

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

**IMPORTANT MEETING SEPT. 19!**

Ever since October 17, 2022 when Municipal Affairs gave a presentation to the Alberta Building Officials of Alberta advising them that STANDATA 19-BCI-023 should be interpreted as requiring authentication for manufactured components including roof trusses based on guidelines produced by APEGA it has been a bumpy ride.

Due to the unintended consequences of this interpretation that led to 19-BCI-023 being withdrawn with [19-BCB-009 Withdrawal of STANDATA 19-BCI-023 Manufactured engineered components](#) we have been working on this issue for coming on 3 years.

Municipal Affairs have finally settled on what they believe to be a correct interpretation of the building code with [23-BCI-015R1 Design of wood trusses for roof assemblies in Part 9 buildings](#).

**A notice on the STANDATA interpretation was published August 26.**

[Notice 23-BCI-015R1 Design of wood trusses for roof assemblies in Part 9 buildings implementation](#)

The intent was to make it clearer to Municipalities how to implement requirements going forward with 2 STANDATA's in place which was causing some confusion.

The interpretation is the same as the WWTA has been using prior which is:

BCB-002R1 gives an exemption to 1-2 family Part 9 buildings until it is archived in 6 months (spring of 2026). We asked for a specific date, but this is the closest we could get them to say. AHJ's have some flexibility on when they implement things like this.

So, the current situation is that if the building is Part 9 other than 1-2 family dwellings they will be asking for authentication as per 23-BCI-015R1. It states that documents (placement plans) may not require authentication where the design information is contained on other documents (truss profile diagrams).

**Municipal Affairs (Paul Chang) is going to give a 1 hr. presentation to WWTA members on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am mtn time.**

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 222 653 249 883 1

Passcode: ZG6s64Xy

He is also giving a presentation through the Safety Codes Council to Safety Codes Officers Sept. 5.

**Paul has asked that if we have any questions that we can submit them to him prior to the presentation so that he could ensure that he has a response. I feel it would be better if we could get him the questions before his meeting with SCO's on Sept. 5, so if you would like to submit them to me by Sept 2, I will get them to Paul.**

Although there may still be some ability to tweak requirements the reality is that AHJ's are going to be requiring sealed truss profiles for all Part 9 trusses in the spring of 2026 so our industry must be prepared for that.

BILD Alberta has been involved in the development of the requirements and accepts them on behalf of their members, although I am sure that there will still be some opposed to more regulation and red tape.

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In last month's newsletter I did an article on the importance of ensuring that your customers are aware of the upcoming changes to ensure that they are not caught by surprise, but I thought I would expand upon it.

### **Pricing Strategies for Wood Truss Manufacturers: À la Carte vs. All-Inclusive**

Whenever that annoying Trivago ad comes on advertising that they have the solution for getting the same hotel at the lowest price, and as someone who books a fair number of hotels, I always think that it all depends on what is included in the price.

Quite often one site will include the taxes and fees while the lower one will list them as an extra for instance. Sometimes breakfast is included in one but not the other, etc.

This is also relevant to the Wood Truss industry, especially when additional costs are going to be incurred for a requirement such as authentication truss designs.

One of the biggest challenges in the wood truss industry is deciding **how to price your product and services**. Should you present your customers with a straightforward, all-in-one package price, or should you break it down into optional add-ons that customers can choose from? Both approaches—**à la carte pricing** and **all-inclusive pricing**—have advantages and risks.

Understanding these models can help truss manufacturers position themselves more competitively while also protecting their margins.

### **The À la Carte Pricing System**

Under the **à la carte system**, the base price covers only the trusses themselves. Additional services are offered separately.

