

"THE WEB"

ITC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2003

This bulletin will not touch on the matters of timber shortage or amended bracing rules. We have pursued both to wear-out points, but will not let go until we believe that there is a satisfactory result to both issues.

The word timber does trigger off another sensitive issue - Lumber Millers increasing timber prices without pre-warning, despite a previous request by ourselves, of imminent price hikes.

We have again approached SALMA on this matter and they have again requested their member mills to advise in good time of price increases.

We are however advised that not all lumber millers are SALMA members, and there is no way of us reaching all the timber suppliers. You will have to make the point to your suppliers as well.

PRODUCT GUARANTEE

The roof inspection process is doing an excellent job on behalf of the nail-plated roof truss industry.

The roof inspectors are not only performing an erector education function whilst snagging roofs, they are also high lighting some of the faults in truss fabrication e.g. excessive gaps in joints, plates missing on joints or incorrect plate placement, amongst other errors. Obviously not all of these faults appear on every job, nor do they all emanate from the same truss plants every time.

It does however raise the question. How good is your quality control? Does it exist at all in every truss plant? Is there recording of testing on every job?

If we as a responsible industry are serious about our responsibility of providing a safe roof over the buildings we are covering with our products, then it is imperative that we take every precaution to ensure confidence in the end products and not assume that someone else will cover us in the event of failure. Someone else meaning the system engineer or the inspector and his approved designer / engineer.

The SABS quite justifiably enjoy highlighting the fact of the control systems in place at the only truss fabricator holding the SABS Mark.

The approved engineers are now becoming concerned about un-noticed or latent defects existing in trusses and which defects could cause roof failure, bringing about claims against the engineer.

They are looking at some form of product guarantee form to be signed by fabricators.

Perhaps time is ripe to consider product liability cover if you don't already have this in place.

A thought occurs that perhaps a more favourable premium can be negotiated on some form of global policy. We will investigate.

AIDS

Talking about precautions. Have you already switched off by just reading this sub-title or have you really thought about this pandemic and it's effect on our economy, possibly on your own business.

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Let us not sweep this matter under the carpet, but as responsible business people play our part in the prevention of its spread by educating our staff. Many already are doing this and to those we applaud you.

The attached leaflet can be copied and handed to staff members, discussed at staff meetings or pinned on notice boards.

SABS RANDOM INSPECTIONS

The bureau are being paid by ourselves to do random inspections at plants. Unfortunately budget constraints limit these visits to a maximum of 2 visits per year, some plants may only get 1 visit and the outlying areas may never receive a visit.

The systems would like to have these random inspections stepped up to become more frequent, but neither the SABS nor ourselves have the capacity to make this happen.

On a recent visit to a plant the inspector was refused entry. He did not want to be unpleasant and enforce his rights, nor would he mention the name of the plant to us.

He politely requested that we advise members that the inspectors can enforce their right of entry. If you have nothing to hide and are doing things correctly there is no reason not to allow the SABS to do their work.

Refusal of entry only creates suspicion.

SITE DOCUMENTATION

In many instances this has improved but there are still several cases where mystery surrounds the ability of erectors to construct the structure to the designers requirements, let alone allow inspectors to properly inspect.

We mentioned earlier that we are involved in a responsible industry, there is no need to elaborate on the need to provide full details to site. This is a certificate of competence requirement.

TIMBER GRADING

A Silverton based company POLAK ENGINEERING (012) 803-6036 is able to supply the TRU Mechanical Grader, fully calibrated by the SABS at a cost of R26 000.00.

This is a legal method of re-grading ripped timber, or grading out higher grades from your stock in hand e.g. S5 to S7.

A designated person at your plant has to be approved by the SABS and the necessary log books kept

A FEW LIGHTHEARTED THOUGHTS

1. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
1. Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
1. When you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

Cheers until next time!