

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

STANDATA Rundown

[23-BCI-015 Wood roof truss systems for Part 9 buildings](#) was published Feb 14, 2025.

The WWTA had been involved in a stakeholders group working towards this, but we did not get an opportunity to review the final version before it was published.

When published it created some confusion which then lead to the following [clarification](#) on February 28 on the implementation of 23-BCI-015 as it had no implementation date.

Status-implementation plan

STANDATA bulletin 23-BCB-002- Roof truss layout for one-and two-family dwellings was published in 2024 and is still applicable. With the publication of STANDATA interpretation 23-BCI-015 - Wood roof truss systems in Part 9 buildings there was some confusion on the implementation of 23-BCI-015 and if this superseded 23-BCB-002.

Both STANDATA are in effect which is not typical for what may be perceived as dealing with the exact same subject matter. While both STANDATA are applicable to roof trusses, 23-BCB-002 is relevant to roof trusses for one and two-family dwellings under Part 9 of the National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)). 23 BCI-015 scope is expanded to apply to all Part 9 buildings. Keeping 23-BCB-002 in effect provides for all stakeholders to adjust up for this industry shift affecting one and two-family dwellings.

Truss profiles for Part 9 buildings other than one and two-family dwellings required professional involvement in any case. 23-BCI-015 indicates professional involvement is not required for the truss layout if the applicable details are included in the respective authenticated truss profile drawing within the parameters of Part 9 of the NBC(AE).

Over the course of the **next 12 months**, Municipal Affairs (MA) will be working with stakeholders to develop targeted messaging, respond to inquiries or clarifications, and understand any complications or concerns with this topic. Revisions to 23-BCI-015 will be made as necessary. STANDATA 23-BCB-002 is intended to be archived at the end of the implementation period. This will allow for manufacturers, suppliers and builders time to gear up for the application STANDATA 23-BCI-015 authentication for truss profiles for one and two-family dwellings.

Stakeholders that have questions or feedback about this topic should direct them to safety.services@gov.ab.ca

So, what does this mean?

What falls into Part 9 of our code can be found in 1.3.3.3.(1) and in Division C 2.4.1.1(1) b) it outlines when professional involvement is not required.

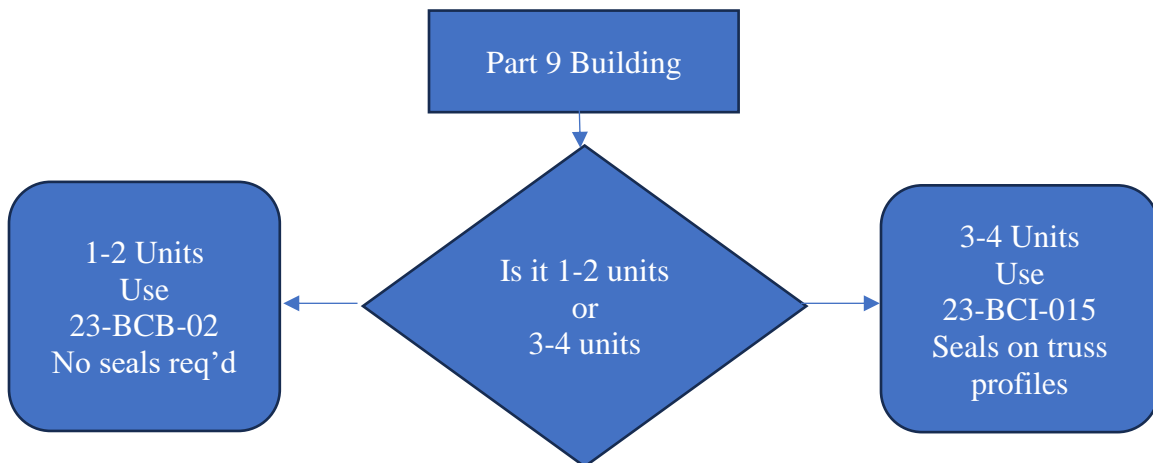
2.4.1.1. General

- b) classified as a *residential occupancy* that is
 - i) a *single-family dwelling*, or
 - ii) a *multiple-family dwelling that contains 4 dwelling units or less*,

This means that the builder can use the STANDATA that applies based on the number of dwelling units in their building.

If their Part 9 building has 1-2 units, they should use bulleting 23-BCB-02 for one-and-two family dwellings which does not require engineering stamps or seals or any professional involvement.

If their Part 9 building has 3-4 units, they should use the new 23-BCI-015 which would require sealed profile drawings.



As stated in the implementation plan 23-BCB-02 will be phased out before the implementation date of 23-BCI-015 in 12 months. At this time all Part 9 roof trusses for all Part 9 buildings will require authentication.

You may ask why does 23-BCI-02 even exist, and why does it only apply to 1-2 family dwellings? It was intended to provide direction during the time when there was no applicable STANDATA due to 19-BCI-023 being withdrawn and to prevent AHJ's coming up with their own interpretation such as we saw with the City of Edmonton issuing their own bulletin in May of 2024.