#### **Examples of add-on services might include:**

- Engineering seals on truss drawings
- Delivery charges (based on distance or load size)
- Jobsite unloading (e.g., boom truck placement vs. curbside drop)
- Temporary bracing packages
- Shop drawings for permitting
- Hanger hardware or installation accessories

#### **Advantages:**

- Customers see a lower base price, which can be appealing in competitive bidding.
- Allows flexibility for builders who want to minimize costs by taking on tasks themselves.
- Provides transparency—customers know exactly what they are paying for.

#### **Challenges:**

- Can create confusion or frustration if customers assume certain items are included.
- May require more detailed quoting and sales explanations.
- Risk of appearing to “nickel and dime” customers.

### **The All-Inclusive Pricing System**

With the **all-inclusive model**, the truss package includes all common services in a single price. For example: delivery, engineering seal, bracing details, and hardware might all be bundled automatically.

#### **Advantages:**

- Simpler and faster quoting—customers see one number.
- Easier to compare against competitors who also use all-in pricing.
- Fewer disputes—everything is included up front.
- Often preferred by general contractors who want turnkey simplicity.

### Challenges:

- Base price may appear higher, potentially pricing you out of very cost-sensitive bids.
- Customers who don't need certain services (e.g., local pickup or self-supplied hardware) may feel they are paying for extras.
- Less flexibility in tailoring packages for different project sizes.

### Finding the Right Approach

Many truss manufacturers find success with a **hybrid strategy**:

- Offer an **all-inclusive package** as the standard option for simplicity.
- Provide a **detailed breakout** so customers understand what is included.
- Allow customers to “opt out” of certain services for credit (a reverse à la carte model).

For example, a quote could be presented as:

#### Base Package (All-Inclusive):

- Engineered sealed drawings
- Delivery within 100 km
- Jobsite unloading
- Bracing details and hardware kit

#### Optional Adjustments:

- Deduct for customer pickup (-\$X)
- Deduct if engineering seal not required (-\$X)
- Additional charge for extended delivery (+\$X per km)

This approach balances transparency with simplicity, giving customers confidence while still protecting manufacturer margins.

Choosing between **à la carte** and **all-inclusive pricing** is less about which is “better” and more about what aligns with your **customers' expectations** and your **business strategy**.

- **À la carte** works best when customers want flexibility and control over costs.
- **All-inclusive** works best when customers value simplicity, predictability, and service.

For many truss manufacturers, offering both in a clear, structured way may be the best way forward.

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](mailto:dave@wwta.ab.ca)

## Economic Update

### Housing Starts

In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 4392 in July 2025, a year-over-year increase of 2%. Canadian housing starts increased by 3.85% over the same period. Edmonton was up 36% from last July, while Calgary was decreased by 24% from a last year. Housing starts in Alberta were down from 5363 the previous month of June.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Jul-25	Jul-24	% Change	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	% Change
Alberta	4392	4302	2.09%	32292	25811	25.11%
Edmonton	2191	1608	36.26%	13059	10056	29.86%
Calgary	1889	2471	-23.55%	16601	13649	21.63%
Red Deer	13	16	-18.75%	297	294	1.02%
Grande Prairie	27	11	145.45%	262	122	114.75%
Lethbridge	49	12	308.33%	412	301	36.88%
Wood Buffalo	5	1	400.00%	19	13	46.15%
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	23464	22610	3.78%	137833	132861	3.74%

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

### Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	JUL-25	JUL-24	YTD-25	YTD-24
Total	4,392	4,302	32,292	25,811
Single	1,413	1,461	9,205	8,410
Semi-detached	430	377	2,489	2,169
Row	562	486	4,411	3,453
Apartment	1,987	1,978	16,187	11,779

### **Still in high gear: Housing starts in Alberta**

*Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS | August 18, 2025*

Driven by multi-unit projects, the streak of strong housing starts in Alberta continued in July.

The number of housing starts in Alberta came in at 52,171 in July (seasonally adjusted annual rate)—32% higher than the five-year average. The July pace is down from the all-time record of 69,085 set in May, but starts were still over 50K for the sixth month in a row.

