



7 December 2015

TO: All ITC-SA Members

National Communiqué No 049
Non Structural Timber (Black Cross - XXX)

Dear Membership,

It has been reported more and more frequently of late that BLACK CROSS timber is being used in structural applications. The term "BLACK CROSS" refers to REJECT timber NOT SUITABLE FOR STRUCTURAL GRADING AND THEREFORE NOT SUITABLE FOR USE IN ANY TIMBER STRUCTURE.

The timber is easily identified, normally marked with three large X's. XXX stamped on the end and /or the face of the timber.

The normal graded timber is marked with an authorities' stamp (Usually SABS or SATAS) and the strength grade allocated to the timber.

Any UNMARKED or XXX marked timber is to be used in NON-STRUCTURAL applications only.

Unmarked or XXX timber is not permitted in trusses nor in tile battens which are structural elements providing a critical role in the bracing of the rafters.

Non-structural Brandering is permitted in ceilings provided that bottom chord bracing is fully installed in accordance with SANS10243, or the Engineer's specification, which over-rides the deemed-to-satisfy rules in the Code.

Over the years it has come to our attention that contractors will source bracing and battens/brandering from suppliers other than where they source the trusses. This implies a "cost saving" and most probably the use of non-structural elements in the finished roof.

Another route to "cost saving" is for contractors to purchase XXX timber from suppliers (even Truss Plants) for use with site made trusses.

Both of these "cost saving" practices for truss erection are illegal and the sale of this material is potentially dangerous for the public and does immeasurable harm to our industry, both reputationally and economically.

Please ensure that you educate your customers in this regard and let us ensure that ITC-SA members are able to contribute meaningfully to the upliftment of standards in the industry as well as to the well-being of the members and to public safety.

Kind Regards

Roly Adams

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