

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

**Quality Lessons from Boeing: What a Wood Truss Plant Can Learn from the Aerospace Industry**

In the world of manufacturing, few companies are more recognized—or more scrutinized—than Boeing. As one of the largest aerospace manufacturers in the world, Boeing’s products must meet extreme performance, safety, and reliability standards. While the scale and complexity of airplane manufacturing differ from wood truss production, the underlying principles of quality control are strikingly similar.



*Boeing door plug that was missing 4 bolts*

And lately, Boeing has offered more than just examples of excellence. Its recent quality and safety controversies have become cautionary tales—ones that industries everywhere can learn from, including ours.

So, what can a wood truss plant learn from an aircraft manufacturer? Quite a lot.

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**1. Standardization Drives Consistency**

Boeing has long been known for its meticulous engineering processes. Every part, every fastener, and every step of assembly is governed by strict procedures and specifications. This standardization is what allows thousands of parts to come together into a safe, functioning aircraft.

**In a truss plant**, standardization is just as important. Whether it’s setting up a jig, pressing plates, or loading bundles for delivery, every step should be governed by consistent procedures and verified against clearly defined tolerances. A well-documented process not only helps new workers get up to speed, but it also ensures consistency from shift to shift and plant to plant. This is why having clear work instructions and doing those internal inspections is important.

## 2. Quality Inputs Make Quality Outputs

Boeing rigorously evaluates and audits its suppliers. A defect in a third-party component can ground a fleet or worse, so supplier quality management is a cornerstone of its success.

**In our industry**, the quality of lumber and connector plates directly impacts structural integrity. While we often rely on grade stamps or spec sheets, smart plants go further: tracking supplier performance, rejecting substandard materials, and maintaining records of non-conformance. Investing time in supplier quality protects your product—and your reputation.

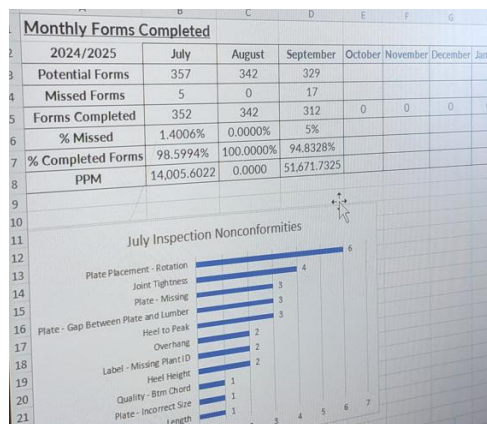


*Wrong grade of lumber in a lift*

## 3. Use Data to Improve, Not Just to Inspect

Boeing collects and analyzes data on everything from rivet alignment to system malfunctions. These metrics help identify trends, prevent problems, and drive design improvements.

**At a truss plant**, similar opportunities exist. QC teams can track embedment depth, plate positioning errors, joint gaps, and repair rates. Over time, this data becomes a powerful tool—not just to catch errors, but to identify root causes and make process improvements. Quality isn't just about inspection; it's about feedback and refinement.



*Statistics collected from internal inspections*

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#### 4. Safety and Quality Must Come Before Speed

Perhaps the most important lesson from Boeing’s recent missteps—especially with the 737 MAX—is that production pressure must never override safety or quality. In that case, decisions were made to keep production moving, even as internal concerns were raised. The results were catastrophic.

**In truss manufacturing**, we face similar pressures: tight deadlines, delivery expectations, and high demand. But pushing product out the door at the expense of proper plate pressing, accurate jigging, or skipped final checks can create serious risks down the line. A single faulty truss can compromise a structure, delay a build, or worse. We must always prioritize doing it right over doing it fast.



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#### 5. Empower Workers to Speak Up

In Boeing’s case, several employees tried to raise concerns but were ignored or overruled. A strong quality culture depends on workers being heard—and leadership taking action when concerns are raised.

**In a wood truss plant**, inspectors, sawyers, press operators, and loaders all see different parts of the process. Each of them can identify potential issues—if they’re empowered to do so. It’s not enough to say “speak up”; we need to build a culture where raising concerns is encouraged, respected, and acted upon. Your best quality control tool might be the experience and instincts of the person on the floor. The companies with the best Quality Control systems have regular meeting to discuss issues that workers discover and review any issues that have arisen.



