

October 27, 2011

New Design Values Remain Under Review

The American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) Board of Review has deferred its decision on approving a submission by the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) that would modify design values for visually graded dimension lumber. Following its October 20 meeting in Washington, the ALSC Board of Review decided to open a 60-Day comment period "...to afford all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the technical aspects of the SPIB submission."

At the ALSC Board of Review meeting last week, some 60 industry representatives heard presentations from affected groups. Attendees represented all major stakeholders including lumber producers, component manufacturers, truss plate and software suppliers, builders, contractors, engineers, building officials, building material dealers, universities and government agencies. The ALSC Board of Review heard testimony from 11 speakers, commenting on the process, the available data, and the timing of publishing new design values on short notice, and suggested a suitable transition plan would help.



The next scheduled ALSC Board of Review hearing will be January 5, 2012 in Washington, DC.

"This 60-day comment period will afford all parties time to consider all available data, all technical issues related to the science behind these proposed new values and help the ALSC Board of Review to render some equitable decision in the near future," stated SFPA president Adrian Blocker.

In announcing the 60-day comment period, ALSC requested that all interested parties submit their remarks in writing or in person at its January 5, 2012 meeting. "Parties should be mindful that the proposed changes are significant and should take steps they deem appropriate in the interim," ALSC President Tom Searles stated. Any interested party can request a copy of SPIB's submittal from Tom Searles; requests and comments may be directed to Mr. Searles, by e-mail to alsc@alsc.org, FAXed to 301/540-8004, or mailed to P.O. Box 210, Germantown, MD 20875.

SPIB is the first rules-writing agency to submit new values. Rules-writing agencies responsible for other species are in different stages for evaluating design values. The new values will ensure that Southern Pine lumber will continue to be a reliable material in the construction of residential and commercial buildings. Upon receiving final approval from ALSC's Board of Review, SPIB will publish new design values for visually graded Southern Pine dimension lumber.

Click [here](#) for additional background information plus answers to questions about the proposed new design values for visually graded Southern Pine dimension lumber.