The intent of 23-BCB-02 was to go back to previous practices and the previous STANDATA's on the issue had always only been applicable to 1-2 family dwellings. The reason for this remains a mystery and it was generally never applied this way by municipalities. They just treated Part 9 buildings the same regardless of the number of units.

The difference between 23-BCB-02 and 23-BCI-015 is that the first is a bulletin and the second is an interpretation. AHJ's are required to comply with interpretations and a bulletin is to provide information.

I have had some inquiries about secondary suites, and in 2.4.1.1(2) it states for the purposes of Sentence (1) secondary suites need not be considered as dwelling units.

23-BCI-015

The WWTA has been participating in a stakeholders group including Municipal Affairs, BILD Alberta and APEGA since the City of Edmonton Bulletin working towards a solution.

We have expressed our opinion and BILD has supported the position that if authentication is required that it should be limited to the truss profile drawings only and not the placement plan.

Once we were able to convince the group that the information required for the truss design was contained on the truss profile drawing and that the placement plan was not an engineering document, we thought that this solution would be acceptable.

Upon first reading it appears that the solution of providing sealed truss profile designs is the requirement. The feedback from BILD was that the STANDATA intent was calling for a requirement that our industry indicated would be acceptable.

However, when 23-BCI-015 was published there were still some issues that are problematic. This is partially why Municipal Affairs agreed to a 1-year implementation period.

The 3rd paragraph of 23-BCI-05 states:

Based on the requirements of Article 9.23.14.11., a wood roof truss system must be designed by a registered engineering professional, including the way trusses are connected to other trusses. In addition to the design inputs for and details of individual trusses within the system, sufficient detail of how trusses are interconnected is the responsibility of the registered engineering professional to design and authenticate. Authentication does not have to occur on the roof truss layout plan provided the

information of how trusses are interconnected is provided in a separate authenticated document. It is up to the registered engineering professional as to how they choose to communicate their design and authenticate it. Authorities having jurisdiction should review any exclusions to the authentication noted on the drawings and ensure any limitations are appropriate.

We feel that this statement is incorrect because the requirements of 9.23.14.11 and A-9.23.14.11(2) do not actually talk about a “roof truss system” but rather the “trusses themselves”. The clause also does not refer to the way trusses are connected to other trusses.

The interpretation states:

1. The design of a wood roof truss system must be designed and authenticated by a registered engineering professional.
2. Wood roof truss system layouts are required to be authenticated unless the essential information needed to design and install the roof trusses is provided in a separate document that is already authenticated. This could be the truss profile drawings or the framing plan of the building drawings.
3. The authenticated truss profile drawings or other required authenticated drawings may be provided to the authority having jurisdiction prior to their approval for covering or permission for occupancy as part of the permit conditions.

In point #1 it again states the roof truss system, which we feel exceeds the code requirement of the trusses themselves.

Point #2 talks about the need to only authenticate the truss profile drawing if it contains the **essential** information needed to design and install the roof trusses. What is the essential information? Our position is that the information required to be on the sealed truss profile should align with TPIC Appendix H.

H.1 General

Truss Design Drawings shall include, but not limited to, the information specified below:

- (1) Building code, CSA and TPIC Standard to which the drawing complies to.*
- (2) Slope or depth, span and spacing.*
- (3) Location of all joints and support locations.*
- (4) Input and required bearing widths.*
- (5) Software version number.*
- (6) Specified loads, as applicable, shall include:*

- a. *Top chord variable loads (including snow, live loads).*
 - b. *Top chord dead load.*
 - c. *Bottom chord live load due to limited accessibility.*
 - d. *Bottom chord dead load.*
 - e. *Wind loads*
 - f. *Other lateral loads, including drag strut loads.*
 - g. *Statement of whether special loading requirements have been checked including but not limited to unbalanced loading, minimum concentrated loads, etc.*
 - h. *All additional loads and their points of application as applicable.*
- (7) *Adjustments to wood member and metal connector plate design value for conditions of use.*
 - (8) *Adjustments made to material strength due to load sharing.*
 - (9) *Connection requirements for truss ply to ply.*
 - (10) *Maximum factored reaction force and direction, including maximum factored uplift reaction forces where applicable.*
 - (11) *Maximum CSI on top chord, bottom chord and webs.*
 - (12) *Maximum unfactored reaction force and direction for each load type.*
 - (13) *Metal connector plate type, manufacturer, size, and thickness or gauge, and the dimensioned location of each metal connector plate except where symmetrically located relative to the joint interface.*
 - (14) *Size, species and grade for each wood member.*
 - (15) *Calculated maximum vertical and horizontal deflection for variable load and total load as applicable.*
 - (16) *Maximum axial tension and compression forces in the Truss members.*
 - (17) *Fabrication Tolerance used per Appendix G.*
 - (18) *Required Permanent Individual Truss Member Restraint location shall be shown for lateral bracing.*
Fastening of the lateral brace, T/I-brace, scab brace, L-brace shall be specified.
 - (19) *Drawing identification.*
 - (20) *Design equation used for combined bending and compression member design.*
 - (21) *Output error messages when design exceeds limits*

As far as information to install the trusses should be covered by a disclaimer note from the engineer that they are not responsible for installation something like this:

Bracing indicated is to prevent buckling of individual truss web and/or chord members only. Additional temporary and permanent bracing is always required for stability and to

prevent collapse with possible personal injury and property damage and referencing standard recommended installation guidelines.

