

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

Reminder 2026 AGM and Conference April 9, 2026, at the River Cree Resort and Casino

Registrations have to be in to Dave by April 1, 2026 the registration form is on the website [Western wood truss association - Welcome](#)

AGENDA

Thursday April 9, 2026

9:30	Registration	
10:00-12:00	AI in 2026 Workshop	Christa Hill Tacit Edge Product Leadership
12:00-1:00	Light Lunch	
1:00-2:30	A Race to the Middle- A Practical Path Forward for Offsite Construction	Mike Schmidt Auto Construct Inc.
2:30-3:00	Economic Update	Siddhartha Bhattacharya Senior Economist ATB
3:00-3:15	Break	
3:15-3:45	Succession Planning	Tom Sweatman
3:45-4:15	Alberta WoodWorks Update	Rory Koska WoodWorks Alberta
4:15-4:30	WWTA Update	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 2026 AGM • Review the 2025 Financial Statement • Determine the Plate Levy for 2026 • Set the Associate Membership Fee for 2026 • Election of the Board of Directors • Appoint the Chartered Accountant for 2026 	Derek Foss/Dave Pasolli
6:00	Cash Bar and Dinner	

NBCC 2025, TPIC 2024, and CSA S349:20

The National Building Code of Canada 2025 was published December 22, 2025.

As Canada transitions to the NBCC 2025 code cycle, Western Wood Truss Association (WWTA) members need to understand how key documents affect truss manufacturing in Alberta:

- NBCC 2025 – National Building Code of Canada

- TPIC 2024 – Truss Plate Institute of Canada Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses
- CSA S349:20 – Certification Requirements for Manufacturers of Metal-Plate-Connected Wood Trusses

While each document serves a distinct purpose, they are closely connected. Together, they define the design assumptions, manufacturing practices, and quality assurance systems that ensure metal-plate-connected wood trusses perform reliably in the field.

For Alberta truss plants, the common thread between them is clear:

Structural reliability depends on consistently applied manufacturing quality and robust quality control systems.

How These Standards Work Together

The regulatory framework for trusses in Canada is layered:

NBCC 2025

Provides the legal framework for construction and relies on referenced standards for technical requirements.

TPIC 2024

Defines the technical requirements for truss design, fabrication, and plant-level quality control, including specific inspection requirements and tolerances in Appendix G.

CSA S349:20

Specifies certification requirements for truss manufacturers, ensuring that plants operate under controlled quality management systems verified by independent audits.

In practice, the combination of TPIC and CSA S349 certification ensures that trusses are produced consistently and meet the assumptions engineers rely on for design.

TPIC 2024 and the Critical Role of TPIC 12.8.1.1(c)

TPIC 2024 remains the **primary technical standard for truss fabrication** in Canada. It provides detailed requirements for:

- Truss design and documentation
- Plate selection, placement, and embedment
- Lumber quality verification
- Joint inspection procedures

- Handling, storage, and installation
- Plant quality control programs

A central principle of TPIC is that **each truss joint must perform as assumed in the design**. Loads travel through chords and webs and accumulate at the supports, meaning the performance of each joint is critical to the structural integrity of the truss.

Of particular importance for WWTAA members is **TPIC 12.8.1.1(c)**, which states that:

“Each truss joint shall be inspected to ensure proper plate placement, embedment, and connection integrity before the truss leaves the manufacturing plant.”

This clause emphasizes that joint inspection is not optional; it is a mandatory component of the plant quality control system, directly tied to the safety and reliability of the finished truss.

Key elements of TPIC 12.8.1.1(c) include:

- **Verification of plate placement** against the design drawings
- **Embedment depth checks** to ensure full force transfer
- **Lumber condition evaluation** at the joint
- **Immediate corrective action** if a deficiency is detected

By adhering to 12.8.1.1(c), plants ensure that each truss leaving the facility meets the structural assumptions required by engineers and regulators.

The other reference between TPIC 2024 and CSA S349:20 is in section 8 Manufacturing and material variances.

