



ALSC Delays Decision on Southern Pine Design Values

NLBMDA, NAHB, SBCA and other end user groups successfully urged the Board of Review of the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) to postpone its decision on a proposal to significantly reduce design value elements for Southern Yellow Pine (SYP). The Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) had asked the board to approve the proposal at the Board's October 20 meeting in Washington, DC. NLBMDA argued that the SPIB should be required to complete a full battery of tests on all dimensions of SYP before the Board considered the proposal.

Given the market disruption the proposal has already had, NLBMDA also argued that the Board should not approve any design value changes without an adequate phase-in period and a clear implementation road map. Considering the prospect for the review of design values of other species, NLBMDA has also argued for the development of a road map, communicated unambiguously to the entire supply chain of softwood lumber, and that all stakeholders have adequate time to review all test data. Given the lack of transparency leading up to the SPIB proposal for SYP, the Board has the responsibility to learn from this experience and ensure that the very important review of species be undertaken in a rational and transparent process, clearly communicated to all stakeholders.

The ASLC Board of Review plans a second hearing on SYP on January 5. NLBMDA will argue in the meantime for complete testing of all dimensions of SYP by SPIB, adequate time for a review of the test data by experts, such as those at Mississippi State University, and a phase in of any justified changes. NLBMDA members with questions may contact Frank Moore at frank@dealer.org.