Again, the only reference to installation in 9.23.14.11 (3) states that member bracing shall be installed as per the truss design drawings, and continuous lateral bracing shall be adequately anchored to the roof and ceiling diaphragms at intervals no greater than 6.10 m o.c. There is no further requirement for providing installation information in the code.

The third point covers when authenticated documents should be provided. They would not have to be provided at the permit stage, but rather as a condition of permit.

While this means that the builder would not require them until the inspection phase, manufacturer's will have to ensure that their internal processes ensure that they are produced prior to production or run the risk that the authenticated designs not match what they have produced.

Manufacturers must make it clear to their customers that there are consequences of making changes after the designs are authenticated.

Clarification Needed-Intent vs. Requirements

The WWTA has provided our feedback on the problematic wording including the use of "system" and that the interpretation is actually exceeding the code requirements.

Paula Elliott from Municipal Affairs responded, "Regarding the truss "system", we will take that into account when we review the feedback from the larger stakeholder group. I agree that this may seem confusing, but through the implementation we will aim to clarify the intent of what we need to accomplish."

Municipal Affairs is currently working on an educational guideline for AHJ's and we are supposed to see a plan for implementation prior to it being presented.

In the Feb 28 Notice of Implementation, the last line is:

Stakeholders that have questions or feedback about this topic should direct them to safety.services@gov.ab.ca

I would encourage you and your builders to provide their feedback as requested.

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 4074 in February 2025, a year-over-year increase of 10.32%. Canadian housing starts decreased by 17% over the same period. Edmonton came down 10% from last February, while Calgary was increased 43% from a strong number last year. Housing starts in Alberta were up from 3199 in the previous month of January.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Feb-25	Feb-24	% Change	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	% Change
Alberta	4074	3693	10.32%	7273	6622	9.83%
Edmonton	1478	1642	-9.99%	2689	2325	15.66%
Calgary	2407	1674	43.79%	4036	3625	11.34%
Red Deer	9	167	-94.61%	37	178	-79.21%
Grande Prairie	11	13	-15.38%	99	25	296.00%
Lethbridge	19	24	-20.83%	144	127	13.39%
Wood Buffalo	1	0	#DIV/0!	1	0	#DIV/0!
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	14459	17454	-17.16%	30389	32337	-6.02%

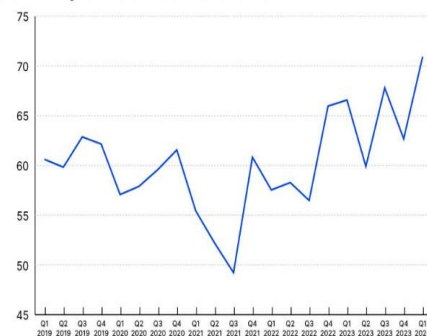
*Whitehorse Starts are for the quarter, statistics are not available monthly.

Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	FEB-25	FEB-24	YTD-25	YTD-24
Total	4,074	3,693	7,273	6,622
Single	1,137	989	2,116	1,804
Semi-detached	324	283	571	487
Row	555	508	1,174	894
Apartment	2,058	1,913	3,412	3,437

Housing starts in Alberta

Multi-family units as % of total units



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation/Statistics Canada Table 34-10-0135-01 and ATB Economics

Above are the housing starts by type in Alberta and the increase of % of multi-family starts going back to 2019, an increase of over 10%.

Playing catch up: Alberta housing starts rose in February

Rob Roach, ATB Economics

The pace of new home construction in Alberta stayed strong in February at almost 55K housing starts* (seasonally adjusted annual rate) compared to 46K in January. This was the 19th month in a row that starts were over 40K. They hit the highest level ever at almost 61K back in November.

Unlike the 18% jump seen in Alberta, month-over-month (m/m) starts in the rest of the country pulled back by 10%, with the numbers down in six of the ten provinces.

Over 90% of the starts in February were in either the Calgary (56%) or Edmonton CMA (35%).

Calgary's starts increased by 44% over the January total while Edmonton's grew at a more modest clip of 4%. Housing starts outside the two largest metros decreased by 26%.

Residential construction is expected to slow from the current pace but remain strong as it catches up to rapid population growth in the province.

[Tariff Uncertainty Keeping Home Buyers on the Sidelines](#)

Trade turbulence: Alberta's economy shifts to a slower gear.

Mark Parsons, ATB Economics

Alberta's economy was gaining momentum when escalating trade tensions significantly altered the economic landscape.

Released today, our new [Alberta Economic Outlook](#) forecasts a period of slower growth and an increased unemployment rate due to heightened uncertainty amid President Trump's tariff threats. Leading indicators on sentiment point to a pullback in business investment and consumer spending.