8.2 Quality control program

All fabricators shall have a recognized quality control program that complies with the requirements of CSA S349

CSA S349:20 – Certification Requirements

CSA S349:20 complements TPIC by **defining the framework for third-party certification of truss manufacturers**. Certification ensures that plants operate under a documented quality management system that includes:

- Quality Control Manual requirements

- Documented production and inspection procedures
- Verified plate installation and joint integrity checks
- Regular inspection and monitoring of manufacturing processes
- Corrective action procedures for identified deficiencies
- Independent third-party audits to confirm ongoing compliance



For engineers and building officials, certification provides confidence that trusses are produced under a recognized quality system, aligning with TPIC's technical requirements.

Why This Matters for WWTA Members

The upcoming code cycle reinforces something WWTA members have long understood:

Quality control at the plant is fundamental to structural reliability.

Regulators and engineers are increasingly emphasizing:

- Documented quality control programs
- Traceability between design drawings and manufactured trusses
- Verification that joint quality meets TPIC 12.8.1.1(c) and 8.2
- Evidence that plant procedures consistently produce reliable trusses

This focus highlights the critical role of WWTA members in maintaining industry credibility and structural safety in Alberta.

Action Items for Alberta Truss Plants

To align with NBCC 2025, TPIC 2024, and CSA S349:20 certification expectations, WWTA members should:

1. Review and Strengthen QC Procedures

Ensure quality control systems align with TPIC and CSA S349:20

2. Train Production Staff

Staff should understand the structural importance of each joint and tolerances outlined in TPIC Appendix G

3. Maintain Thorough Documentation

Inspection records and quality control logs are critical to demonstrating compliance with TPIC and certification requirements.

4. Conduct Regular Internal Audits

Proactively identify and correct any deficiencies before trusses leave the plant.

Looking Ahead

The adoption of NBCC 2025, together with TPIC 2024 and CSA S349:20 certification requirements, emphasizes a simple principle:

Structural performance begins in the plant.

WWTA members have long championed quality in manufacturing. As regulatory attention increases, plants with robust, documented QC systems, certified processes, and consistent joint inspections will be best positioned to maintain compliance and instill confidence with engineers, builders, and building officials.

By focusing on plant-level quality, WWTA members continue to lead the industry in safe, reliable, and code-compliant truss manufacturing

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

Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 3294 in February 2026, a year-over-year decrease of 21.5%. Canadian housing starts were up 10% over the same period. Edmonton was down slightly from last February, while Calgary was down by almost 45% from a last year. Housing starts in Alberta were up slightly from 3341 the previous month of January.

What is happening in Grand Prairie?

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Feb-26	Feb-25	% Change	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Change
Alberta	3294	4195	-21.48%	6635	7512	-11.67%
Edmonton	1497	1478	1.29%	2479	2689	-7.81%
Calgary	1332	2407	-44.66%	3392	4036	-15.96%
Red Deer	20	9	122.22%	29	37	-21.62%
Grande Prairie	214	11	1845.45%	363	99	266.67%
Lethbridge	53	19	178.95%	69	144	-52.08%
Wood Buffalo	0	1	-100.00%	2	1	100.00%
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	15886	14420	10.17%	31974	30377	5.26%

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

Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	FEB-26	FEB-25	YTD-26	YTD-25
Single	956	1,127	1,653	2,099
Semi-detached	212	327	458	576
Row	421	538	932	1,144
Apartment	1,705	2,203	3,592	3,693
Total	3,294	4,195	6,635	7,512

Not done yet: Alberta housing starts still strong in February

Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS | March 17, 2026

As expected, the pace of new home construction in Alberta has slowed from the record levels seen last year. But even with the cooldown, the level of activity remains robust.