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## 6. Don't Just Fix Mistakes—Fix Systems

One of Boeing's biggest criticisms was its tendency to address surface-level symptoms without tackling the underlying issues in design, culture, or systems.

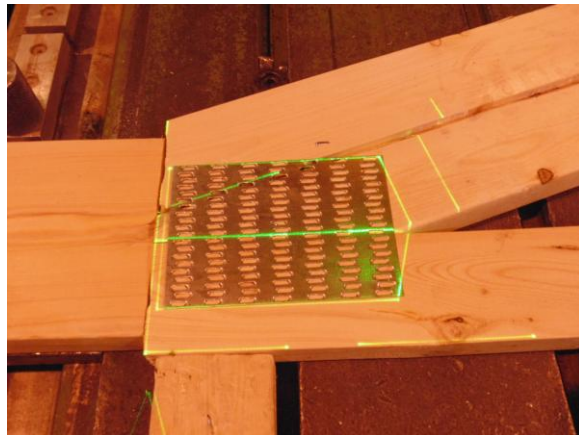
**We should take this to heart.** If the same QC issue keeps showing up—whether it's a plate alignment, joint gaps, lumber defects, or a particular truss failing inspection—it's a sign of a deeper issue. Maybe the procedure is unclear. Maybe the training isn't working. Maybe the equipment needs maintenance or calibration. Real quality control goes beyond the fix—it looks for the reason or root cause.

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## 7. Continuous Improvement Is Not Optional

Boeing's best years were defined by innovation and continuous improvement. Its worst years, arguably, were defined by complacency and overconfidence.

**For a truss plant,** that's a simple but powerful reminder. We cannot assume what worked yesterday will work tomorrow. Processes, tools, materials, and expectations all evolve. Our quality system must evolve with them. Whether it's adopting laser-guided setups, improving plate verification tools, or streamlining repair documentation, ongoing improvement is a sign of a healthy operation.



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## Conclusion: Quality Is Everyone's Job

At the end of the day, the biggest lesson Boeing teaches us is this: quality is not a department—it's a mindset. It's a shared responsibility, owned by everyone from the design office to the final banding station. Whether you're pressing plates, doing truss inspections, or writing procedures, your work contributes to the integrity of the final product.

We don't build airplanes. But we do build the bones of homes, schools, businesses, and communities. And like Boeing, our customers count on us to get it right—every single time.

**Let's keep learning, improving, and building quality into everything we do.**

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 5763 in May 2025, a year-over-year increase of 39%. Canadian housing starts increased by 8.85% over the same period. Edmonton was up 21% from last May, while Calgary was increased 52% from a last year. Housing starts in Alberta were up from 5279 in the previous month of April.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	May-25	May-24	% Change	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	% Change
Alberta	5763	4148	38.93%	22512	17718	27.06%
Edmonton	2223	1830	21.48%	8179	6973	17.30%
Calgary	3039	1996	52.25%	12412	9212	34.74%
Red Deer	188	12	1466.67%	245	269	-8.92%
Grande Prairie	13	29	-55.17%	196	82	139.02%
Lethbridge	80	58	37.93%	304	257	18.29%
Wood Buffalo	1	1	0.00%	9	4	125.00%
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	23,745	21,814	8.85%	90,760	89,742	1.13%