Alberta's real GDP is now forecast to grow by 1.5% in 2025 and 1.9% in 2026, with the unemployment rate averaging 7.6% this year. Despite the challenges, Alberta is projected to outperform the rest of Canada, which is expected to grow at only 0.6% this year.

Given the unprecedented level of policy uncertainty, the Outlook includes alternate economic scenarios: A pessimistic tariff scenario in which growth slows to only 0.5% in 2025 and 1.3% in 2026, and an optimistic tariff scenario in which growth picks up to 2.7% in 2025 and 2.4% in 2026.

Alberta's energy sector, supported by strong balance sheets and access to new Asian markets, is anticipated to continue expanding despite tariff headwinds. Tourism is also expected to be a bright spot, driven by a weaker Canadian dollar and increased domestic

travel. Continued gains from interprovincial migration will provide an uplift to housing and consumer spending.

The current trade environment has served as a wake-up call, highlighting the need to address long-standing economic challenges in Canada such as interprovincial trade barriers, getting major projects built, and diversification into new export markets.

While the trade war will undoubtedly cause economic strain, the Alberta economy has demonstrated resilience in the past and is expected to navigate through this period of uncertainty.

US Housing Starts Increase in February, While Permits and Completions Decline

On March 18, the US Census Bureau reported that privately-owned housing starts in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 1,501,000. This is 11.2% above the revised January estimate of 1,350,000 but 2.9% below the February 2024 rate of 1,546,000. Single-family housing starts were at a rate of 1,108,000; this is 11.4% above the revised January figure of 995,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 370,000.

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in February (the forward-looking portion of the report) were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,456,000. This is 1.2% below the revised January rate of 1,473,000 and 6.8% below the February 2024 rate of 1,563,000. Single-family authorizations were at a rate of 992,000; this is 0.2% below the revised January figure of 994,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 404,000.

Privately-owned housing completions in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,592,000. This is 4.0% below the revised January estimate of 1,659,000 and 6.2% below the February 2024 rate of 1,698,000. Single-family housing completions were at a rate of 1,066,000; this is 7.1% above the revised January rate of 995,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 512,000.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) reported that builder sentiment in the market for newly built single-family homes in March fell to a reading of 39, down 3 points from February and the lowest level in 7 months.

NAHB said that economic uncertainty, the threat of tariffs, and elevated construction costs pushed sentiment lower even as builders express hope that a better regulatory environment will lead to an improving business climate.

The March HMI survey also revealed that 29% of builders cut home prices in March, up from 26% in February. Meanwhile, the average price reduction was 5%, the same rate as the previous month. The use of sales incentives was 59%, also unchanged from February.

Two out of the three of the major HMI indices posted losses. Current sales conditions fell three points to a reading of 43, its lowest point since December 2023. The gauge charting traffic of prospective buyers dropped five points to 24, while the component measuring sales expectations in the next six months held steady at 47.

A recession is headed Canada's way and it's likely coming sooner than you think, says report

Canada could soon face a recession that would extend throughout the rest of the year as United States President Donald Trump's tariff war upends economies and global trade, according to a new analysis by Desjardins Group.

The financial services firm is calling for Canada's economy to contract 1.3 per cent in the second quarter, followed by two more consecutive contractions of 0.4 per cent and 0.3 per cent in the third and fourth quarters, respectively, with the economy rebounding "somewhat" at the start of 2026.

he definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

"U.S. economic policy is expected to hold back trade, investment, job creation, consumption and growth here in Canada," the report said.

In tandem with dimming economic prospects, the report expects the unemployment rate in Canada to rise to 7.4 per cent in the second quarter, from 6.6 per cent currently, topping out at eight per cent in the third quarter.

Desjardins is basing its estimates on Trump's policies that have been implemented thus far, including higher tariffs on Chinese imports, a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminum, 25 per cent tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico and 10 per cent on energy.

"Despite temporary exemptions on (Canada-United-States-Mexico-Agreement)-compliant goods, we can expect more protectionist measures to come." Desjardins said.

The firm thinks Trump will end those exemptions in April and also expand tariffs on other countries, with relief from the duties arriving in 2026 when levies on most products are reduced to 10 per cent from 25 per cent and to zero per cent from 10 per cent on energy.

But some damage has already been done.

The Bank of Canada in its January Monetary Policy Report said "the threat of tariffs is already affecting financial markets and business decisions."

The central bank's report modelled various tariff scenarios where the U.S. imposes 25 per cent tariffs and Canada responds in kind, and said that, in the baseline scenario, Canadian gross domestic product would decline 2.5 percentage points in the first year and 1.5 percentage points in the second year and come in flat in the third year.

Another Bank of Canada report on how businesses and households were reacting to trade tensions said people are planning to spend less because they are worried about their job security and financial health.

Workers in industries such as oil, mining, manufacturing and agriculture — considered highly sensitive to trade — were among the most concerned about their jobs.

That report, released March 12, also said businesses indicated they were planning to reduce their hiring and investment plans as well as increase their prices in response to tariffs.

Not surprisingly, inflation expectations are on the rise, the report said.

