

December 16, 2011

To: Tom Searles, President, American Lumber Standard Committee
Please forward to the ALSC Board of Review
R.B. Parrish, Chairman
R.L. Ethington
W.T. Hawks

The *Southern Pine Design Value Forum* included representatives from a wide cross-section of stakeholders, including lumber producers, component manufacturers, builders, lumber dealers and technical experts. Enclosed is the final report.

The findings and recommendations in this report were developed with considerable time, effort and due diligence by three task groups established at the forum. They represent the collective consensus of the task groups, but may not represent each individual's point of view. Findings & recommendations for consideration by ALSC and the ALSC Board of Review include:

- Adopt the recommended standard change management process and apply it to the proposed design values currently under review. This would require the Board of Review to have a 30-day review period to consider public comment received at their January 5, 2011 hearing. The Board of Review would meet again (no sooner than February 5, 2012) and should decide to have SPIB complete their full testing matrix. This would return the process back to the end of Step 1 in the proposed process as shown in the Flow Chart included in the enclosed report.
- Require SPIB to complete the remaining testing of additional Southern Pine grades and sizes as required by ASTM D1990 before approving any design value changes.
- In the future, address design value changes at the same time and coordinate with the code development process.
- Revise the resource monitoring protocol to ensure more timely detection of smaller incremental changes in design values.
- Revise ASTM D1990 and related documents as needed.
- Revise ALSC procedures and policies as needed, and require rules-writing agencies to revise their procedures and policies as needed.

These recommendations are supported by two papers included within the enclosed report: "A Review of the Margin of Safety for In-Market Lumber" and "Proposed Process for Evaluating Existing Design Values". As shown, an adequate margin of safety exists with in-market lumber such that existing or in-progress structures do not need re-evaluation. Consequently, there are no compelling barriers to completion of the full ASTM D1990-mandated test program prior to approval of any design value changes by the ALSC Board of Review.

The forum participants welcome questions from ALSC and the ALSC Board of Review. Please feel free to contact Adrian Blocker or Cathy Kaake from the Southern Forest Products Association who can direct your questions to the appropriate person for response.