



Association Commentary: **Truss Design Engineers: Roles and Responsibilities**

Introduction. There has been some confusion regarding what is expected of a Truss Design Engineer within the supply system for wood trusses. This Commentary is intended to provide information to clarify the limitations of a Truss Design Engineer's role and responsibility with respect to the supply of trusses.

Commentary. Truss Design Engineers design individual structural components intended for use as part of the Primary Structural System of the building. They stamp designs for each individual truss component as depicted on the truss shop drawing. The Truss Design Engineer may also provide a layout drawing that shows the assumed general location of each truss according to information provided by the Owner, Building Designer, Structural Engineer of Record, or Contractor. He/she has little or no control over the building project and therefore cannot be responsible to evaluate the effect of the trusses incorporated into the Primary Structural System. He/she is responsible for bracing only to the extent of indicating the members of each truss that require bracing in order that each truss performs as intended when installed.

The Western Wood Truss Association of BC, in consultation with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, has determined that a Specialty Structural Engineer such as a Truss Design Engineer does not take on any more responsibility than individual truss design, even if qualified, unless he or she is specifically assigned and accepts an extended scope of work.

The Structural Engineer of Record, Contractor, or Owner has overall responsibility for coordinating the structural design of the Primary Structural System of the building. The Structural Engineer of Record, Contractor, or Owner, is responsible to perform a review of the roof truss system to verify that material properties, design parameters, bracing, connections, loads and load paths meet overall structural requirements and applicable building codes.

It should be noted that load capacities and specific installation requirements for building hardware used in truss installation are established by industry hardware suppliers.

Summary

Unless specific contractual arrangements have been made extending the Truss Design Engineer's scope of work, his or her design responsibility is limited to individual trusses.