The latest consumer price index (CPI) data said inflation jumped 2.6 per cent in February, mostly due to the end of the GST/HST break. But there were also signs of rising core inflation, which strips out volatile items such as food and energy. Economists are expecting inflation to continue rising on the tariff threat.

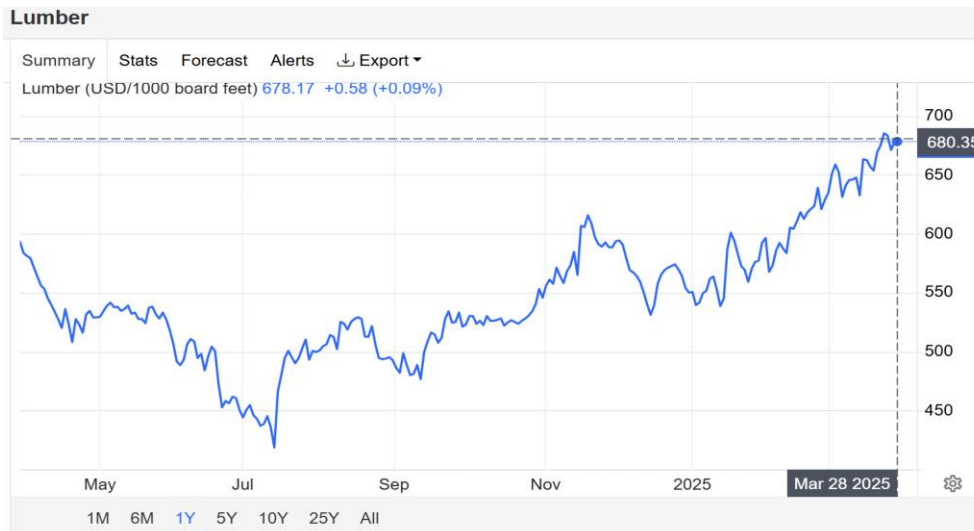
Other homegrown hurdles won't help Canada's economy much, either, Desjardins said, referring to "rapidly slowing population growth and an impending spike in mortgage renewals at higher interest rates."

[Trump cares about tariffs more](#)

[Trade turbulence: Alberta economy shifts to a slower gear](#)

Lumber

Lumber futures rose toward \$680 per thousand board feet, approaching a two-and-a-half-year high of \$685 seen on March 24th, driven largely by the looming threat of additional tariffs. Proposed increases could raise Canadian lumber duties from around 15% to nearly 40%, a critical factor given that Canada supplies roughly 25% of U.S. lumber—even as some production has migrated to the U.S. South. Meanwhile, year-over-year, the housing market reveals modest contractions, with housing starts declining by 3% compared to the previous year and new home sales exhibiting similar softness, even as existing home sales show relative stabilization. This backdrop of enduring supply constraints—exacerbated by transportation delays and inventory hoarding—combined with the persistent, albeit slightly subdued, demand in the construction sector, underscores a market environment where tariff-driven supply pressures support elevated lumber prices amid ongoing uncertainty.



Tariffs may accelerate Canadian lumber industry's southward shift, hunt for new markets

By Mrinalika Roy and Seher Dareen

(Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff threat could motivate more Canadian lumber producers to shift to the U.S. southern border while accelerating efforts to find new markets, industry experts said.

The levies are the latest in a nearly four-decade dispute between the neighbors over softwood lumber, used in construction, furniture and paper production.

Levies on Canadian lumber could hit 40% if current duties of 14.54%, and Trump's proposed 25% tariffs are added. Trump has paused tariffs on goods compliant with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement until April 2.

Washington has alleged that Canadian lumber products were subsidized and sold in the U.S. below fair market value. Canada has successfully challenged such duties under the dispute resolution provisions of multilateral trade agreements.

Canada supplies about a quarter of U.S. lumber, and over the past decade, several Canadian mills have moved their operations to the U.S. South, drawn by cheaper, abundant timber and its availability on private lands as opposed to Crown land, which employs stringent harvesting policies.

"Disparity in log costs and availability are the major drivers here, but Canadian investment in the region has certainly been partially motivated to moving operations

where they avoid the impact of duties," said Dustin Jalbert, senior economist, wood products, at commodity pricing agency FastMarkets.

Canfor, for instance, has been shuttering operations in British Columbia, citing challenges accessing economical fibre, losses, weak markets and U.S. tariffs.

About 70% of Canfor's lumber business is now outside Canada, while 80% of peer Weyerhaeuser's lumber manufacturing is now in the U.S., they said in their latest quarterly earnings calls.

Canfor, Weyerhaeuser and several Canadian companies declined to comment for this story.

"In 2004, there were only two sawmills owned by a Canadian manufacturer. Today, we have more than 50," said Kyle Little, chief operating officer at New York-based Sherwood Lumber, which supplies over 2,000 U.S. lumber yards and manufacturers.

"Canadian companies now produce more than a third of the volume of the largest producing region in the U.S. - the U.S. South."

The U.S. South surpassed Canada in softwood lumber capacity in 2022 and will continue to expand this decade, FastMarkets said.

British Columbia's dwindling output, which has halved since 2017, is dragging Canada's market share.