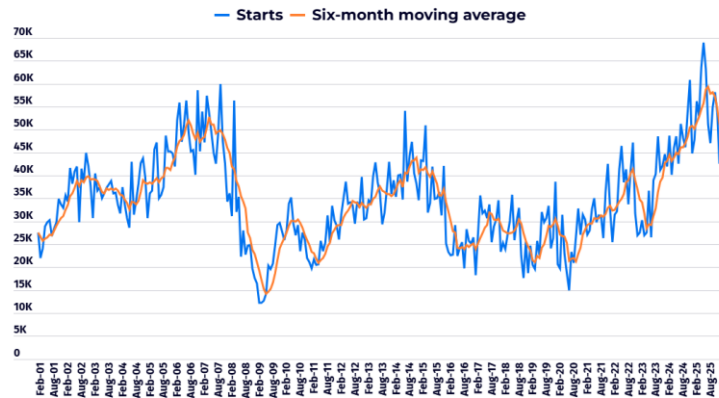
At over 44,000 (seasonally adjusted annual rate) for the second straight month in February, the number of housing starts in Alberta remained about 20% lower than the [2025 average](#). The pullback in starts can be linked to stronger inventories and [slower population growth](#).

Starts in the rest of Canada did not experience the same surge as they did in Alberta last year and are holding near last year’s average to start the year, led by a spike in Quebec.

As of our [December forecast](#), we are expecting housing starts in Alberta to average 45,000 this year compared to 54,900 in 2025. While down from the previous two years, the 2026 total will be well-above the 10-year average of 33,900 and reflects the fact that builders are still playing catch-up from the population boom.

Monthly housing starts in Alberta

Seasonally adjusted annual rate



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and ATB Economics

ATB Economics

In terms of the price of new homes, there has been some downward movement in Statistics Canada's [New Housing Price Index](#). After edging up in 2024, the index has cooled somewhat since then in Calgary and Edmonton (the two Alberta markets for which data are available), reflecting increased supply and a cooldown in demand, but remains much higher than before the pandemic.

We see a similar trend in the resale housing market with benchmark prices down from their recent peaks, but still strong compared to before the pandemic. House prices in Alberta have not seen the kind of correction experienced in markets like Vancouver and Toronto.

At the same time, while it has narrowed, the affordability advantage enjoyed by Alberta over higher-priced markets in B.C. and Ontario remains firmly in place and will continue to support Alberta's population growth from net interprovincial migration.

US Housing

On March 12, the US Census Bureau reported that privately owned housing starts were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,487,000 in January, a **7.2% increase** from December's revised 1,387,000 and 9.5% above the January 2025 level of 1,358,000. Single-family starts were 935,000, a 2.8% decline from December. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 524,000.

Building permits, a forward-looking measure, were at a rate of 1,376,000 in January, a 5.4% decline from December and 5.8% below the January 2025 level of 1,460,000. Single-family authorizations were 873,000, a 0.9% decline from December. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 453,000.

Housing completions were at a rate of 1,527,000 in January, 4.8% above December's 1,457,000 but 7.5% below the January 2025 level of 1,651,000. Single-family

completions were 970,000, a 1.0% decline from December. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 532,000.

ATB's Quarterly Economic Outlook: Driving to the conditions

Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS | March 26, 2026

Our new Quarterly Economic Outlook, “Driving to the conditions: Alberta’s economy in 2026 and 2027” is now [available here](#).

What a difference a few months can make. If we were to look at the economy as a highway (cue Tom Cochrane), we’ve hit a stretch of turbulent weather.

Since our last Outlook, the global landscape has shifted from economic warfare to active military conflict. With the war in Iran and the blocking of the Strait of Hormuz, we are facing a massive global energy shock that is upending global markets.

Uneven Canadian impacts

As a result of this upending, we’ve revised down our forecast for the Canadian economy to 1.3% real GDP growth this year versus 1.6% in our December forecast. The downgrade also reflects some soft Canadian economic data in recent months.

Alberta is expected to weather the storm better than other provinces as the country’s largest oil producer. We now forecast Alberta’s real GDP to grow by 2.7% this year—up from our 2.1% December estimate—putting the province near the top of the growth leaderboard.