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

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

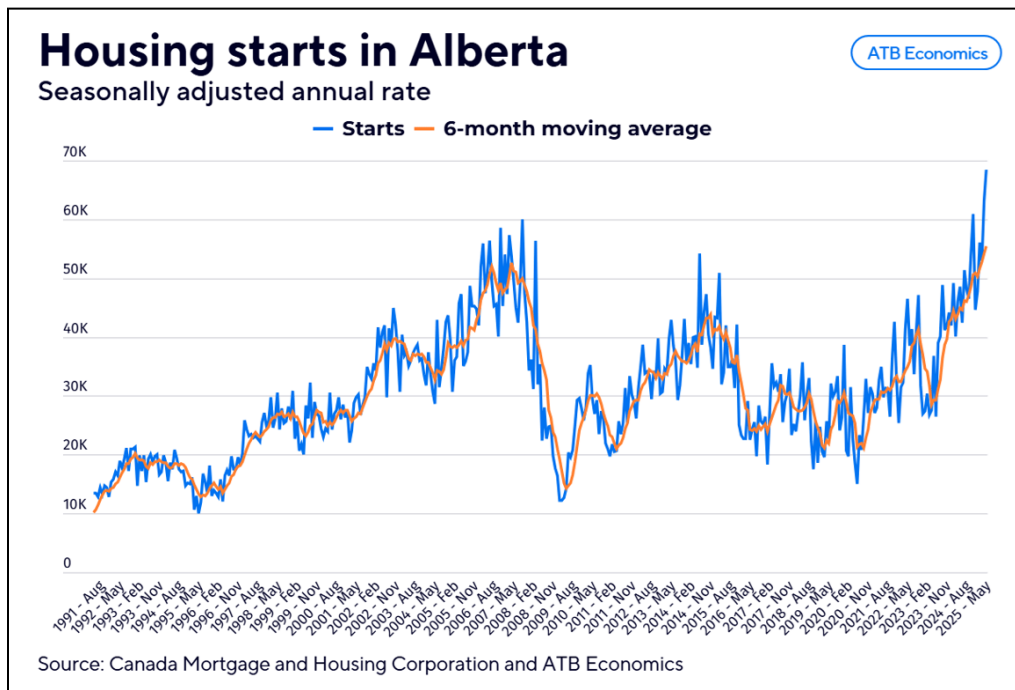
	MAY-25	MAY-24	YTD-25	YTD-24
Total	5,763	4,148	22,512	17,718
Single	1,503	1,328	6,376	5,363
Semi-detached	406	324	1,667	1,454
Row	769	469	2,983	2,380
Apartment	3,085	2,027	11,486	8,521

**Housing construction hot streak continues: Alberta starts on pace for record year**  
*Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS | June 16, 2025*

The flurry of activity in Alberta’s residential construction sector continued in May.

Released this morning, the number of housing starts in Alberta rose to a record high of 68,494 (seasonally adjusted annual rate)—79% higher than the five-year average.

The year-to-date (YTD) figure was 28% higher than the same five months last year.



As such, Alberta is bucking the national trend, with YTD housing starts in Canada down by 1%. If we subtract Alberta’s strong performance from the national total, YTD starts were off by 8% in the rest of the country.

Alberta’s rapid pace of new home construction is taking place despite moderating population growth as homebuilders continue to play catch-up with past population spikes.

Our latest estimate\* points to a cooling off over the second half of the year with starts coming in closer to 50K for the year, which would be the highest annual total ever. The current record was set in 2006 at just under 50K.

Both of Alberta’s two largest population centres have seen strong growth in starts. In the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) YTD starts were 34% higher than last year compared to 21% higher in the Edmonton CMA.

The surge in housing starts is being driven by multi-unit projects, which reached a record level in May. Single-detached units have also increased this year but remain below levels from the 2006-07 housing boom. About three-quarters of the YTD starts in the Calgary CMA were in multi-unit projects compared to about two-thirds in the Edmonton CMA.

### **Ticking past 5 million: Alberta's population growth is slowing, but still leads the country**

*Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS | June 18, 2025*

Alberta's population clock continues to move past 5 million—it's just ticking a little slower now.

The latest 'official' quarterly reading was released this morning for April 1, 2025. It shows Alberta's population at 4,980,659 as of that date.

But it's now mid-June, and the population clock (rebased to today's quarterly data) has the current population in excess of 5 million.

Alberta continued to lead all provinces in population growth.

- During the first quarter of 2025, there were 20,562 people added to Alberta, by far the largest increase of any province. Interestingly, Alberta gained more people than Canada as a whole (+20,107) over this period due to population declines in four provinces and one territory (Ontario, Quebec, B.C., Newfoundland and Labrador, and Yukon).
- Over the latest one year period (April 1, 2024 to April 1, 2025), Alberta's population gain was 138,136 for a country-leading growth rate of 2.9% and well above the national increase of 1.2%. Alberta accounted for a whopping 27% of Canada's total population growth over this period (despite having 12% of the nation's population).