The year-to-date (YTD) figure was 27% higher than the same seven months last year. About half of the starts have been in Calgary and 39% in Edmonton. Multi-unit starts were up by 33% versus 12% for single-detached homes.\*

Alberta's rapid pace of new home construction is taking place despite moderating (but still strong) population growth as homebuilders continue to play catch-up with past population spikes.

According to our latest estimate, the province is on track to build a record 55,000 new homes this year followed by around 49,000 in 2026. The current annual record was set in 2006 at just under 50K.

Both of Alberta's two largest population centres saw starts slow in July by about 18%. Edmonton's pace of new construction was, however, 33% higher YTD. In Calgary, the difference was smaller, but still positive, at +22%.

Nationally, YTD starts were up in July by 3%. Note that most of this is due to Alberta with starts falling by 2.3% in the rest of the country.

### **Sharing walls: Multi-family construction still on the rise in Alberta**

According to the permits issued in the second quarter, the number of single-detached homes to be created was 11% lower than in Q1 whereas the number of planned units in multi-dwelling projects was up by 3%.

The emphasis on multi-dwelling projects is even more evident in the year-to-date tally with the number of units in multi-dwelling buildings up by 25% over the first half of the year compared to 9% for single-detached homes.

Of the 30,606 units for which permits were issued between January and July, 73% (22,398) were in multi-family developments.

## **Inflation**

In Alberta, the annual inflation rate fell to its lowest level since February 2021, coming in at 1.3%. This is an energy price story, with an even larger drop than seen nationally in gasoline and natural gas prices pushing down the headline rate. Excluding energy and food costs (yet another core measure), inflation was 2.6% in Alberta vs 2.5% nationally.

## **Benchmark home prices in Calgary and Edmonton**

Given a [housing starts](#) hot streak stretching back two years, slower (albeit still strong) population growth, and the uncertainty generated by tariffs, it's not surprising to see prices in Alberta's resale housing market starting to taper.

Looking at recent price trends in the two Alberta markets for which benchmark home prices are available: Calgary and Edmonton.

### ***Calgary***

In the 25 months from December 2022 to December 2024, the benchmark price in Calgary increased 24 times.

Things have, however, been going in the other direction so far this year with the price falling every month since January. As a result, July's benchmark price of \$571,300 was 2% lower than the year before. This works out to a drop of \$10,200.

Although the downward trajectory of prices is not welcome news for sellers, it is a relatively modest decline rather than a major correction.

### ***Edmonton***

Edmonton's month-over-month streak of price growth started a little later than Calgary's with the benchmark price rising in 22 of the 23 months from May 2023 to March 2025.

As in Calgary, prices have started to ease with the benchmark pulling back every month this year since April.

Despite the recent slippage, at \$414,500, the benchmark price in Edmonton was still 6% higher in July 2025 than in July 2024 for an increase of \$21,800.

Similar to Calgary, the recent pullback in prices has not been precipitous, but it does point to greater balance in the market.

[Parliamentary Budget Officer says 3.2 million new homes needed to close housing gap | CKPG Today](#)

## **US New Residential Construction**

August 19, 2025 - The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly announced the following new residential construction statistics for July 2025:

### **Building Permits**

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,354,000. This is 2.8 percent below the revised June rate of 1,393,000 and is 5.7 percent below the July 2024 rate of 1,436,000. Single-family authorizations in July were at a rate of 870,000; this is 0.5 percent above the revised June figure of 866,000. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 430,000 in July.

### **Housing Starts**

Privately-owned housing starts in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,428,000. This is 5.2 percent ( $\pm 14.7$  percent)\* above the revised June estimate of 1,358,000 and is 12.9 percent ( $\pm 13.6$  percent)\* above the July 2024 rate of 1,265,000. Single-family housing starts in July were at a rate of 939,000; this is 2.8 percent ( $\pm 11.8$  percent)\* above the revised June figure of 913,000. The July rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 470,000.

