



*...Connecting the Truss Industry*

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# TPI INDUSTRY MEMO

Date: August 6, 2010

Ref: Southern Pine Inspection Bureau's "Important Notice" issued July 28, 2010

TPI recently became aware of a notice issued by the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) on their website (<http://www.spib.org/DesignNotice.pdf>) regarding the design values for visually graded southern pine lumber. The notice indicates that SPIB has "...received information that some pieces of lumber have tested lower than the values assigned to the visual grade which were developed through the "In-grade" Testing Program" and that SPIB has contacted the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, The American Wood Council, and the American Lumber Standard Committee to investigate the issue further. The notice does not state that there is anything wrong with the current values, but that after SPIB investigates the issue further they "....will evaluate if there is a need to make some adjustments to either the grading rules or the design values." Since there are no recommended adjustments to design values in the SPIB notice, TPI and its members believe in continuing to rely on the published design values used in the building codes as referenced in the National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS), which have a long history of producing safe structural designs.

TPI, its members and others in the industry are monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action when and if needed, and will keep the industry informed.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Cassidy, R.A.  
Executive Director  
Truss Plate Institute