#### Persistent inflows from other provinces

Why has Alberta's population been persistently higher than other provinces? The main differentiator is interprovincial migration, though higher natural increase (births minus deaths) also plays a role. In the first quarter, only the prairie provinces and territories recorded natural increase (i.e. births exceeded deaths)—the remaining provinces had natural decrease.

Alberta added people from the rest of the country for the 11th straight quarter. Once again, people came predominately from Ontario and B.C., though the gains were widespread from all provinces. Net inflows have slowed slightly, but remain persistently strong. We have explored this issue in detail, showing that people are coming to Alberta

for different reasons than in the past. It's not driven by the typical energy boom, but based on a wider range of opportunities and, in particular, relative housing affordability.

Broad-based population slowdown on fewer NPRs

The main reason the population is slowing in Alberta and across Canada is fewer non-permanent residents (NPRs).\* Outside the pandemic period, Canada saw the largest first quarter decline in NPRs (-61,111) on record. The main decrease was from international students holding a study permit, with losses highly concentrated in Ontario and B.C. The federal government previously announced lower targets for both the NPR and permanent immigration streams, and that's showing up in the data.

Canada admitted 104,256 immigrants in the first quarter—the lowest first quarter reading in four years.

As for Alberta, NPRs dropped 1,362 last quarter, with immigration easing to 13,661.

[Canadian Federal Housing Plan: The 500k Marathon-TD Economics](#)

### **US Housing Starts and Building Permits Decline in May**

On June 18, the US Census Bureau reported that privately owned housing starts were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 1,256,000 in May. This is 9.8% below the revised April estimate of 1,392,000 and 4.6% below the May 2024 rate of 1,316,000. Single-family housing starts were at a rate of 924,000, a 0.4% increase from the revised April figure of 920,000. The rate for units in buildings with five or more units was 316,000.

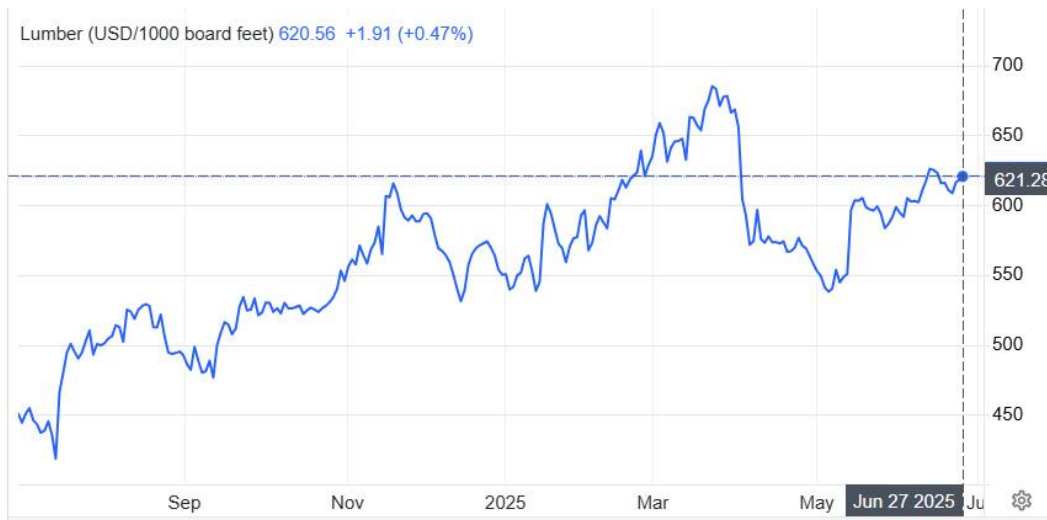
Building permits for privately owned housing units were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,393,000 in May. This is 2.0% below the revised April rate of 1,422,000 and 1.0% below the May 2024 rate of 1,407,000. Single-family permits were at a rate of 898,000, down 2.7% from April's revised figure of 923,000. The rate for units in buildings with five or more units was 444,000.

Privately owned housing completions in May were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,526,000. This is 5.4% above the revised April estimate of 1,448,000 but 2.2% below the May 2024 rate of 1,561,000. Single-family housing completions were at a rate of 1,027,000, an 8.1% increase from the revised April rate of 950,000. The rate for units in buildings with five or more units was 487,000.