### **Housing Completions**

Privately-owned housing completions in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,415,000. This is 6.0 percent ( $\pm 13.5$  percent)\* above the revised June estimate of 1,335,000, but is 13.5 percent ( $\pm 10.8$  percent) below the July 2024 rate of 1,635,000. Single-family housing completions in July were at a rate of 1,022,000; this is 11.6 percent ( $\pm 14.6$  percent)\* above the revised June rate of 916,000. The July rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 385,000.

## **Lumber**

Lumber futures have slid toward \$580 per thousand board feet, their weakest since mid May, as softer demand, rising inventories and trade frictions shifted the market decisively toward sellers. US building permits in July fell to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of roughly 1.35 million, the lowest since June 2020, while the 30-year fixed mortgage sits in the mid six percent range, constraining homebuying and delaying starts that would absorb excess stock. On the supply side mills and distributors that curtailed output earlier have restarted or cleared backlogs and Statistics Canada shows production and shipments recovering into mid 2025, leaving available stocks elevated and blunting any rebound. Higher US duties on Canadian softwood have rerouted flows, raised transaction costs and

encouraged sellers to move inventory into thinner markets rather than tighten domestic supply, reinforcing downward pressure on prices.



[Trump says imports of wood products may pose national security threat to U.S. — raising fears in B.C. | CBC News](#)

## Tariff News

### Canada to Remove Tariffs on CUSMA Qualifying Goods

On August 22, 2025, the Canadian Government announced its intention to remove tariffs on US goods that are covered by the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) on **September 1st, 2025**.

Notably, Canada will maintain its tariffs on steel, aluminum, and automobiles, which currently sit at 25%.

The full statement from the Office of the Prime Minister regarding the rationale behind this decision can be found [here](#).

[Federal Register :: Certain Softwood Lumber Products From Canada: Final Results and Rescission, in Part, of the Countervailing Duty Administrative Review; 2023](#)

[Dropping Retaliatory Tariffs Puts Ottawa In A Better Negotiating Spot: LeBlanc - Canadian Manufacturing](#)

[Carney's lumber aid inflames subsidy allegations | Financial Post](#)

[BC Lumber Trade Council calls for resolution to softwood lumber dispute | Woodworking Network](#)

## Quality Control

### End Vertical Web Splitting

If you build trusses with wide web bearing, I am sure that you have run into this situation where the lumber completely splits when pressing. These joints usually have large plates on them and are not fun to replace on a large truss after the finishing roller.

While it may appear minor in the plant, this defect can compromise the truss's load transfer capacity and lead to callbacks, costly repairs, and potential liability.



### Why End These Webs Split

- **Improper fastener placement:** Nails or staples driven too close to the end of the block can initiate cracks.
- **Incorrect moisture content:** Lumber that is too dry or too wet is more prone to splitting under fastening or load.
- **Cupping of the lumber:** Lumber that is cupped will split when pressed
- **Existing splits, checks or shakes:** Quite often wide lumber will already have existing checks or shakes especially near the end of the board.
- **Plates ending at the center of the vertical block:** tends to split the wood, especially when the wood is 24" or shorter in length.
- **The grain pattern of the lumber:** how the board is cut relative to the growth rings and the pith will make it prone to splitting.
- **Slope of grain:** if the lumber has excessive slope of grain it may not be able to transfer the load adequately. Slope of grain is when the wood fibers angle across the lumber instead of running parallel to it.

## Quality Control Measures

### Material Selection

- Be picky in the lumber you pick for these members, try to pick pieces with no defects.
- Avoid using blocks with pre-existing checks, splits, or shakes.
- Avoid using the first couple of feet of the board as it will tend to be drier and have splits.
- Cut extra pieces and only use the most stable.
- Do not use any lumber that is already cupped.

### Moisture Control

- Verify that the lumber is between 12-19% moisture content.
- Store lumber for these blocks inside so that they are not prone to drying and rewetting.