The largest component of this upgrade, however, is not related to the sudden surge in oil prices. Rather, it’s due to the fact that the economy has outperformed our expectations in late 2025/early 2026, especially in the labour market, leading us to rethink our more cautious view.

It is, however, important to distinguish between *nominal GDP* (the current value of economic output) and *real GDP* (the volume of economic output). While the surge in oil prices is expected to drive a robust 6.0% increase in Alberta’s nominal GDP in 2026 (up from a forecast of only 0.7% in December), boosting government and corporate revenues, this isn’t a traditional energy boom. Producers will remain cautious with capital spending due to pipeline constraints and uncertainty about how long this price spike will last.

Hockey sticks and more diverse growth

Within the energy sector, progress has been made expanding into overseas markets. With new export infrastructure in place, hockey stick growth (an extended period of near zero exports followed by a steep increase) has been observed in Canadian exports to Asia of Canadian propane, oil, and, most recently, liquefied natural gas. Further expansions to

energy export infrastructure remains the largest upside to our forecast. Outside energy, the longer term story is a broadening of growth across diverse sectors like petrochemicals, food processing, tourism and aviation.

The rebalancing act of 2026

Alberta's labour market is rebalancing. After a period where job growth couldn't keep up with record-breaking population gains, the gap is closing. Population growth is expected to moderate to only 1.1% as federal policies reduce the number of non-permanent residents, even as interprovincial migration continues. Meanwhile, we expect annual employment growth of 3.1%, helping pull the average unemployment rate down to 6.4% this year from 7.2% in 2025.

In the housing market, we are also seeing a rebalancing. New supply has come onto the market, as builders catch-up to past record population growth. We expect that housing starts will continue to moderate from last year's record levels.

The CUSMA junction

While U.S. tariffs and trade uncertainty continue to weigh on investment and are holding back key sectors, the impact has been less severe than originally feared. This is largely because the vast majority of Alberta's businesses continue to operate under the safety net of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) exemption. As we head into the scheduled review of the agreement this summer, our base case assumes a continuation of sector-specific tariffs and CUSMA exemptions on general tariffs.

The dashboard view

The reality on the ground remains complex. While the headline economic numbers show Alberta outperforming other provinces, households are still being squeezed by higher food and energy costs.

Back to the wind

Despite the geopolitical turmoil, there is upside if Canada executes on promises to fast-track major projects and expand non-U.S. exports.

In the words of Tom Cochrane, will Canada turn its back to the wind in 2026?

Alberta's economy remains resilient amid geopolitical turmoil

ATB Financial March 26, 2026

Edmonton — Ongoing trade and geopolitical uncertainty continues to create a challenging backdrop for Alberta businesses and consumers. At the same time, Alberta's economy has remained resilient, and is expected to continue to grow faster than the national economy.

According to ATB Financial's Economic Outlook released today, Alberta's real GDP growth forecast for 2026 has been revised to 2.7 per cent, up from the 2.1 per cent projected in December. The upgrade reflects a combination of higher oil prices and stronger-than-expected economic performance in late 2025 and into early 2026. The report highlights uneven impacts across the country from the recent surge in oil prices caused by the war in Iran. Alberta, the country's largest oil producing province, is expected to outpace national GDP growth of 1.3 per cent.

The conflict in the Middle East has disrupted global energy markets, prompting an upgrade to the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) forecast to average US\$75 per barrel this year (up from US\$61 in the December forecast). While this price spike will drive a robust 6.0 per cent increase in Alberta's nominal GDP—resulting in a significant revenue increase for governments and corporations—it is not expected to translate into a traditional energy boom. Energy producers are maintaining capital discipline, holding real capital spending steady in the absence of clarity on new pipeline capacity or the duration of the price increase.

“While higher oil prices will drive a surge in revenues, we anticipate that producers will be cautious with their capital expenditures,” said Mark Parsons, Vice President and Chief Economist at ATB Financial. “However, there is upside to our forecast if new pipeline projects proceed, creating a runway to invest in new growth projects.”

