

PACIFIC LUMBER INSPECTION BUREAU
AITC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes
via Microsoft Teams
8:00 AM PST
May 13th, 2020

The Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB) held a meeting of the AITC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 via webcast/conference call, commencing at 8:00 a.m. PLIB Director of Engineering, Henry Morris, presided.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Henry Morris. The meeting was conducted using Microsoft Teams. It was established that all parties could hear the audio and see the video. Mr. Robert Reisdorf communicated by the chat feature due to microphone issues.

In attendance for all or portions of the meeting were: Andreas Rhude, Bill Grigsby, Chris Reed, Dale Schiferl, Eric Fennell, Jeff Linville, Larry Zhou, Rik Vandermeulen, Mike Caldwell, Robert Reisdorf, Ron Roeder, Thomas Ellavsky, and Thomas Niska. PLIB Staff present for the meeting: Don DeVisser, Henry Morris, Ben Haynes, Jeff Fantozzi.

2. Antitrust Statement

Mr. Morris read the PLIB antitrust statement listed in the meeting book.

3. Approval of October 31st, 2019 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the October 31, 2019 meeting minutes as presented in the meeting book was made by Mike Caldwell and seconded by Andreas Rhude. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Fire Retarded Treatment of Glulam

The AITC TAC was informed of the new ASTM Fire Retarded Treatment for Glulam (FRT Glulam) standard being developed at the Subcommittee level primarily through the efforts of APA. Jeff Linville informed the AITC TAC about his concerns regarding the approach being taken which would bypass the existing the ASTM D3737 model and noted that he had submitted several comments to the ASTM committee on fire with his concerns the ASTM glulam standard would be bypassed. Mr. Morris informed the AITC TAC committee that PLIB staff will be monitoring the status of the proposed standard and will voting on upcoming ballots. Andreas Rhude asked if this standard has been approved and adopted and Mr. Morris noted that the standard was still under development. Jeff Fantozzi asked the AITC TAC if anyone is participating at ASTM and no one on the call was. Don DeVisser asked if the proposed standard was from the fire or wood treatment subcommittee and Mr. Linville stated it was the fire subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: AITC staff will be monitoring the status of the proposed standard and will voting accordingly at ASTM.

5. “Rule of Thumb” for Exterior Glulam Use

Mr. Morris informed the AITC TAC about the status of the “Rule of Thumb” for exterior glulam use raised by Pat Levy at the October 31st, 2019 AITC TAC meeting. AITC staff was unsure on the origin for the “Rule of Thumb.” Jeff Linville said the “Rule of Thumb” came from Bob Powell at previous years of AITC TAC meetings. Mr. Linville also stated that there might be more information in the most recent

version of the Timber Construction Manual (TCM). Mike Caldwell agreed with Mr. Linville's statement and noted that additional information may be found in previous TAC meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM: AITC staff will search both referenced sources and will update the website accordingly.

4. Technical Services Report

Mr. Morris gave updates regarding the International Accreditation Service (IAS) AA-675 report which recognizes PLIB as a certified inspection agency for metal plate connected wood trusses, glue laminated timbers, and cross laminated timbers. In 2020 IAS performed an audit of PLIB/AITC. Six corrective action requirements were issued. Mr. Morris is currently working on resolving the corrective actions. Timber Technologies was acknowledged for hosting the IAS external audit of PLIB/AITC. Mr. Fantozzi asked Morris if there would be any expected changes because of the six corrective actions and Mr. Morris responded there would not be a change in the service provided but there would be changes in documentation and record keeping.

ACTION ITEM: None

5. AITC 109 - Standard for the Preservative Treatment of Structural Glued Laminated Timber

Don DeVisser informed the AITC TAC about the status of *AITC 109 – Standard for the Preservative Treatment of Structural Glued Laminated Timber*. From the October 31st, 2019 AITC TAC meeting a task group was formed comprising of Don DeVisser and Pat Levy. DeVisser stated most items in AITC 109 are still current and coincide with current AWPAs standards and that the standard is almost ready for republication. DeVisser mentioned two of the main benefits of AITC 109 is its availability to users at a greatly reduced cost compared to the AWPAs Book of Standards and the tables which coincide with AWPAs Standards. DeVisser requested that the AITC TAC provide some guidance for which preservatives remove and which ones to retain. DeVisser stated AITC 109 will be ready for republishing once the "Use Category" tables were reviewed and updated. DeVisser proposed the formation of a task group to review the tables. He explained that while all AWPAs tables could be included, it would be preferable to limit the tables to those preservatives that are primarily being used by glulam manufacturers. Mr. Fantozzi suggested that the proposed table be footnoted saying, "There are other preservatives which are approved for use but may not be available." DeVisser stated what makes AITC 109 helpful is its direct and concise information. DeVisser also mentioned that the AWPAs retention rates are going down instead of up making AWPAs more conservative than AITC 109. A task group of Andreas Rhude, Tom Niska, Rik Vandermeulen, and Ron Roeder was formed to review DeVisser's changes. Jeff Linville suggested that the task group consider the effect on bonding properties with the preservatives that are listed because AWPAs does not consider this and some preservatives may not be bondable which is important when considering pre-treated laminations. Eric Fennell stated that architects want to use the latest and greatest green treatments and DeVisser stated that we would not want to recommend any treatments that have not been approved by AWPAs as AWPAs's process for approving new treatments is well recognized.