"For years, producers have opted to open mills in the U.S. South due to challenges in Canada," and the tariffs could expedite this, said Morningstar analyst Spencer Liberman.

ALTERNATE MARKETS

British Columbia could start redirecting supplies to Asia Pacific to avoid tariffs, said BC Lumber Trade Council President Kurt Niquidet.

However, this will be challenging as Canadian sawmills are set up to mainly cater to the U.S. housing industry.

"Our alternatives around the globe are somewhat maximized already," said Sean Steede, vice president, sales & marketing at Vancouver-based building materials company Interex Forest Products.

LUMBER PAIN

The disruptions mean pain for both companies and customers.

"Even under modest growth scenarios, it's probably closer to a decade to replace Canadian supply completely (in the U.S)," Jalbert said, flagging more short-term financial pain for the industry facing multiple challenges.

Lumber futures scaled a two-and-a-half-year peak above \$650 per thousand board feet in March.

Prices could reach \$765 within weeks or months after tariff implementation, pushing the cost of a medium house to more than \$10,000, said Hispanic Construction Council CEO George Carrillo.

[why federal timber wont solve the us lumber shortage](#)

Quality Control

Are You Counting Teeth Correctly?

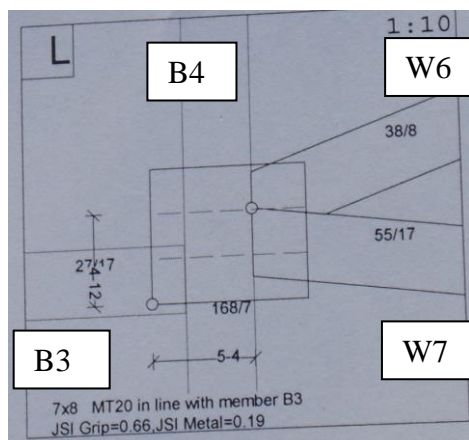
On occasion you may be required to do a tooth count on a plated joint, usually due to a lumber defect under the plate.

In order to do this, you need the joint detail as it is the only place that you will be able to find the minimum number of effective teeth required. Otherwise, you have to assume that they are all required.

G.4.1.2.1 in TPIC 2019 states that when plating on the wide face, except for heel joints located within 12.7 mm (1/2") end and for 6.4 mm (1/4") edge distances of the lumber are considered to be ineffective when the design is based upon the net area method.

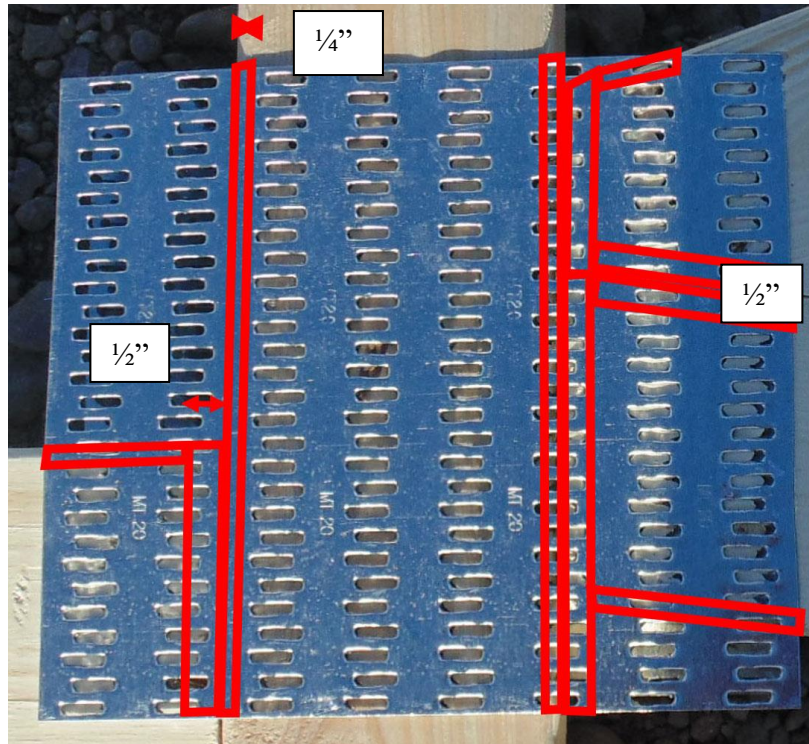
So, although the lumber joints may be extremely tight teeth withing these areas are not considered effective.

Let's take a look at the following joint detail L in a roof truss.

