



ENGINEERED WOOD WEEK

NEWS NOTES FROM AITC. THE ORIGINAL TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERED WOOD

August 31, 2007

AITC Participates in the High Performance Building Council

AITC staff attended a meeting of the High Performance Building Council (HPBC) in Washington DC on July 17th and 18th. The Council was established in response to Section 914 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which directs the U.S. Department of Energy to work with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) to begin the complex task of assessing how well current codes and standards define the performance requirements of a “high performance building”.

The July meeting welcomed 64 organizations from across the country and addressed key issues including: defining what a high performance building is; how to incorporate cost effectiveness into the design and use of high performance buildings; historic preservation and how it applies; the need for sustainability in high performance building design; safety; and, security.

The Council also discussed the possibility of forming a High Performance Building Council at NIBS and presented a proposed charter to that effect.

It is the Council’s position that many buildings are poor performers due to the inadequacy of current building codes and standards. Their key argument is that some building codes and standards are just the *minimum* requirements for design and construction in the United States, but when in reality they have become the de facto standard, rather than the minimum, for construction. As a member of the Council, AITC will work to protect the glued laminated timber interests. Please contact Ron Goff at the AITC headquarters for further information.



AITC Attends ASTM Subcommittee Meeting

AITC staff attended an ASTM D07 subcommittee meeting on August 1st dealing with requirements for the evaluation of heat durability of adhesives. The meeting was to address high temperature testing of adhesives used in the manufacture of I-joists. The parameters for testing were agreed upon, but under some duress due to a perceived need to establish parameters before the International Code Council – Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) hearing this fall. Without industry established parameters, ICC-ES would take it on themselves to set the parameters.

So what does this have to do with glulam? The parameters set for evaluation at elevated temperatures of adhesives used in the manufacture of I-joist have already been proposed for incorporation into revision of the glulam adhesive standard (AITC 405). This testing is very stringent, although it has some merit for use with glued laminated timber.

Please contact Ron Goff for further information.

Plan Now to Attend the 56th AITC Annual Meeting

The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club in Naples, Florida will be the site of the 56th Annual Meeting. The dates are April 27-29, 2008. The Market Support Advisory Committee will now meet during the Annual Meeting, rather than during the Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Please make your plans now to attend. Watch for further information in future Engineered Wood Week issues.