### **Lumber**

Lumber futures traded below \$610 per thousand board feet, easing from two-month highs of \$626 seen June 13th, driven by improving supply while demand slowed. This pullback reflects a temporary surge in supply as sawmills and wholesalers restocked early-season

safety stocks, while builders delayed purchases after earlier buying. The decline also stems from softer demand: high mortgage rates continue to suppress new house builds and remodeling activity, with treaters and end-users scaling back orders. Although longer-term forecasts expect a pickup in Q3, driven by renewed tariff pressure and



projected housing recovery, the current correction is supply-led, driven by modest restocking, seasonal slowdown, and rate-constrained construction spending.

[Good and Bad News on Lumber Production and Tariffs-NAHB](#)

**Final Cut: Forestry in B.C. is at a crossroads**

*By Kim Haakstad, president and CEO of the BC Council of Forest Industries-June 3, 2025*

We can't control U.S. tariffs, commodity prices or natural disturbances — but we can control how forestry is managed, supported and regulated within our own borders.

At COFI's annual convention, Premier David Eby reaffirmed his government's commitment to treating forestry as a major project—and made it clear that forestry will be treated with the same focus and urgency. Speaking to more than 600 industry and community leaders, Premier Eby stated, "This is a shared project that we can get to that 45 million [m3] target, which we all know is absolutely essential."

We couldn't agree more. Forestry is foundational to B.C.'s economy and communities. It supports tens of thousands of jobs, contributes billions in economic activity, and anchors a province-wide supply chain. From rural towns and Indigenous communities to urban centers and international markets, forestry touches lives across B.C.

A “whole-of-government” approach—uniting ministries to support the sector—is exactly what’s needed. Multiple government ministries must align to support forestry, recognizing its role as a backbone of local economic development, its importance for wildfire management, and its contributions to ecosystem health and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. A coordinated strategy is critical to unlocking its full potential.

The sector faces significant challenges: tariffs, inflation, wildfires, and over a decade of shifting policy. While many of these pressures are beyond our control, we can control how forestry is managed, supported, and regulated within our own borders.

The path to achieving a yearly harvest of 45 million cubic metres will be challenging, but getting the wood harvest closer to the allowable annual cut cannot just be an aspiration. Without it, mills will close, jobs will disappear, and communities will suffer. It is necessary to maintain jobs and keep mills running to produce the wood products people use every day—from home building materials to clean energy, from furniture to toilet paper.

We applaud Forest Minister Ravi Parmar’s announcements: reducing permit timelines from 40 to 25 days, introducing a transparent permit dashboard like the one used for housing, expanding the use of nine-axle trucks, and improving auctions through BC Timber Sales (BCTS). These are good steps, and they are just the beginning.

Permitting remains far too complex. We should aim for a streamlined, single-window system, developed in collaboration with government and First Nations. This starts by mapping the entire harvest process, identifying bottlenecks, and eliminating redundancies. A collaborative approach that aims to improve the full process will benefit everyone, from government staff to First Nations, communities and industry alike.

Equally important is ensuring BCTS delivers its full potential. Consistently hitting 90% or more of its annual harvest target is critical to a thriving wood products industry that supports communities and workers across the province. Reconciliation must remain central, and increasing the distribution of stumpage revenue to First Nations is a meaningful and achievable step.

B.C. has some of the highest sustainability standards in the world and a long history of responsible forest management. We can grow the harvest sustainably while protecting old growth, maintaining biodiversity, and building innovative, low-carbon products like mass timber. These goals are not in conflict with a strong sector—they are essential to it.

Forestry in B.C. is at a crossroads and deserves to be treated as the major project it is. After years of instability, we have a chance to stabilize, strengthen and grow. That requires action—not more reviews—on the ground, in the woods, and across the province.

Wood is an essential part of our daily lives. It's in the homes we live in, the products we use every day, and the future we're building. Let's make sure the system that supports it is every bit as strong, sustainable, and reliable as the forests themselves.

### **Tariff News**

On May 29, 2025, the Court of International Trade (CIT) ruled that several of the US tariffs enacted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) were unlawful. Not long after, that decision was stayed by an appeals court, and likely we will not hear more until June 5th.

However, many are asking what this will mean for importers in the immediate future.