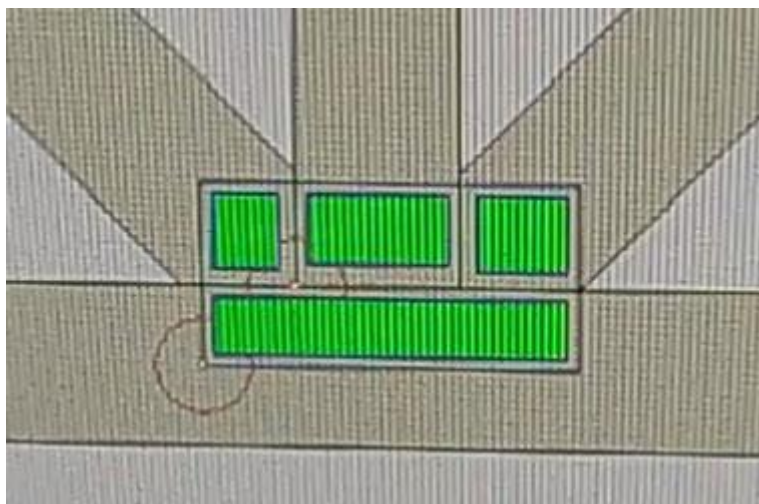


Min effective teeth into:

B3-17
B4-7
W6-8
W7-17



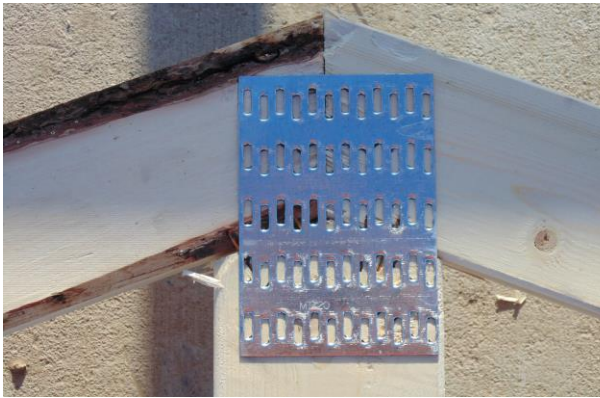
In the actual joint if you are counting teeth you can't count any teeth within the red areas which are $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the edge of the lumber and $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the end cut of the lumber. The edge is only the natural edge of the lumber, any cuts are considered the end of the lumber.



Blow up of a joint detail showing where effective teeth are considered on the lumber.

What about if I only have a lumber defect on one face of the lumber? Can I use the average from both sides to make up my tooth count?

For lumber on edge or flat G 4.1.4.1 and G.4.1.4.2 states that the average number of effective teeth for both sides of the joint in any member shall never be less than the required number of teeth specified on the shop drawing. When averaging the effective teeth on both sides **no one side shall have less than 85%** of the specified effective teeth required.



If 26 teeth were required in the left top chord but there were only 20 due to the wane and all 26 were on the bottom side this joint would **not pass** as $20/26=77\%$. Although there is a total of $46/52$ or 88%

Health and Safety Toolbox

Preventing Injuries from Standing on Concrete Floors

Standing for long hours on hard surfaces like concrete can lead to various musculoskeletal and circulatory problems. Here are some best practices to minimize health risks and improve workplace ergonomics. You should review your Hazard Assessments and ensure that this hazard is included where applicable.

Hazard Assessment for Standing on Concrete Floors

Hazard Description: Prolonged standing on concrete surfaces can cause musculoskeletal disorders, fatigue, and circulatory issues, increasing the risk of workplace injuries and chronic health problems.

Potential Risks:

- Foot Injuries: Plantar fasciitis, flat feet, blisters, and calluses.
- Joint and Muscle Strain: Knee pain, shin splints, hip discomfort, and lower back strain.
- Circulatory Issues: Swelling, varicose veins, and increased risk of blood clots.

- **Fatigue and Postural Problems:** Spinal misalignment, poor posture, and exhaustion, leading to reduced productivity and concentration.

Risk Level: Moderate to High (depending on duration and workplace conditions).

Control Measures:

- **Engineering Controls:** Install anti-fatigue mats, adjust workstation height, and provide ergonomic flooring solutions.
- **Administrative Controls:** Implement job rotation, scheduled breaks, and workplace stretching programs.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Provide supportive footwear, orthotic inserts, and compression socks to employees.



Prevention Strategies

A. Proper Footwear

- Wear cushioned, supportive shoes with arch support.
- Use insoles or orthopedic inserts for additional comfort.
- Replace worn-out shoes regularly to maintain support.

B. Anti-Fatigue Mats

- Place rubber or foam mats in work areas to reduce pressure on feet and joints.
- Ensure mats are non-slip and appropriately sized for workstations.

C. Regular Movement & Stretching

- Shift positions frequently and avoid standing in one place for long periods.
- Take short walking breaks every 30-60 minutes.
- Perform calf, hamstring, and lower back stretches before and after shifts.



D. Ergonomic Workstation Adjustments

- Adjust work surfaces to proper height to prevent excessive bending or reaching.
- Use footrests or raised platforms when possible to reduce strain.
- Encourage the use of sit-stand stools for alternating between sitting and standing.

E. Hydration and Nutrition

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day to improve circulation.
- Maintain a balanced diet rich in anti-inflammatory foods to support joint health.

Employer Responsibilities

- Provide employees with appropriate safety equipment (footwear allowances, mats, etc.).
- Schedule regular breaks and encourage movement.
- Conduct ergonomic assessments to improve workplace design.

Employee Responsibilities

- Follow footwear and movement recommendations.
- Report any discomfort or injuries related to prolonged standing.
- Participate in stretching and ergonomic training programs.

