



THE WOOD FOUNDATION™

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TO: All ITC-SA Members

National Communiqué No 012

In the last couple of weeks, the ITC-SA has received a number of requests to clarify the function and role of the ITC-SA Accredited Engineer in the certification of nail plated mono planer roof trusses, and which were designed by Fabricator Members and erected by mostly ITC-SA Erector Members.

Mostly, the problem seems to be an expectation from the property owners that certification should follow immediately after the roof material was delivered to site, and in some cases even before this. This will never be possible, as certification encompasses the following:

- Design
- Material
- Workmanship

The ITC-SA Inspector will need to confirm 100% compliance with the rational design prescriptions as per the site information provided by the ITC-SA Fabricator Member. By implication this means that the roof has been erected to the rational design prepared. If any deviation from the rational design is found, the ITC-SA Accredited Engineer will be informed, and will need to decide on the appropriate course of action to rectify the problem. In this case, mostly two scenarios will apply; one- remove and re-do or two-, by new rational design provide guidance on the rectification of the identified deviation from the rational design.

Material non-compliance to the rational design shall be reported to the Fabricator Member for correcting and/or re-statement. This will include specified dimensions, grading and treatment requirements, as well as prescriptions regarding the application of cleats, brackets and other ancillary devices that may be prescribed in the rational design applicable to the specific roof.

Workmanship will mostly relate to the ability of the carpenter to comply with the prescriptions given in the rational design. Failure to adhere to the rational design prescripts may be compared with having all the right ingredients to bake a cake, but applying them wrongly will result in a mess and not a cake....

In conclusion, allow me to confirm that due to professional liability, no engineering certification will be possible until total compliance with the rational design, material requirements and installation prescriptions has been confirmed by the ITC-SA accredited inspector. The certifying engineer will also not be able to sign blank municipal certificates as certification will confirm approval of the design and the availability of a fabricator design certificate for the job.

Also, allow me to request that you report to the ITC-SA instances where Engineers provide certificates prior to fulfilment of the above. The ITC-SA will report these Engineers to the Engineering Council of South Africa for investigation and a sanction will cause these rogue professionals to be brought in line with industry prescriptions.

Kind Regards

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Executive Officer (ITC-SA)

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