Key highlights:

- **Record Oil Exports to Asia:** Despite cautious capital spending, Alberta's oil production remains at an all-time high. The Trans Mountain Expansion has successfully scaled oil shipments to Asia to over \$9 billion in 2025.
- **Rising Costs for Producers and Consumers:** Global energy market disruptions are creating a "Hormuz premium" on energy and fertilizer, increasing operating costs for agricultural producers. Alberta's inflation is projected to average 2.5 per cent in 2026, with the Bank of Canada expected to hold interest rates in 2026 at 2.25 per cent.
- **Trade and Export Pressures:** The province's manufacturing and export sectors face persistent headwinds from U.S. trade uncertainty, including softwood lumber duties and the upcoming Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) review.
- **Shifting Labour Landscape:** Alberta's population growth is expected to slow to 1.1 per cent as federal policies reduce non-permanent residents. Job creation will remain strong in 2026 at 3.1 per cent before slowing in 2027, bringing the unemployment rate down to 6.4 per cent.
- **Diversified growth:** Alberta is benefiting from activity across a wide range of sectors including tourism, tech, aviation, petrochemicals and agri-food processing.

"Despite better headline economic numbers in Alberta, we know the reality on the ground for many Albertans is far more complex," said Mark Parsons, Vice President and Chief

Economist at ATB Financial. "Higher prices for fuel and groceries are squeezing household budgets. A resilient job market, aided by both resource sectors and growth in new sectors, is helping cushion some of those impacts."

'Simply brutal': Canada lost 84K jobs in February; unemployment rises to 6.7%

Canada's labour market lost a net 83,900 jobs in February and the unemployment rate increased to 6.7 per cent, driven by a substantial decline in full-time positions, according to Statistics Canada data released on March 13.

The results were far below the slight job gain forecast by economists. The employment rate — the share of the population aged 15 and older who are working — fell 0.2 percentage points to 60.6 per cent, marking a second consecutive monthly decline and leaving it just above a recent low reached last summer.

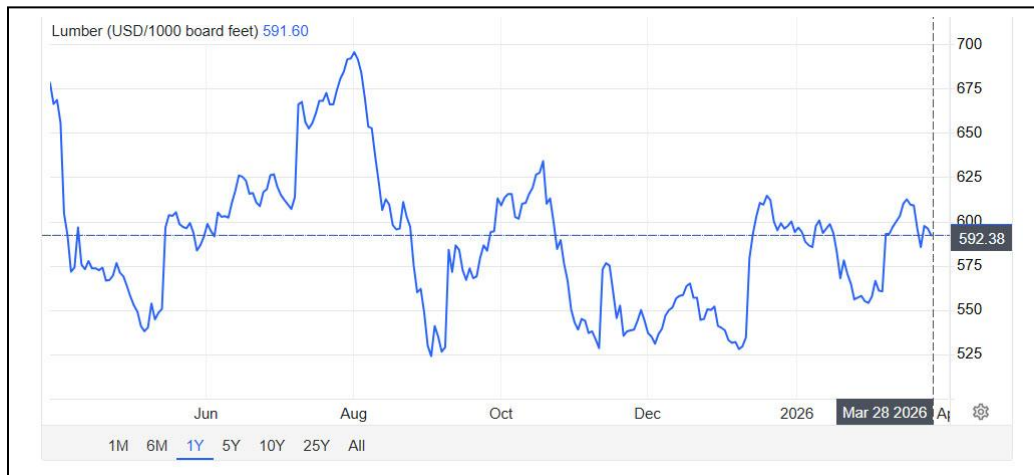
In a note to clients, BMO chief economist Douglas Porter calls the February *Labour Force Survey* (LFS) data "a simply brutal result," noting that it "ranks as one of the worst (non-pandemic) months ever for jobs." He declares the report "weak almost from head to toe" and points to "a near absence" of net job growth in the last 12 months.

