

AITC Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

via Microsoft Teams

8:00 AM PST

October 31st, 2019

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

In attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Andreas Rhude, Bernardo Gomez-Gonzales, Bob Reisendorf, Chris Whelan, Jeff Filler, Larry Zhou, Pat Levy, Rick Vandermeulen, Thomas Ellavsky, Tom Niska, Dale Schiferl and Lane Vanek. Present on the call and representing PLIB staff were John Zachariou, Jeff Fantozzi, Don DeVisser, Mike Caldwell, Ben Haynes, Bob Horlacher, and Henry Morris.

Jeff Fantozzi prefaced the meeting with information about the merger. In January 2019, Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB) merged with West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB)/American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC). Operations will continue under PLIB. Trademarks and intellectual property were transferred to PLIB. No technical staff or quality auditors were lost due to the merger. The AITC brand will still be recognized and will continued to be managed under PLIB.

2. Antitrust Statement

Jeff Fantozzi informed the meeting audience that the meeting would comply under the antitrust rules listed in the provided meeting book.

3. Approval of September 25th, 2018 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes as what was listed in the provided meeting book was made by Andreas Rhude and seconded by Mike Caldwell. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Technical Services Report

Henry Morris gave updates regarding the International Accreditation Service (IAS) AA-675 report on being a certified inspection agency for metal plate connected wood trusses, glue laminated timbers, and cross laminated timbers. In 2018 IAS performed an audit of WCLIB/AITC. One corrective action requirement was issued. Morris addressed and corrected the single corrective action requirement. The license was renewed for 3-years.

Henry Morris reported ICC-Evaluation Service Report #1830 (Norway Spruce Laminations used as alternate lamination grades) was dropped due to inactivity and cost.

There were no questions regarding the Technical Services Report.

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

Don DeVisser reported on issues and the needs for an update for AITC 109. Don DeVisser contacted the American Wood Preservers Association (AWPA) regarding the differences between AWPA standards and AITC 109. References, dates, and tables in AITC 109 were specifically mentioned in need of updating. Don DeVisser requested that participants in the technical advisory committee meeting would review and make suggestions for AITC 109 in conjunction with PLIB/AITC technical staff. Pat Levy suggested to delay any changes because AWPA was still making adjustments to their applicable standards. Don DeVisser mentioned AITC should pay close attention to AWPA adjustments because APA has suggested revisions that pertain to AITC and its standards involvement. Don DeVisser told the technical committee that Henry Morris is PLIB/AITC's representative member for AWPA activities. Don DeVisser asked if there were any other comments regarding AITC 109. Jeff Fantozzi ask the technical advisory committee if there were any other interested parties wanting to get involved with the AITC 109 update. Andreas Rhude and Bernardo Gomez-Gonzales volunteered to work with Don on the update of AITC 109.

6. Resource Monitoring – Spruce Pine Fir (South) and Hem-Fir Species Group

Henry Morris informed the Technical Advisory Committee about an update status with the resource monitoring requirement established under ASTM D1990. Resource monitoring programs began in 2011. Western grading agencies finished the second round of monitoring for Douglas Fir in 2017. Spruce Pine Fir (South) was in its final stages of testing. The second round of Hem-Fir testing was in its preliminary stages for monitoring. Henry Morris informed the committee about how Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) is performing monitoring programs every 18 months to account for seasonal variations. SPIB expects their Southern Yellow Pine monitoring program will be completed in June of 2020. Jeff Fantozzi added that all of North America is performing monitoring programs for eligible North American species on a 5-year cycle.

7. Report on the Status of D3737 Knot Surveys

Don DeVisser addressed the Technical Advisory Committee about the requirement for knot surveys under ASTM D3737. According to Annex A3 the agency that would perform the knot surveys would have production volumes greater than 75% of the market. AITC used to be that agency but now APA has 75% or more of the market. Don DeVisser contacted BJ Yeh of APA regarding the need for knot surveys. BJ provided Don DeVisser with a paper APA published on the topic which described an In-grade style of monitoring that was performed in lieu of the required knot surveys. Don DeVisser noted the importance and potential legal implication of not performing a knot survey if a major failure occurred. The last knot survey was performed in 2012 and knot surveys are required to be performed every three years. Since AITC cannot perform the knot survey because they do not hold 75% of the market production volume and APA is not performing knot surveys, Don expressed concern with the current situation. Mike Caldwell agreed that APA should comply with ASTM D3737. Mike Caldwell suggested that AITC could work with APA to change ASTM D3737. Mike Caldwell suggested that APA should begin to change ASTM D3737 and AITC would back them on the changes if that was the desired choice.

Don DeVisser suggested to make an amendment from the meeting book's potential action to contact the AITC members regarding the ASTM D3737 issue for any other comments before discussing concerns with APA.

A motion was made by Pat Levy, seconded by Andreas Rhude, to contact APA regarding the knot survey testing or the lack thereof to ensure that AITC is still in compliance with D3737.

Jeff Filler commented that he thought APA would be in compliance but D3737 still would remain “broken”. Rick Vandermeulen said he thought only the four grades that APA tested would qualify and could not be extrapolated to the other grades.

Andreas Rhude and Tom Niska agreed with approach.

Don DeVisser called for any objections to the motion, none were indicated, motion was passed unanimously. Don agreed to put together correspondence to be sent to APA.

8. Technical Notes

Mike Caldwell presented an update regarding the review of the technical notes. Mike Caldwell didn’t believe the website reflected the most recent versions of the updated technical notes. There is a need to update the technical notes to reflect the committees recommended changes. Mike Caldwell will review the technical notes and will incorporate the previously approved changes. The final PDFs of the technical notes will be reviewed by the committee for one more round of comments once Mike completes the editing.

9. Other Business

Thomas Ellavsky asked what the status was for AITC 200. Henry Morris reported that all of the recommended changes were incorporated into the AITC 200 standard. AITC 200 is ready to be digitally hosted on the website. AITC Test Methods will be reviewed by Mike Caldwell as an addendum to AITC 200. Currently the Test Methods are in compliance with ANSI A190.1.

Pat Levy said under “Resources/FAQs” on the AITC website, the question, “Can glue laminated timbers be used outdoors?” It states that a rule of thumb. Pat suggested either declare what the rule of thumb is or remove it.

Pat Levy also mentioned in ANSI A190.1 section 9.3 it mentions an edge gap between non bonded stack laminations. The ¼” gap stated is very hard to maintain on an item like a 100-foot utility pole. Pat Levy was looking for an exception for a utility pole. A change to the A190.1 consensus committee would need to be submitted in early 2021 for 2022 publication. Pat Levy will draft a proposal for AITC to submit the ANSI A190.1 consensus committee. Pat Levy suggested that a ½” allowable gap would be acceptable.

10. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Next Technical Advisory Committee meeting was suggested to be around Spring 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.