For importers, things are to remain the same as they have been for months, with all tariffs remaining in effect and being collected. In the briefest terms, what it means right now is that we have to wait and see.

Below is a brief summary of what we know right now.

The latest:

- A few hours after the decision was announced, an appeals court stayed the CIT decision with June 5 as the deadline for the plaintiff to respond to the government's appeal.
- We've received no direction from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on any changes to the current processing and collection of these tariffs. Until further notice, duties tied to these tariffs will continue to be levied against applicable imports.
- Tariffs levied under Section 232 (steel, aluminum, and auto) are not a part of this ruling and remain in place.

"IEEPA" Tariffs Ruled Unlawful:

- Fentanyl - China - All goods - 30% - In effect
- Fentanyl - Mexico - Most goods - 25% - In effect
- Fentanyl - Canada - Most goods - 25% - In effect
- Reciprocal - All countries - 10% - In effect
- Reciprocal - 60+ countries - Various % - Paused

For further insight into this situation, along with the latest information on this and other cases in process as they become available, we recommend you continue reading The Trading Post, but also be sure to review our blogs, [Tariff Relief in Canada](#) and Tariff Relief in the US, to understand the options available while these tariffs remain in place.

## Quality Control

### Special Marking

CSA S349:20 11.2 states:

Bearing locations other than truss heels, and locations of point loads, shall be identified with stamps, tags, or other appropriate marking on each truss, or with the truss submittal package that accompanies the truss shipment. Bottom chord bearing parallel chord trusses shall be clearly marked to avoid inverted installation.

The CWTA national quality standard that is referenced in TPIC 2019 also makes the exact statement in section 8.2.

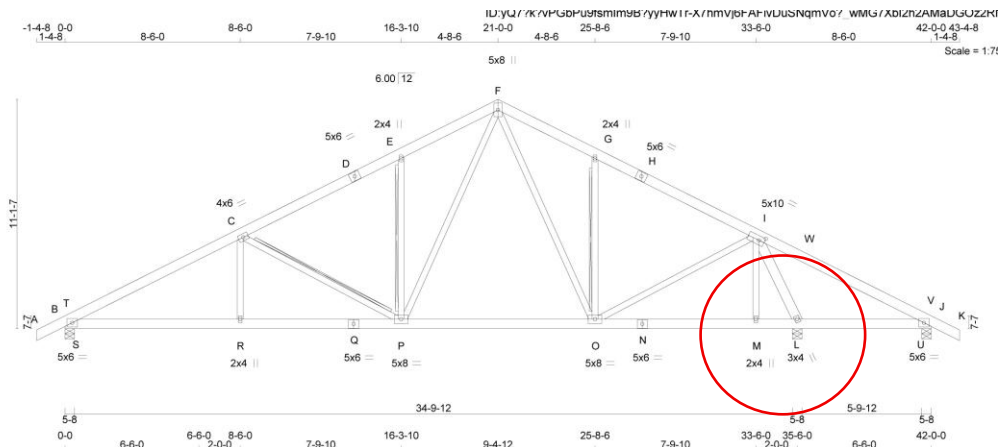
This is a requirement that plants must meet in their Q.C. system to ensure that the trusses are installed correctly when they are not symmetrical or have internal bearing points. Quite often the outside profile of 2 trusses may be the same but the bearing points may be different.



*Truss installed where the bearing point does not align with the truss bearing.*



*Interior Bearing tag courtesy of Pacific Truss*



In the above truss it is critical that the manufacture indicate the bearing point at “L” or the truss could easily be installed flipped in the wrong direction. *(drawing courtesy of Geoff Wheaton, P,Eng Techwood Building Components Ltd.)*

Depending on the truss design, there may be small differences in a truss that otherwise appears to be symmetrical. These changes can be different plate sizes or an off-centre duct chase that are easily missed by those working in the field. Even if a framer is familiar with trusses, it can be very difficult to differentiate trusses that look almost the same but have minor differences.

A second issue caused by trusses installed incorrectly is that intended loading conditions such as interior bearing points or point loads will not follow the expected load path as designed. Instead of the truss bearing at a panel point, or where a vertical web was located for this specific purpose, the bearing of the incorrectly installed truss may now be taking place in the middle of a panel, bearing on the chord, and compromising the truss’s performance. Therefore, manufacturers provide a benefit to the building industry by detailing product installation through clear labeling.

