

FPS Midwest Section Meeting



Students from the University of Illinois and Iowa State University joined FPS Midwest Section officers and personnel from Brunsell Components for a tour of the company's truss manufacturing facility in Mount Horeb, WI.

The Midwest Section fall meeting was held at the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, on November 4, 2002. Five speakers presented information about Quality Control Certification of products. Section Trustee Jim Vogt organized the meeting.

The first presenter of the day was Dr. David W. Green, USDA Forest Service/Forest Products Laboratory (Madison, WI). The topic of his presentation: "Codes, Standards and Solid-Sawn Lumber." His presentation discussed the consumption and demand of timber and pulp throughout the world, and how new standards are affecting quality. Current building codes, applications throughout the United States, and current designators of the codes were addressed. Building codes are administrated by: the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, State and Local Governments, Model Building Codes, Consensus Standards and by producers of products. Steps are being taken to compile the codes into one "International Building Code." Standards used for grading various types of lumber were also addressed, along with lumber grading, the organizations that grade the lumber, and interpretations of the grade stamp.

The second presenter, Ryan Dexter, is the Quality Control Director for the Wood Truss Council of America (Madison, WI). The presentation was titled "Quality Criteria for Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses." Background history was given about quality control used in the truss industry and how the quality controls have helped improve the truss quality. Other topics of the discussion included proper placement of the metal plates on the truss, determining which plates are "critical," and techniques for inspection.

Jim Vogt, P.E., Technical Director for TECO, was the third presenter. His topic of discussion was "Certification of Wood Structural-Use Panels." His presentation began with the history of TECO and the history of building

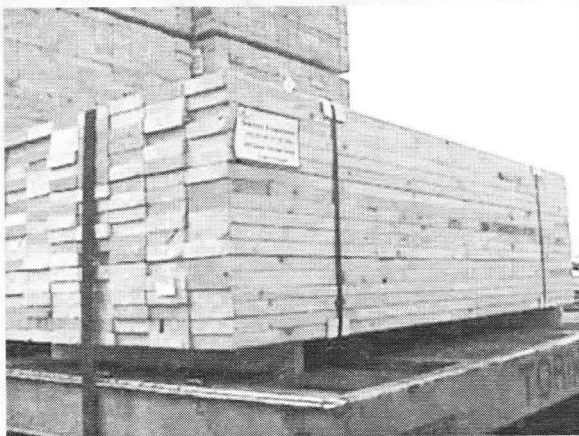
codes in the U.S. Originally, the minimum requirements were based on “life first and property second.” Building codes are a means for regulating everything from controlling design and construction to the removal and demolition of a structure. Some other highlights from the discussion included panel quality assurance for construction, the organizations that determine the product and performance standards, and what machines/tests are used. Jim wrapped things up with the grade stamps applied to panels and interpretations of the stamps.

James A. Rothma, P.E., is presently Executive Vice President with PFS Corporation, in Madison. He spoke on “Quality Assurance for Prefabricated Wood I-Joist and Structural Composite Lumber.” PFS is an internationally recognized independent quality assurance agency. They monitor the products by reviewing the manufacturer’s records and production process through the use of random sampling and testing of products for code compliance. ASTM D5055 is the standard specification for establishing and monitoring structural capabilities of prefabricated wood I-joists. ASTM D5456 is the standard specification for evaluation of structural composite lumber.

Bob Gorleski is currently employed in the PFS quality control department as Field Service Representative. He spoke on the “Certification of Manufactured Systems and Structures.” There are many steps necessary to gain certification of factory-built construction systems. Bob described the use of applicable quality control manual known as AC10. The Industrialized Building Commission (IBC) and Model Rules and Regulations for Industrialized/Modular Buildings (MRR) are also used. To be certified, a factory-built construction system must meet requirements for trade marking, plant certification, and product testing.

The meeting concluded with a tour of Brunsell Component Division, in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. Brunsell manufactures quality wood trusses. Meeting attendees were given a thorough tour of the manufacturing facility. As an added bonus, meeting attendees were each presented with a copy of a very nice reference book entitled “Engineered Wood Products: A Guide for Specifiers, Designers, and Users”. The books were generously donated by PFS Corporation, and were especially appreciated by the Iowa State University Students as a valuable reference for their contemporary class in Adhesive Bonded Wood Products.

- Tami Skadeland
- Matthew Secl



Hey-Nice Wood.



Now that's what I call quality.