### Fastener Placement

- The theory is that blocks are more prone to splitting if the end of the plate is close to the center of the lumber.
- Avoid using nails or staples near the end of the block.
- It is recommended that the plates cover 75% of the block width at both ends of the block.

*Install plates so that they cover 75% of the width of the block*



**It is expected that TPIC 2019 will create a requirement for plate coverage of 75% of the block.**

### Pressing the Plates

- Ensure that your roller is not over pressing the plates, they should not be fully embedded until going through the finishing roller.
- If you have to remove a block it is easier to do it before the plates are fully pressed.

### Inspection and Verification

- Track recurring splitting issues and identify whether they stem from lumber quality, cutting, or fastening practices.

Preventing end web block splitting is not only about workmanship but also about a **systematic QC process**—covering material selection, correct installation, and inspection. By addressing this issue proactively, truss manufacturers reduce warranty claims, maintain structural reliability, and protect their reputation in the marketplace.

## Health and Safety Toolbox

### Using ChatGPT to Build a Stronger Health & Safety Program in Your Truss Plant

Creating and maintaining an effective health and safety program is essential for every metal plate connected wood truss manufacturing plant. Under **Alberta OHS legislation**, employers are required to assess hazards, implement controls, and communicate them to workers. While many plants already have safety policies in place, keeping them current, detailed, and accessible can be a challenge. That's where ChatGPT can be a valuable tool.

ChatGPT can help truss fabricators and managers quickly generate draft documents such as safe work practices, hazard assessments, toolbox talks, and training materials. It doesn't replace your safety professional or regulatory compliance obligations, but it can save time, provide structure, and help identify hazards you might overlook.

Following is an example of what ChatGPT came up with:

#### **A Practical Example: Hazard Assessment & Controls for Truss Fabricators**

Truss fabricators face unique risks related to saws, presses, heavy lifting, and handling sharp metal connector plates. ChatGPT can assist by drafting a hazard assessment with **risk rankings and controls that follow Alberta's hierarchy of controls**.

## Sample Hazard Assessment (Fabricator – Truss Assembly Area):

**Task:** Handling and assembling lumber with metal connector plates.

Hazard	Probability (1–5)	Severity (1–5)	Risk Score (PxS)	Risk Level	Controls (Alberta OHS Hierarchy)
Cuts and punctures from sharp connector plate teeth	4	3	12	High	<b>Engineering:</b> Plate press guards; <b>Administrative:</b> Safe handling training; <b>PPE:</b> Cut-resistant gloves, safety glasses
Pinch points when pressing plates	3	4	12	High	<b>Engineering:</b> Two-hand press controls, guarding; <b>Administrative:</b> Lockout/tagout procedures, operator training
Muscle strain from lifting/moving truss components	4	2	8	Medium	<b>Engineering:</b> Mechanical assists, roller tables; <b>Administrative:</b> Buddy system, ergonomic training
Slips, trips, and falls from lumber, offcuts, or sawdust	3	3	9	Medium	<b>Engineering:</b> Anti-slip flooring; <b>Administrative:</b> Housekeeping program, clear walkways
Noise exposure from saws and presses	5	2	10	Medium	<b>Engineering:</b> Install noise dampening where possible; <b>Administrative:</b> Rotate tasks; <b>PPE:</b> Hearing protection

### Risk Ranking Guide:

- 1–5 = **Low** (monitor, simple controls may suffice)
- 6–10 = **Medium** (controls required, monitor regularly)
- 11–25 = **High** (immediate controls required, top priority)

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### Alberta OHS Compliance Reminder

- **Employer duty:** Ensure a hazard assessment is completed, documented, and reviewed regularly (OHS Code, Part 2).
  - **Worker participation:** Workers must be involved in identifying and controlling hazards.
  - **Communication:** Employers must inform workers of the hazards and controls before they start work.
  - **Hierarchy of controls:** Always attempt elimination or engineering solutions first, before relying solely on PPE.
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## Why This Matters

