

"THE WEB"
ITC NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2003

It seems impossible to believe that almost half of the year has slipped by. Hopefully in that time much has been accomplished and all your plans and predictions have been successfully achieved and will continue to do so.

TIMBER SUPPLY

It appears that the general shortage of structural pine has eased to an extent. Opinion has it that the stronger Rand has helped to lesson the pain slightly.

The future supply is however unpredictable and we have been approached by consumers of pine in other industries to joint forces with them, to make up a stronger collective voice in order to approach the relevant government departments.

The concern centres around privatisation of certain state owned saw mills and the strategic planning and allocations of pine logs in the future.

A meeting of the various parties is to be held soon with a view to studying the short and long term impact on the various role players and the necessary action to be taken.

We have received a report from an SABS inspector stating that there is a presence of timber without grade marks, being used in truss manufacture.

It appears that the source of supply is from Zimbabwe and the fabricators concerned are able to show that their orders clearly call for graded structural pine and the delivery notes state that this has been delivered.

It is important when placing your order you insist that the timber is clearly face marked with the grade you have ordered, particularly when placing the order with some timber agents, who don't seem to appreciate the relevance of the grade marks.

Talking of grade marks, a new logo "SATAS" will soon appear on some timber products.

The acronym is formed from the company title, South African Timber Auditing Services, which is a registered and approved certification body for timber and related timber products.

The principles of the company are 3 well known former SABS employees, Abe Stears, Dave Goodall and Piet Posthumus and the quality management system they have initiated is perfectly legal and has the SABS approval.

INSPECTION

The message still filters through that some site documentation is not of desirable standard. Unclear roof truss layout drawings are presented and some still on dot-matrix printouts).

With the present software available, fabricators are able to zoom into roof sectors and give clear details eg. On hips. Please ensure that erectors are given clear drawings thereby eliminating the "guess factor".

It is of paramount importance that we protect standards and prevent the industry being brought into disrepute.

Some local authorities are still not enforcing the A19 Regulation but we are gradually making our way around to explain the process adopted and now the accepted norm.

Poor erection standards and photographic evidence is drawn to the attention of local authorities, particularly in some rural areas where standards are non-existent.

Whilst on this topic, we are advised that the pirate plates are still in circulation. If anyone is aware of an ITC member using non-system authorized plates, please report this to us.

Inspectors are reporting the perennial problem of Asymmetric girders and cantilever trusses being erected the wrong way around.

Some system engineers suggest that all girders should be fabricated symmetrical, but if this is logistically or economically not possible then perhaps a clear marking system indicating the direction of the girder or the support point of the cantilever is necessary.

You can't imagine that an erector would use a bracket with a long vertical tail and no web behind to bolt it to. Even Ripley would enjoy this.

GENERAL

The annual general meeting of the ITC will be held on 20 August, so please enter this event in your diaries.

It would be wonderful to have a bumper turn out, particularly from Gauteng members.

This is the opportunity to air your views, ask questions or put forward ideas.

The Western Cape region have more members present at their quarterly general meetings, than the ITC had at its AGM last year.

Perhaps this means that the time is now ripe to try and resurrect the Gauteng Regional Branch.

As indicated Western Cape are running very strongly and act with collective voice.

Kwa-Zulu Natal are finding their feet and getting going very nicely.

Please give it thought and let me know your ideas.

A BIT OF AMUSEMENT

A preacher was winding up his temperance sermon with great fervour.

"If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river". And the congregation cried "Amen!"

"And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!" And the congregation cried "Amen!"

"And if I had all the whisky and demon rum in the world, I'D TAKE IT AND THROW IT INTO THE RIVER!" The congregation cried "Amen!"

The preacher sat down and the Deacon stood up. "For our closing hymn, he announced, "let us turn to page 126 and sing "We shall gather at the river".

(From Timber Frame Talk - I'm sure they wont mind us using the story - shows we read the magazine

Cheers until next time!