Determining the orientation of bottom chord bearing floor trusses can be especially difficult due a less defined truss top.

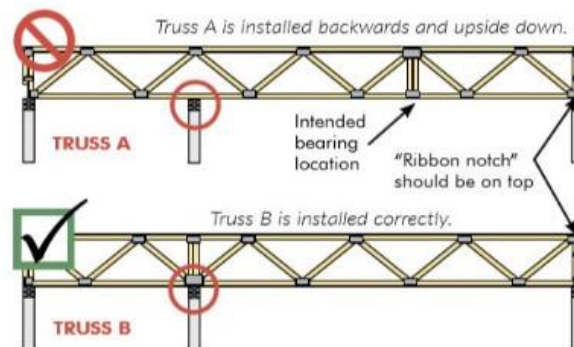


FIGURE B7-4 from the 2018 Edition of the BCSI Book

This could be done either with tags or marking on the truss.



Health and Safety Toolbox

Sometimes it is hard to come up with a safety topic, but fortunately 2 times per year it is easy, when it gets cold and when it gets hot. Truss plants must have this discussion every year.

**Staying Safe in Hot Weather: Essential Tips for Truss Plant Workers**

As temperatures soar, working in a truss plant presents unique challenges and risks, particularly concerning heat-related illnesses. Ensuring the safety and well-being of employees in these conditions is paramount. This article outlines essential tips and strategies to help truss plant workers stay safe during hot weather.

**Understanding Heat-Related Illnesses**

Heat-related illnesses range from mild conditions, like heat rash, to severe and potentially life-threatening conditions, such as heat stroke. Common heat-related illnesses include:

- **Heat Exhaustion:** Symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, headache, and muscle cramps.
- **Heat Stroke:** This is a medical emergency, characterized by hot, dry skin, confusion, hallucinations, and loss of consciousness.

**HEAT EXHAUSTION OR HEAT STROKE?**

<p><b>HEAT EXHAUSTION SYMPTOMS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faint or dizzy</li> <li>2. Excessive sweating</li> <li>3. Cool, pale, clammy skin</li> <li>4. Nausea, vomiting</li> <li>5. Rapid, weak pulse</li> <li>6. Muscle cramps</li> </ol> <p><b>HOW TO TREAT IT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Move to cooler location</li> <li>2. Drink water</li> <li>3. Take a cool shower or use cold compresses</li> </ol>		<p><b>HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Throbbing headache</li> <li>2. No sweating</li> <li>3. Body temp above 103° Red, hot, dry skin</li> <li>4. Nausea, vomiting</li> <li>5. Rapid, strong pulse</li> <li>6. May lose consciousness</li> </ol> <p><b>HOW TO TREAT IT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get emergency help</li> <li>2. Keep cool until treated</li> </ol>
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Recognizing and responding to these symptoms promptly can prevent serious health consequences.

### **Hydration: The First Line of Defense**

Staying hydrated is crucial for preventing heat-related illnesses. Here are some key hydration tips:

- **Drink Water Frequently:** Aim to drink water every 15-20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty. Your body loses fluids quickly in hot conditions.
- **Avoid Dehydrating Beverages:** Caffeine and alcohol can increase dehydration, so it's best to avoid them during your work shifts.

### **Dress for the Heat**

What you wear can significantly impact your ability to cope with the heat:

- **Lightweight, Light-Colored Clothing:** Opt for breathable fabrics that allow sweat to evaporate more easily.
- **Protective Gear:** While necessary for safety, ensure your protective gear is as lightweight and breathable as possible while still meeting safety standards.

### **Breaks and Rest Periods**

Taking regular breaks is essential to prevent overheating:

- **Frequent Breaks:** Schedule regular breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas to cool down.
- **Rest Periods:** Use these times to rest and hydrate, reducing the strain on your body.

### **Enhancing Workplace Conditions**

Improving the work environment can help reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses:

- **Use Fans and Ventilation:** Enhance airflow in the work area with fans or ventilation systems to keep the air circulating.
- **Shaded Areas:** Create shaded rest areas for breaks to provide relief from direct sunlight.