By using ChatGPT, truss plants can:

- **Save time** on drafting safety documents
- **Support compliance** with Alberta OHS Act, Regulation, and Code
- **Engage workers** with clearer, easier-to-understand hazard assessments
- **Prioritize risks** with severity and probability scoring

Health and safety is about prevention. A clear, well-structured hazard assessment—developed with worker input and compliant with Alberta OHS—forms the foundation of a safe and productive truss plant. ChatGPT can't replace your safety leadership, but it can be a practical tool to help you meet both compliance and safety goals.

Having used ChatGPT for several things including this article the thing that I have found is that you must be as specific as possible and keep giving it more detail until you get something that you can work with. I believe that it is extremely important that you don't just take what it spits out but use it as a resource so that you don't have to start from scratch or try to adapt other documents that are not relevant to your company.

Give it a try the next time you are staring at a blank piece of paper, it's pretty cool.

Here is a link to the Alberta Hazard Assessment and Control handbook to refer to:

[Hazard Assessment and Control: a handbook for employers and workers](#)

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 Update Correction

If you were reading the TPIC update in the July newsletter and thought that you had read it before it is because you had. I pasted the wrong report in the newsletter.

Although nobody called to inform me of my mistake.

Anyway, here is the latest report from your representative David Klassen, P. Eng.

### TPIC Technical Committee Meeting

May 1 & 2, 2025

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

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1. Codes and Standards

a. **Canadian Standards Association**

- i. **CSA S347 (TRUSS PLATES):** requires plates being tested have a yield strength of 50 MPa. This is the minimum required strength for connector plates however most source steel is 67 – 68 MPa. The testing requirements may need to be amended to accommodate the steel commonly used. This will affect the intention to reopen CSA S347 to test single pass roller reductions on floor trusses. The reduction was originally intended for a roof truss gantry and appears too conservative for floor trusses. The cost for re-opening S347 will be investigated.
- ii. **CSA S349 (TRUSS QC):** was recertified for 2025 and is now referenced in CSAO86-24.
- iii. **CSA O86 (WOOD DESIGN):** New updated design values for Hem-Fir (N) became effective April 1, 2025. It was noted that plate grip values of SPF should be acceptable for Hem-Fir. Planning to add a 5<sup>th</sup> species group consisting of Norway Spruce, Eastern Hemlock, Tamarack, Yellow Cedars and some others.

b. **National Building Code:** NBCC 2025 is scheduled to be published in December 2025

c. **Canadian Wood Truss Association:** The national QC standard has been updated to try to align contents to regional associations current practices and procedures. Also removed outdated contents and update to better reflect Appendix G and align with CSA-S349.

2. Regional Association Reports

- a. Primary focus is implementing QC programs.
- b. ON - approaching building departments and AHJ's to lobby for removal of seal requirement for EWP covered by CCMC reports.
- c. MB/SK – The Manitoba authorities are increasing pressure for engineer involvement on joist and truss design in Part 9 homes.

3. Task Group Projects

- a. **Group Tear-Out:** The objective of this task group is to investigate both wide face and narrow face group tear out parallel-to-grain with the plate. This will include reviewing ANSI/TPI for existing methods and provisions on 3x2 and 4x2 Sawn lumber and SCL. TPIC will focus on Lumber and approach SCL companies again on interest to plate testing with the respective SCL products.