"Somehow, the market continues to price in Bank of Canada rate hikes for later this year, but if this employment report is at all indicative of underlying economic conditions, the last thing the Bank would be considering would be rate hikes," Porter concluded. The February numbers suggest "a worrisome turn" for Canada's job market, CIBC economist Katherine Judge wrote, with a loss of 108,000 full-time jobs — 73,000 of those in the private sector.

"Overall, this is clearly a very worrisome report for the [Bank of Canada] that shows that labour market slack has increased and activity is frozen amidst trade uncertainty," she said.

Lumber

Lumber futures fell below \$600 per thousand board feet as a slowdown in the North American housing market and rising financing costs outweighed persistent supply constraints. This downward pressure was driven by a 5.4% decline in building permits and a sharp 14.2% collapse in single-family housing starts, which signaled a cooling of construction activity as the spring season began. Additionally, 30-year fixed mortgage rates climbed to 6.22% following the Federal Reserve's decision to hold interest rates steady, the market was further pressured by a sharp drop in crude oil prices that reduced the energy-heavy transport and production overheads. These factors effectively neutralized the marginal one-point gain in the NAHB Housing Market Index to 38, leaving 37% of builders reliant on deep price cuts to move a 2.4% increase in unsold inventory. Structural supply issues like the 45% combined duties on Canadian softwood and ongoing sawmill closures continue to provide a floor.



[B.C.'s forestry crisis goes beyond U.S. tariffs - Business in Vancouver](#)

[Decades of trade disputes reshape Canada's softwood lumber sector - RBC Economics](#)

Quality Control

Identifying MSR (Machine Stress Rated) lumber after the grade stamp has been cut off.

This is a common operational challenge in truss plants. Once the stamp is removed during cutting, the piece technically becomes unidentified structural lumber unless traceability is maintained. Because TPIC and most quality programs require grade verification, the solution is not visual identification alone but a traceability and segregation system.

Below is a practical multi-layer method used in many truss plants that combines process control, marking, and documentation.

1. Maintain Piece Traceability from Infeed to Saw

The most reliable method is process traceability before the cut.

Procedure

- Dedicated MSR bundles
 - Keep MSR lumber in clearly identified bundles.
 - Store separately from visually graded SPF or other grades.
- Bundle tag retention
 - Keep the mill bundle tag attached until the last board is removed.
 - Record:

- MSR grade (e.g., 1650f-1.5E, 2100f-1.8E)
- Mill number
- species group
- bundle ID
- Saw queue segregation
 - Feed only one grade at a time when doing large cutting runs when possible.
 - Use signage or digital queue control.

2. End Marking Before Cutting (Best Operational Practice)

Many plants implement pre-cut end marking so the grade survives cutting.

Method

Before the board enters the saw:

- Apply color paint stripe or ink stamp on both ends.
- Use a grade-specific color code.

Example system:

MSR Grade	Color Code
1650f-1.5E	Blue
2100f-1.8E	Red
2400f-2.0E	Green



After cutting, each piece still shows the color on at least one end.

Equipment options

- Hand roller marker
- Bingo marker
- Paint stick
- Automatic spray marker on infeed

This is one of the simplest and most accepted traceability methods.

This is not a grading stamp, but a traceability mark, which is acceptable in internal QC systems.

3. Physical Segregation of Cut Parts

After cutting:

- Store MSR components in dedicated bins or carts.

Example layout:



Bin	Material
Bin A	MSR Top Chords
Bin B	MSR Bottom Chords
Bin C	Visual SPF Webs

Bins should have:

- signage
- color tags
- QC labels

This prevents cross-contamination during assembly.

4. If Identification Is Lost

If a piece cannot be confirmed as MSR: It should be downgraded to the minimum grade lumber or rejected.

Do not assume MSR properties without traceability.

The BINGO Procedure

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to maintain grade identification and traceability of Machine Stress Rated (MSR) lumber after cutting operations remove the original mill grade stamp. This procedure ensures that MSR lumber used in truss fabrication remains identifiable and compliant with plant quality control requirements.

2. Responsibility

Saw Operator

- Applies bingo marker identification to MSR pieces immediately after cutting.