ACTION ITEM: AITC Staff will review AITC 109 and will send the marked-up version to the task group for review. Once task group has reviewed AITC 109 it will be published with a 2020 date.

6. Report on the Status of D3737 Knot Surveys

Don DeVisser informed the AITC TAC about the status of the knot survey required in the annex of ASTM D3737. DeVisser informed the AITC TAC that the last survey was conducted in 2012 and the ASTM D3737 requires knot surveys to be conducted every three years. It was pointed out that the standard states that the knot survey is to be conducted by the organization representing 75% of the glulam production, and that would be APA, not AITC. He stated that a letter was sent to Ed Elias, President of

APA, explaining the need to conduct a knot survey and that this was followed up by several phone calls and emails but that a response was not received. Tom Niska asked if the first time AITC staff tried to contact APA was in the March 18th letter. DeVisser said he emailed Borjen Yeh, APA's Director of Technical Services Division, twice before the March 18th letter and Mr. Yeh provided DeVisser with a paper titled, "In-Grade Evaluation of U.S. Glulam Beams, End-Joints and Tension Laminations" which was presented at the International Network of Timber Engineering Research (INTER) in 2017 in Kyoto, Japan. DeVisser expressed concerns about APA not following ASTM D3737 requirements regarding the knot survey. Fantozzi expressed his concern with the liability of not having a current knot survey and being out of compliance with the standard but being restricted by the 75% rule in the standard. Tom Niska suggested it was imperative to get an answer from APA. Mr. Fantozzi agreed to reach out again and to use other staff contacts to try to get an answer. Mike Caldwell raised the notion whether there were any punitive options that could be made at the ANSI or IAS level. Mr. Morris suggested making a proposal at the ASTM level to potentially force the issue. DeVisser thought the IAS level would be the best route to make APA acknowledge the knot survey requirement. Mr. Caldwell suggested DeVisser, Fantozzi, Morris and himself to discuss further actions on a conference call.

ACTION ITEMS: Jeff Fantozzi will reach out again to Ed Elias through different channels. PLIB/AITC will hold a conference call to discuss future actions.

7. Review of AITC Technical Notes

Mr. Morris informed the committee that PLIB/AITC staff was working on reviewing the AITC Technical Notes for both technical and graphical updates. Mr. Morris showed the committee what the new version of the Technical Notes will look like to tie into the marketing plan developed by the PLIB Branding Committee. Mike Caldwell clarified that Technical Notes 7, 8, 10, 11, and 26 were previously approved by AITC TAC in 2016 with the recommended changes and that the changes were made in early 2019 and they are ready for publication. Mr. Caldwell noted that Technical Notes 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25 needed review. A task group consisting of Mike Caldwell, Thomas Ellavsky, Tom Niska and Henry Morris was struck to review the remaining Technical Notes. Mr. Fantozzi noted that the new combined PLIB/AITC website will be up and running soon and the Technical Notes will be posted on the site. Mr. Caldwell suggested a three-year review schedule for the AITC Technical Notes.

ACTION ITEM: Task group comprised of Mike Caldwell, Thomas Ellavsky, Tom Niska, and Henry Morris to review Technical Notes 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25. Technical Notes 8, 10, 11 and 26 will be made available on the website when it is ready.

8. Publication of AITC 200-2020

Mr. Morris informed the AITC TAC that AITC 200-2020 was ready for publication but still needs to be updated to the new style developed by the PLIB Branding Committee. It was noted that all AITC 200 revision have been previously approved.

ACTION ITEM: Update AITC 200-2020 to the new look and send hard copies out to manufacturers when ready.

9. Review of AITC Test Methods

Mr. Morris informed the AITC TAC about the formatting changes that were made to the AITC Test Methods. It was noted that the changes were editorial in nature and did not require approval by the AITC TAC. Mike Caldwell said he reviewed the changes Morris made and that it looked good. No other changes were brought up by the AITC TAC.

ACTION ITEM: Update AITC Test Methods to the new format and publish.

10. ANSI A190.1 Technical Review Board (TRB) Position Opening

Mr. Morris informed the AITC TAC that Pat Levy was the AITC representative on the ANSI A190.1 Technical Review Board (TRB) and with his departure from Structural Wood Systems, it left a vacancy on the TRB that needed to be filled. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to elect Rik Vandermeulen of Unalam as the AITC representative on the ANSI A190.1 TRB. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Staff will notify the secretariat of AITC A190.1 that Rik Vandermeulen will be the AITC representative on the ANSI A190.1 Technical Review Board.