### **Acclimatization: Building Heat Tolerance**

New workers or those returning from a period of absence should gradually increase their exposure to hot conditions:

- **Gradual Exposure:** Slowly increase the amount of time spent working in the heat over a week or more to build up tolerance.

### **Implementing a Buddy System**

Working in pairs can enhance safety by ensuring someone is always there to help if needed:

- **Buddy System:** Check on each other regularly for signs of heat stress. This system helps in identifying symptoms early and providing immediate assistance.

### Emergency Procedures

Knowing what to do in an emergency can save lives:

- **Emergency Protocols:** Familiarize yourself with the plant's emergency procedures for heat-related illnesses. Know where first aid kits are located and how to contact emergency services.

### Conclusion

Working in a truss plant during hot weather requires diligence and proactive measures to ensure safety. By staying hydrated, dressing appropriately, taking regular breaks, enhancing workplace conditions, acclimatizing to the heat, using a buddy system, and knowing emergency procedures, truss plant workers can significantly reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses. Your health and safety are the company's top priority, and together, you can create a safe working environment even in the hottest conditions.

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

### Alberta Value Added Wood Products Program

AVAWPP are officially launching round 3 of our Business Development Funding Program, offering up to \$750,000 from our budget to support diverse projects from Alberta's value-added sector.

Here are the key details for Round 3:

- The website has been updated and is now accepting submissions for round 3: <https://avawpp.com>
- Funding range: Minimum of \$30,000 and up to \$200,000 per project
- A minimum 50% cost share is required
- We hope to fund between 5 and 10 projects
- Funding rules and eligible expenses mirror those from our second call for proposals. Eligible activities include:
  - ✓ Business Development
  - ✓ Employee Training
  - ✓ Information Technology
  - ✓ Design Services (machinery-related; not applicable to buildings)
  - ✓ Technical and Planning Consulting Services

Capital investment is not eligible for funding—this is clearly noted on the BDP website

- **Deadline for proposals: Friday, September 12**
- A webinar will be held on August 12 to outline the program and submission process
- Funding agreements will be issued in late October 2025

<https://avawpp.com/>

For more detailed information feel free to contact Mark Shepherd ([markshepherd@comcast.net](mailto:markshepherd@comcast.net)).

### **Pacific Customs Brokers Ltd. Presentation**

On June 12 we had a virtual presentation from Annette Rowan, Trade Advisor on the current state of tariffs that was interesting. Annette went through the remission process and how our industry has to be very detailed in having customs understand what we do, especially when it comes to importing engineered wood products. There has to be a clear indication that the products being imported are not just going straight to the customer.

A big box store that is importing a product just to resell may be treated different than a company importing a product that they are adding value to by manufacturing. When applying for remission I think the more detail about what you do with the product will be a benefit. In our case stress the design aspect of supplying products for example.

Remission — manufacture, processing or packaging

3 Subject to section 5, remission is granted of surtaxes paid or payable under the United States Surtax Order (2025-1) or the United States Surtax Order (Steel and Aluminum 2025) in respect of goods imported for use, in Canada, in the manufacture or processing of any good or the packaging of a food product or beverage.

It would also be a better case for remission under manufacturing if a company was using the imported products to create a system such as floor cassettes.

We also talked about companies applying for remissions under what she called the 14 points. Annette gave the impression that this was typically not too successful in her experience.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/international-trade-finance-policy/process-requesting-remission-tariffs-that-apply-on-certain-goods-us.html>

Of particular interest in the 14 points was #4 where you would have to provide evidence of an inability to source the product or substitutes, from Canadian or non-U.S. suppliers.

Unfortunately, there was no recording of this presentation as it was put on by PCB. If you would like to talk to them in more detail, they do offer consultations for an hourly fee. The contact is below.

Bridgette Ray  
Trade Advisory Services  
Pacific Customs Brokers Ltd.  
101 - 17637 1st Avenue, Surrey, BC V3Z 9S1  
Phone Toll Free in North America: 1.888.538.1566 | Fax Toll Free: 877.538.1166  
Phone: 604.538.1566 | Fax: 604.538.3984

### **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?**

“Toyota will build the vehicles people want, not just those dictated by current trends or technologies.”- *Akio Toyoda, the former president of Toyota Motor Corporation*