- b. **Splicing:** The objective of this task group is to investigate steel capacity at splice location and review vertical shear applied to the splice when point loads are located close to the panel points (i.e. interaction between shear and tension). This will include a review of moment splicing with aim to derive more accurate design procedures.
- c. **Web Bracing:** The objective of this task group is to replace Appendix C (T-Brace), by researching current design methodologies for T, L, I and scab bracing and recommend ways to incorporate into CSAO86 and TPIC. Considerations include introducing limits when utilizing CLB or other reinforcing methods on short compression webs to prevent out-of-plane buckling since it is not effective. Will also review the potential of using built-up column provisions for designing compression members (i.e. webs) of multi-ply trusses. These design provisions are targeted for bracing criteria in TPIC2029.
- d. **Compression Perpendicular to Grain at Joints:** The objective of this task group is to review the impact of compression perp-to-grain forces in K-Web joints and similar pass-through joint applications. It was noted that there is a code change proposal in US for calculating compression capacity of plates. We intend to develop commentary material and design provision for TPIC2029.
- e. **Plate in Breeze:** The objective of this task group is to research background info from ANSI/TPI and any other research materials for shear buckling capacity of unsupported plates at joints. The goal will be to develop design provisions for introduction in TPIC2029.
- f. **Design Roles & Responsibilities:** The objective of this task group is to review current roles and responsibilities in the TPIC Manual and assess if any changes are required to ensure clarity. This will include a review of ANSI/TPI for additional information, plus consideration of OIQ and other engineering regulatory requirements. This information will be included in an update for TPIC 2019.
- g. **Top Chord Bearing Floor Trusses:** The objective of this task group is to consider revising detail 5 and 8 of Figure E.2 to include a single diagonal web at the bearing instead of double diagonal webs. Proposed changes are targeted for TPIC2029. Part 1 of this task is to review existing proprietary testing materials and evaluate if prescriptive values can be proposed for these 2 details. Part 2 of this task is to review ANSI/TPI and see if the data and modelling can match and be Canadianized and to develop an analytical methodology for all TPIC top chord bearing details. It was noted that the US has both prescriptive values and analytical approaches.
- h. **End Grain Bearing Reinforcement for Splitting:** The objective of this task group is to investigate issues with splitting of end-grain-bearing webs when pressing trusses. This will include a review of plate coverage ratios to minimize splitting for flat bottom chords as well as plate alignment and rotation requirements for sloped bottom chords of scissor trusses. The topic will also include top chord bearing trusses with

bearing blocks. The proposed changes will be incorporated in TPIC2029. Update Bulletins are to be created for previously published TPIC Manuals.

- i. **Pattern vs Partial Loading:** Multi bearing trusses are currently required by TPIC 5.2.1.1 (4) to be designed for pattern-loading. This has the effect of making trusses less competitive when compared to I-Joist for Part-9 designs. The group discussed definitions of Full, Pattern and Partial Loading and the requirements per building codes and standards. It was thought the provision was intended for the transfer of loads to supporting girders. It was suggested that software suppliers discuss and clarify the definitions between Full, Pattern and Partial Loading and make recommendations for meeting this requirement.

- j. **Load Distribution of Multi-Ply Trusses:** 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. The group discussed implications for TPIC and is considering limiting the effect to the joint designs and not the lumber. Further review and discussion is required before introducing to the TPIC manual.

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

4. Other Business

- a. **Quality Control Discussion and Update:** The Home Building Association (HBA) believes modular manufacturing meeting CSA-A277 should be considered complying to CSA-S349. The group concluded having a QC-requirement per CSA-A277 would not deem meeting the criteria of CSA S349 or equivalent and should not be exempted. CWTA will be asked to issue HBA a position statement to indicate that any truss design using TPIC2019 should follow the whole document, including quality control requirements.
- b. **Long Span Truss Provisions:** Were introduced in TPIC2019 but had not been made retroactive as it was expected that the NFBC1995 would be retired when the NBCC2020 came into effect. Some provinces did not adopt part 2 of NBCC2020, so the Farm Code remains in effect. It was proposed that we bring the “Long Span and QC provisions” back to TPIC1996. The target timeline is to be implemented by Jan 2026 with 6 months grace period.
- c. **SPF-s Lumber:** Awaiting a response from NGA if it can be used in Canada.
- d. **BCSI2025:** It was suggested that we review what has changed to evaluate if the Canadian version needs to be updated accordingly.
- e. **TPIC Part 9 Wind Loading Letter:** TPIC position Statement to be circulated to all.