Quality Control (QC) Personnel

- Verifies that MSR pieces are properly marked and segregated.
- Ensures the procedure is consistently followed.

Production Supervisor

- Ensures operators are trained in this procedure.



3. Materials Required

- Bingo markers (ink daubers)
- Assigned marker colors
- MSR identification chart posted at the saw
- Segregated bins for MSR components

Bingo markers are preferred because they provide:

- fast application
- highly visible marks
- minimal production delay
- low cost and easy replacement

4. Color Coding System

Each MSR grade used in production shall have a designated bingo marker color.

Example system:

Lumber Grade	Bingo Marker Color
1650f-1.5E MSR	Blue
2100f-1.8E MSR	Red
2400f-2.0E MSR	Green

The color chart shall be posted at the saw station and assembly area.

5. Procedure

5.1 Verification Before Cutting

1. Saw operator verifies the bundle tag identifying the MSR grade.

5.2 Marking Procedure

Immediately after cutting:

1. The saw operator applies one bingo marker dot to the face of each cut MSR component.
2. The mark shall be:
 - clearly visible
 - approximately 25–40 mm (1–1.5 in.) diameter
 - placed near one end of the piece.
3. For pieces longer than 8 ft, a second mark may be applied.
4. The mark must be applied before the piece leaves the saw station.

This ensures the MSR identification is preserved even though the original grade stamp may have been removed.

5.3 Component Segregation

Marked MSR components shall be placed in designated bins or carts labeled:

- MSR TOP CHORDS
- MSR BOTTOM CHORDS
- MSR WEBS (if applicable)

Non-MSR material shall not be stored in these bins.

5.4 Assembly Verification

During truss assembly:

- Assemblers confirm the presence of the bingo marker mark before using MSR components.
- Pieces without the correct mark shall be set aside for QC review.

6. Quality Control Inspection

QC personnel shall perform **daily spot checks** to verify:

- MSR lumber is being marked at the saw.
- Correct color markers are used.
- MSR pieces remain segregated.
- No unmarked pieces are used where MSR material is required.
- Inspection findings shall be recorded on the daily QC checklist.

7. Non-Conforming Material

If a piece cannot be confirmed as MSR due to missing identification:

1. The piece shall be removed from MSR inventory.
2. The piece may be:
 - downgraded to visually graded lumber



You cannot reliably *identify* MSR lumber visually after cutting — you must **preserve identification through process control and marking**

Health and Safety Toolbox

The Shield Between You and the Blade: Why Saw Guards Matter

In a wood truss plant, the saw is the heart of the operation. Whether you're running a component saw, a radial arm, or a specialized linear saw, these machines are designed to cut through dense lumber in seconds. That power is an asset to our production—but without the proper use of **saw guards**, it's a constant threat to your safety.

It's Not Just a Barrier; It's Your Last Line of Defense

A saw guard isn't just a piece of plastic or metal in your way; it's an engineered safety system designed to do three critical things:

1. **Prevent Accidental Contact:** It creates a physical "no-go zone" between your fingers and the spinning blade.

2. **Contain Kickbacks:** It helps manage the wood if it binds or catches, preventing off-cuts from becoming dangerous projectiles.
3. **Manage Debris:** It directs sawdust and splinters away from your eyes and face

The Danger of the "Quick Fix"

We know the pressure is on to meet daily board-foot targets. It can be tempting to pin a guard back or bypass a shield to clear a scrap piece faster. **Don't do it.**

Statistics show that the majority of table and component saw injuries occur when guards have been removed or tampered with. It only takes a split-second distraction or a slick spot on the floor for a hand to slip. Without that guard in place, there is nothing to stop a life-altering injury.



Adjusting the guard to the proper height

Your Daily Saw Safety Checklist

Before you hit "Start" today, take ten seconds to verify:

- **Is it there?** Ensure all factory-installed guards and splitters are in place.
- **Does it move?** Self-adjusting guards should move freely and drop back into position over the blade automatically.
- **Is it clear?** Ensure no scrap wood is wedged under the guard that might force it into an open position.
- **Report it:** If a guard is cracked, missing, or sticking, notify your supervisor immediately. We would rather lose ten minutes of production for a repair than have a teammate lose a finger.



