

"MINI WEB"

ITC NEWSLETTER

BRACING RULES

The new year is underway and the date set for launch of the amended bracing rules of 1 January should have ensured that the playing fields have evened out and all quotations after that date are based on the amended rules, regardless of which system software is being used.

It is confirmed that quotations submitted in 2002 and based on the old rules should be honoured by supply of the bracing method quoted on.

TIMBER SHORTAGE

We are doing everything we can to assist in the alleviation of the serious timber shortage which prevails.

We have met with the Department of Trade & Industries and have backed up in writing the claims made to them of the critical situation in the industry due to the lumber shortage. We eagerly await their response.

It is now common knowledge that fabricators are being forced to rip graded timber in order to meet production requirements (The Director of Standards at the D.T.I. has been made aware in order to try and force action from them).

Whilst the practice of ripping cannot be condoned it is certainly understood.

However it does highlight another serious issue.

A roof without graded timber does not comply with structural design requirements and cannot be signed off by an inspector and the engineer.

We have approached "Skills for Africa" who do the training for accreditation of graders who can legally re-grade timber.

The training is done at their premises in Sabie at a cost of R1650 per person. (Plus R135 per day for hostel boarding and R40 per day tea and lunch). A minimum of 8 in the class.

They will do the training in-house at a charge of R14500 (Plus trave & accommodation). Certainly a distinct possibility.

Please contact us if you believe we should pursue this channel.

Any further suggestions will certainly be considered and acted on as a collective voice for the industry. Don't hesitate to communicate with us.

Regards

Eddie Bock

Executive Director