- f. **Solar Ready:** The Ministry of Housing suggested a roof with solar panels is to be designed under Part-4 criteria. This would have a significant impact on residential trusses designed to support solar panels. Changes would include load increase from 55% GSL to 80% GSL, addition of snow drift and wind loading, etc. We need clarification on whether the Solar Ready Guideline is still applicable. There is urgent need for formal direction from the Ministry or we will need to request a Code Interpretation for the truss industry.

Going forward it was recommended that we do a virtual call prior to TPIC meetings to both review what is going on and provide suggestions for consideration at the meetings.

### Alberta Value-Added Wood Manufacturers Eligible for Up to \$200,000 in Funding -Sept. 12 Deadline for Submissions

August 7, 2025

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Alberta Value-Added Wood Products Program is thrilled to launch Round 3 of its funding initiative, designed to support the continued growth of Alberta-based manufacturers specializing in secondary, tertiary, structural, and finished wood products and systems. This round represents a significant opportunity for the province’s wood manufacturing sector, which includes several hundred companies employing more than 8,000 Albertans.

“We are thrilled to launch Round 3 of this funding opportunity to support Alberta’s value-added wood product and system manufacturers,” announced Rory Koska, Executive Director, Alberta WoodWorks. “This program is a testament to our dedication to supporting the growth and prosperity of Alberta’s wood product manufacturing sector which generates economic and employment benefits for all Albertans.”

Through Round 3, eligible manufacturers can access targeted financial support to enhance their operations, attract investment, train employees and broaden their market reach.

“Round 1 and 2 of the program successfully funded 13 companies and 15 projects across Alberta, supporting initiatives such as streamlining manufacturing processes, testing new product applications, promoting the use of spruce-pine glulam, and adopting manufacturing efficiency software”, said Rory Koska. “These projects are already generating significant results, including improved productivity, enhanced innovation, and increased workforce capabilities. We encourage Round 3 applicants to take advantage of this unique opportunity to achieve similar success and contribute to the growth of Alberta’s value-added wood products sector.”

A website provides information about the application process and ensures accessibility for all interested manufacturers. Please visit [avawpp.com](http://avawpp.com) to learn more about the submission process, program objectives, eligibility criteria, and key dates.

The program is designed for Alberta-based manufacturers of value-added wood products or systems with fewer than 250 employees worldwide. Round 3 is funded by the Alberta Ministry

of Forestry and Parks, and is delivered in partnership with WoodWorks Alberta with support from a diverse steering committee composed of industry professionals. **For Round 3, the maximum funding available per project is \$200,000.** All proposals will be reviewed by an independent Evaluation Committee, based on the criteria provided on the program website.

“On behalf of the Program Steering Committee, we invite manufacturers to visit the website, determine if they qualify, create an account, prepare a proposal and submit it by the **closing date of September 12, 2025,**” said Rory Koska. “For Round 3, we expect to see proposals dealing with innovation in products and manufacturing processes, employee productivity, improvements in training and market development.”

For information, to create an account and submit a proposal, please visit the website:

[avawpp.com](http://avawpp.com)

For questions, please contact the Business Development Program Manager: [avawpp@gmail.com](mailto:avawpp@gmail.com)

## WETA 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 WETA 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 WETA website at: <http://www.weta.ab.ca/truss-training-online.html>

### What Would You Do?

One of our members came upon this detail where the building designer wanted to hang the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor joists off a leger running across a girder truss that would be attached to the webs.

Apparently, the span is too large for an engineered beam, and the girder truss can't fit under the floor joists.

What would you do?

Are you performing engineering?

Why not use this as an exercise for your next design meeting?