The Bottom Line: We want every member of this team to go home with the same ten fingers they arrived with. Keep the guards down, keep your focus sharp, and let the machinery do the hard work—not your hands

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

The Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta would like to welcome



Contact Information

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Stellar Transport is an Edmonton-based carrier specializing in truss, lumber, and construction material hauling. Powered by modern logistics and tracking technology, backed by executive-level oversight, and supported by highly experienced drivers, our operations focus on safety, reliability, and efficient plant-focused execution. We're excited to join WWTAA and build strong partnerships within the industry.



Gerhard (Garry) Roehr, P. Eng. | VP - Business Development
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[Innovative Automated Solutions | AMT Robotics](#)

Founded in 2020, AMT Robotics Inc. is a Canadian corporation headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Our journey began with the development and manufacturing of a custom automated sheathing station. Since then, we've evolved to pioneer a comprehensive line of equipment for the manufacturing of prefabricated wood wall panels and have undertaken a variety of custom automation projects for industrial customers.

Backed by a management team boasting 100+ years of collective expertise in business development, software development, electronics design, mechanical engineering, systems integration, and prototype development, we're uniquely positioned to craft innovative solutions that revolutionize our client's production processes.

Though we're relatively new to the prefab equipment industry, our nimbleness enables us to attentively listen to our clients needs and deliver tailored solutions swiftly. Committed to exceptional customer service and support, we pride ourselves on providing high-quality products that precisely meet our customers requirements within established time frames.

Still Looking for a New Executive Officer

We are still looking for someone to take on the position of Executive Officer. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact:

TARA REID

Senior Consultant - Building Materials

TEL: + 1 (587) 743.1266 |

EMAIL: t Reid@dmcrecruitment.com

SIGN UP FOR PERSONALIZED [JOB ALERTS](#)

STANDATA Update

Effective March 1, 2026, Alberta's building industry underwent a significant shift in how wood roof trusses for small-scale residential projects are documented and approved. This marks the end of the transition period as STANDATA 23-BCB-002R1 is officially archived and STANDATA 23-BCI-015R1 becomes the mandatory standard for all Part 9 buildings.

For the past year, the industry has operated under a dual-track system. STANDATA 23-BCB-002R1 provided a temporary exemption for one- and two-family dwellings, allowing these projects to proceed without the rigorous professional authentication typically required for more complex structures.

As of March 1, this exemption is removed. All wood roof truss designs for Part 9 buildings—including single-family homes, semi-detached houses, and row houses—must now comply with 23-BCI-015R1.

Impact on Building Permits

Municipalities, such as the [City of Edmonton](#), have updated their permit processes to align with this change. Applicants should be prepared for the following:

- **Submission Timing:** Authenticated truss designs are ideally submitted at the permit application stage.
- **Permit Conditions:** If designs are not available at application due to procurement, a Safety Codes Officer may issue the permit with a **condition** that authenticated drawings must be provided before a framing inspection.
- **Conditional Permits:** Because authenticated designs may not be available during early procurement, authorities may issue a permit with a **condition**. This requires builders to submit the stamped truss package **before** requesting a framing inspection.

Requirements

- **The "Authenticated Document" Rule:** While a truss layout drawing (the placement aid) does not *always* need a stamp, it may be required to be authenticated if it contains essential design information—such as specific interconnection details—that is not already provided on separate, authenticated shop drawings.
- **Individual Truss Profiles:** Every individual truss profile drawing must now be authenticated by an Alberta-licensed professional engineer.

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?

Here is a recent interview with Enbridge CEO Greg Ebel on building a new pipeline from Alberta to the B.C. coast

[Enbridge CEO says he's open to new Canadian west coast oil pipeline #shorts #oil #pipeline #canada](#)