@gov.ab.ca.

The Alberta Government has a new format OHS eNews you can subscribe to with all kinds of good material at: <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/>

News and Events

TPIC Technical Committee Meeting

Oct 17 & 18, 2024

Notes as recorded by the WWTA-AB representative David Klassen P.Eng. (Unofficial)

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1. Codes and Standards & Industry Reports
 - a. CSA S347 (TRUSS PLATES) is up for 2025 recertification, no changes were noted.
 - b. CSA S349 (QC) is up for 2025 recertification, no changes were noted.
 - c. CSA O86 (WOOD DESIGN) v 24, the 12th edition was published.
 - d. NBCC 2025
 - i. Proposed change to part 9 to add wind loads.
 - ii. Proposed increase of GSL from 1:50 to 1:1,000 but then offsetting with changes to load and importance factors. Proposal under review, has NOT been approved.
 - e. CWTA
 - i. Working on accreditation process for national QC program.
 - ii. Updating EPD survey to help fabricators meet NBCC 2030 requirements.
 - f. TPIC 2024
 - i. Was published in June, is referenced in NBCC 2025.
 - ii. Proposed changes to snow & wind would require significant updates to TPIC if passed.
2. Regional Association Reports
 - a. Primary focus is implementing QC programs.

3. Task Group Projects – Now that TPIC 2024 is published and work begins on TPIC 2029, the group discussed a reset of how task groups are formed and managed. There will be more onus on those bringing up new business to submit a proposal rather than form another Task group. Existing topics were reviewed to prioritize the top 7 topics (noted as **PRIORITY**). The committee asked that provincial associations report back at next meeting if they would like any other topics prioritized.
 - a. Group Tear-Out (**PRIORITY**)
 - i. There are some formulations added in ANSI/TPI now to link the planar shear resistance of the SCL. A similar effect can occur in 4x2 lumber. The task group will continue reviewing existed documents and propose changes to TPIC 2029 for 3x2 and 4x2 lumber.
 - b. Splicing (**PRIORITY**)
 - i. Redefined blocked splices in TPIC 2024 to require 2 or more webs at splice location.
 - ii. Our current formula treats joint as rigid OR pinned. Semi rigid models vary amongst software packages. We plan to standardize for TPIC2029.
 - c. Web Bracing (**PRIORITY**)
 - i. TPIC intends to expand bracing options for TPIC 2029.
 - ii. Discussed a minimum web length of 3' for which CLB's can be used.
 - iii. Considering built-up column formula as an alternative method of bracing (scab).
 - d. Vibration
 - i. Will continue monitoring updates to CCMC in CSAO86-Annex A. Floor Trusses were omitted as they do not have a rectangular cross-section so stiffness is not straightforward.
 - ii. Task group to provide background or explanation of 22d limit for attic frame.
 - e. Compression Perpendicular to Grain at Joints (**PRIORITY**)
 - i. Design check is currently only required at bearing locations. The same forces occur at "K-webs", group agreed that a design check is required. We plan to add additional diagrams and notes for TPIC 2029.
 - f. Plate in Breeze (**PRIORITY**)
 - i. Reviewed testing from the TPI provided by our US representative.
 - ii. A plate supplier is planning to run finite element analysis and will share with group.
 - iii. The two methodologies will be reviewed and considered for TPIC 2029.
 - g. Design Roles & Responsibilities (**PRIORITY**)
 - i. Compiling guidelines from provincial engineering associations and TPI to create definitions for the TPIC manual which aligns with all associations.
 - ii. The group discussed definitions of software operators, truss designers, sealing engineers, building designers and what constitutes direct supervision.
 - h. End Grain Bearing Block Splitting
 - i. Plates ending at center of vertical blocks tends to split the wood when 24" or shorter.
 - ii. Recommend plate coverage of 75% the block width at both ends of the block.

iii. Proposal to be completed by fall meeting for review and adoption in TPIC 2029.

i. Load Distribution of Multi-Ply Trusses

i. Studies have shown that load is not evenly distributed across multi ply trusses. TPI proposed design of individual plies be able to withstand a higher share of load as the number of plies increase, see table.

Plies	% of total load / ply	
	2x4	4x2
2	50%	55%
3	37%	41%
4	29%	
5	28%	
6	25%	

ii. Discussed implications for TPIC and decided further consideration is required before voting to adopt.

j. Top Chord Bearing Floor Trusses (PRIORITY)

i. Reviewing additional web configurations and test data from plate manufacturers.

4. New Business

- a. SPF-s Lumber: Awaiting a response from CWC if it can be used in Canada.
- b. Floor Truss Dimensional Tolerances: WWTA-AB suggested tighter tolerance should be considered in Appendix G for floor trusses. Group asked that WWTA-AB provide a proposal for technical committee to review.
- c. Prefabricated Home Industry is lobbying NBCC to be excluded from TPIC to avoid QC program.
- d. Long Span Truss Provisions: Introduced in TPIC 2019 but had not been made retroactive as it was expected that the NFBC 1995 would be retired when NBCC 2020 came into effect. Some provinces did not adopt part 2, so Farm Code remains in effect. Asking for provincial association input on making this information retroactive to TPIC 1999.

6.7.7 Long-span trusses - The following provisions apply to trusses with a clear span between bearings greater than 24.4m (80')

6.7.7.1 General

- (1) Trusses shall only be used in dry service conditions.*
- (2) Trusses shall be manufactured using lumber having a moisture content no greater than 19% at the time of fabrication.*
- (3) The maximum JSI for lateral resistance of connector plates shall be 0.80*
- (4) The height of the bottom chord of a truss at the interior side of bearing at a heel joint shall be no less than 75% of the chord depth.*

6.7.7.2 Trusses with a clear span greater than 30.5 m (100') - Where trusses have a clear span between bearings greater than 30.5 m the additional provisions shall apply:

- (1) Trusses shall be designed as a minimum of two plies.*
- (2) Where ply-to-ply laminating is performed with nails the spacing shall not exceed 228 mm in compression members.*
- (3) The maximum CSI for lumber shall be 0.90.*

Year End Invoicing

As in previous years members will receive 2 invoices in December. The first will be the usual invoice for your November levy and your December levy invoice date will be December 30 although it will be sent the first week of January, upon receiving the levy reports. Therefore, you will not be receiving a levy invoice dated in January.

Your final invoice for December will also include the charges for training seats that were active in 2024 for the online training program.

External Quality Control Auditors

Going forward the WWTA is looking for external consultant QC auditors and the CWTA will be doing some auditor training in February. If you know someone that would be interested in this, please have them call or email dave@wwta.ab.ca.

WWTA Online Training

With the provincial building codes now coming into force and referencing TPIC 2019 there have been several inquiries and sign-ups about our online training courses from outside of Alberta now that truss plants are starting to implement their QMS systems and determining that training of their workers is crucial to being in compliance.

If you have not yet taken a look at the WWTA online training program I would encourage you to, as no doubt you will be hiring new workers in the near future and it is a good method to get them productive earlier and safer. If you want an overview of the program go to the WWTA website at: <http://www.wwta.ab.ca/truss-training-online.html>

Did You Know?