By implementing these strategies, employers and employees can reduce the health risks associated with standing on concrete floors, improving workplace safety and overall well-being.

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

WWTA AGM and Conference April 3 Deerfoot Inn and Casino

Our meeting is coming up quickly and if you have not yet registered there is still time. The registration form is on the WWTA webpage

[WWTA registration form](#)

Thursday April 3, 2025

12:00	Registration and Light Lunch	
12:45	Welcome Introductions	Dave Pasolli
1:00	Home Builders Panel Discussion	Chris Richer Ryan Erickson Mike Cole
2:15	Alberta Economy	Rob Roach ATB
2:45	Break	
3:00	Cybercrime	Cst. Oxana Gulaya Cst. Roberto Artiga Calgary Police Service
3:30	Woodsure Insurance & Risk Management	Connie Rowley/Colin Baker Axis Insurance/
4:00	WWTA Update STANDATA and Quality Control	Dave Pasolli
4:30-5:00	WWTA AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Call the Meeting to Order • Approve the Agenda • Approve the Minutes from the 2025 AGM • Review the 2024 Financial Statement • Determine the Plate Levy for 2025 • Set the Associate Membership Fee for 2025 • Election of the Board of Directors • Appoint the Chartered Accountant for 2025 	Derek Foss
5:00	Cash Bar & Malcolm Russel Strolling Magic	
6:00	Buffet Dinner	

The WWTA is seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to serve on our Board of Directors. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of our organization by shaping policies and championing service initiatives that benefit our members and the broader community.

Serving on the Board allows you to play a key role in:

- **Shaping Organizational Policies:** Help develop strategic policies that drive efficiency, innovation, and long-term success.
- **Advancing Service Initiatives:** Work collaboratively to create programs that benefit our members and promote community engagement.
- **Strengthening Governance:** Ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership in decision-making.
- **Expanding Your Impact:** Use your skills and experience to influence the direction of our association in meaningful ways.

We encourage members with a passion for leadership, governance, and service to apply. Ideal candidates should have:

- A strong commitment to the mission and values of the association.
- Experience or interest in policy development and strategic planning.
- A collaborative mindset and willingness to engage with members and stakeholders.

Cut the Callbacks: Designing Efficient EWP Floor Systems for Maximum Performance

The Canadian Wood Council is doing a webinar on designing EWP floor systems.

This session provides a thorough exploration of the key factors affecting floor system performance. Participants will gain insights into how to identify and address these factors through effective design strategies that can be used to produce engineered wood floor systems with exceptional reliability and long-lasting performance.

Cut the Callbacks: Designing Efficient EWP Floor Systems for Maximum Performance

Date: April 9th, 2025

Time: 1 p.m. (EST)

Duration: 75 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify key factors that influence floor system performance.
- Analyze how these factors impact the performance and durability of floor systems.
- Apply effective design strategies to overcome floor system performance challenges and improve reliability.
- Ensure consistent results and long-term floor system performance.

[Register Now](#)



Daniel S. Millar
Principal

“Do you have concerns about your employee benefits program getting hit by large cost Prescription drugs?”

Have you experienced increasing Health Care premiums with no end in site?

Looking for a solution that works and gives tremendous financial relief? (without decreasing benefits for your team members)

Contact an expert who can help”.

[Get The Solution Here](#)

[Top 5 fraud risks of 2025](#)

CMHC Puts out Housing Design Catalogue

Ottawa, Ontario, March 7, 2025 — Today, the federal government released the final renderings, floor plan layouts, and key building details as part of the Housing Design Catalogue, an initiative under Canada’s Housing Plan. The catalogue features some 50 standardized housing designs for rowhouses, fourplexes, sixplexes, and accessory dwelling units across the country.

[Housing Designs for Alberta](#)

Upon my initial look it certainly fits into the blanket rezoning plan of the City of Calgary. 3 of the designs for Alberta are for fitting multi-family housing on an old single family lot.



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?

SBCA Membership for WWTA Members

If you are interested in SBCA membership they have created a new limited membership for Canadian Manufacturers that are members of the Canadian Wood Truss Association.

It includes:

1. Free access to Digital Q.C. (currently available for any Canadian MiTek users)
2. Member pricing on SBCA publications
3. Member pricing for BC MC

If your company's annual total sales volume for structural building components is \$5 million USD or more your cost is \$1800 USD. If your total sales volume is \$1-5 million your cost is \$984 USD, and if you sales volume is less than \$1 million, your cost is \$516 USD.

In order to get the pricing, you must be a member of a provincial truss association like the WWTA.

No GST on New Homes from both the Liberals and Conservatives

As of March 26, 2025, the Canadian government has announced the elimination of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for first-time homebuyers purchasing new or substantially renovated homes under \$1 million, potentially saving them up to \$50,000.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre upped the ante on his signature housing proposal on Tuesday, promising to get rid of the GST on new homes sold for up to \$1.3 million if he wins next month's federal election. "Only months ago, Liberals voted unanimously against my idea of taking the GST off new homes," tweeted Poilievre shortly after Carney's housing announcement.