11. Resource Monitoring

Henry Morris informed the AITC TAC about the status of the Hem-Fir resource monitoring program. Mr. Morris noted that PLIB delivered all the test samples to the test facility but that testing was delayed due to COVID-19. Mr. Morris also mentioned the SPF(s) report was submitted to ALSC/USDA Forest Products Laboratory and is currently under review and it is not anticipated to result in any changes to the published design values for SPF(s).

ACTION ITEMS: None

12. Updates to ANSI A190.1

Mr. Morris updated the AITC TAC on the status of the non-bonded exterior edge gap for edge joint laminations. Morris noted Pat Levy suggested easing the restrictions on edge gaps specifically for long length power poles due to difficulty in meeting the ¼” requirement. Erik Fennell of Structural Wood Systems agreed that this continues to be an issue and would like further investigation in making changes to ANSI A190.1. Morris stated the next publication of ANSI A190.1 is in 2022. Chris Reed said that a ¼” will allow “squeeze out” to fill up the gap with adhesive and prevent any moisture from “wicking” up the pole. Mr. Fantozzi asked if the concern was the adhesive not filling the ½” gap as opposed to a ¼” gap and it was agreed that that was the only concern. Rik Vandermeulen stated that the ¼” gap is only for the exterior laminations, so it seemed more of a visual requirement and Reed agreed. Mr. Vandermeulen proposed using a ½” limit for industrial grade and leaving the width-based limit for architectural grades.

ACTION ITEM: Staff will submit a proposal to the ANSI A190.1 secretariat to change the ¼” maximum allowable gap to something less restrictive.

13. CAD Drawings

Mr. Morris asked the committee their opinion on whether staff should generate CAD drawings of common details for publication to expand the AITC brand to the technical and mass timber community. Andreas Rhude thought it would be an issue of liability. Bill Grigsby thought it would hard to find a use for standard glulam drawings due to the unique design requirements of each project and Tom Niska agreed. Jeff Fantozzi asked the AITC TAC if there were any technical drawings they wanted AITC to provide. Mike Caldwell mentioned AITC 104 – Typical Construction Details had information and CAD drawings that are beneficial. Outside of those drawings, the committee did not feel the need to produce additional drawings at this time.

ACTION ITEM: None

14. New Business

Eric Fennell from Structural Wood Systems introduced himself to the AITC TAC.

Technical Note 7 - Jeff Linville mentioned that the NDS had changed making Tech Note 7 no longer consistent. Mike Caldwell asked if it was worth updating Tech Note 7 considering the American Wood Council (AWC) Technical Report 10 covered the information. Upon further discussion, and on motion by Mike Caldwell and second by Eric Fennell, the committee unanimously approved retiring Technical Note 7. Andreas Rhude asked where the technical information could be found and Mr. Caldwell responded it was available from AWC. Jeff Fantozzi suggested the website have a link to the AWC publication.

ACTION ITEM: Remove Technical Note 7 from the AITC website and include a link to AWC TR-10 on the PLIB/AITC website.

15. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting was suggested to be around Fall 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Morris
Director, Engineering Services

DRAFT

Summary of Action Items

Agenda Item	Action Items
Fire Retarded Treatment of Glulam	Monitor status of proposed FRT Glulam standard at ASTM. Vote accordingly.
"Rule of Thumb"	AITC staff will search both TAC meeting minutes from previous years along with the TCM for relative information and will update the website accordingly.
AITC 109	AITC Staff will review AITC 109 and will send the marked-up version to the task group for review. Once task group has reviewed AITC 109 it will be sent for publication with a 2020 date.
ASTM D3737 Knot Survey Requirement	Jeff Fantozzi will reach out again to Ed Elias through different channels. Staff will hold a conference call to discuss any needed future actions.
Review of AITC Technical Notes	A task group was formed to review Technical Notes 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25. The task group is comprised of Mike Caldwell, Thomas Niska, Henry Morris, and Tom Niska. Technical Notes 8, 10, 11 and 26 will be made available on the website when it is ready.
Publication of AITC 200	Update AITC 200-2020 to the new look and send hard copies out to manufacturers when ready.
ANSI A190.1 Technical Review Board (TRB) Position Opening	Staff will notify the secretariat for ANSI A190.1 Technical Review Board that Rik Vandermeulen will serve as the AITC representative.
Updates to A190.1	Staff will submit a proposal to the ANSI A190.1 secretariat to change the ¼" maximum allowable gap to "looser" restriction.
Technical Note 7	Remove Technical Note 7 from the AITC website and include a link to AWC TR-10 in its place.