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August 31, 2010

**TO: PARTIES INTERESTED IN EVALUATION REPORTS ON
STRUCTURAL WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Acceptance Criteria for Structural Wood-based
Products, Subject AC47-1010-R2 (JS/KS)**

Hearing Information:

Wednesday, October 6, 2010
8:00 a.m.

Sheraton Gateway Hotel Los Angeles
6101 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90045
(888) 627-7104

Dear Madam or Sir:

Revisions to include thermally modified wood under the subject criteria were considered at the June 2010 Evaluation Committee hearing in Birmingham, Alabama. As noted in the staff letter dated July 15, 2010, the proposed revisions were held for further study to allow for consideration of additional revisions. These additional revisions may be summarized as follows:

1. Modification to permit the evaluation of thermally modified, ungraded softwood lumber in accordance with Section 3.7 of AC47.
2. A definition of thermally modified wood has been proposed, along with an explanation of the purpose for the treatment.

Revisions are also proposed to Section 4.3, requiring that thermally modified wood be produced under a quality control program that is similar to that required for laminated veneer bamboo (LVB).

Thus, in considering the revisions noted in the staff letter dated May 13, 2010 and the memo dated June 10, 2010 along with the additional provisions mentioned above, the proposed revisions are as follows:

3.7 Proprietary Solid Sawn Wood Products Used for Decking and Guardrail Systems:

3.7.1 Proprietary Hardwood Used for Decking and Guardrail Systems: Solid sawn hardwood used for decking and guardrail systems may be evaluated under this criteria as a structural wood-based product.

3.7.1.1 Testing and analysis of data for bending strength, bending stiffness, longitudinal shear strength, moisture content, and specific gravity shall be in accordance with ASTM D 5456.

3.7.1.2 Connections shall be designed in accordance with the NDS, using the average specific gravity. Adjustments for wet-service conditions shall be used if exposed to the weather.

3.7.2 Thermally Modified Wood Used for Decking and Guardrail Systems: For the purposes of this criteria, thermally modified wood is defined as solid sawn hardwood or softwood that has been subjected to an advanced dry kiln process that substantially reduces hemicellulose content, resulting in wood that is less hygroscopic. Thermally modified wood used for decking and guardrail systems may be evaluated under this criteria as a structural wood-based product, provided it is manufactured from hardwood or softwood lumber that has not been previously graded in accordance with IBC Section 2303.1.1. In addition to Sections 1.0, 2.0, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.0 of this criteria, Sections 3.7.2.1 through 3.7.2.4 shall apply.

3.7.2.1 Testing and analysis of data for bending strength, bending stiffness, longitudinal shear strength, moisture content, and specific gravity shall be in accordance with ASTM D 5456.

3.7.2.2 Connections shall be designed in accordance with the NDS, using the average specific gravity. Adjustments for wet-service conditions shall be used if the wood is exposed to the weather.

3.7.2.3 Tests shall be conducted to verify that the specified spacing of nails of various diameters is adequate to prevent splitting. Details of the testing shall be discussed with ICC-ES staff prior to the tests' being conducted.

3.7.2.4 If recognition is sought for use in applications requiring protection against decay and termites, the requirements of IBC Section 2304.11 and IRC Sections R317 and R318 shall be met. Details of the testing program shall be discussed with ICC-ES staff prior to the tests' being conducted. If recognition is not sought for use in such applications, the evaluation report shall include installation requirements and/or limitations on use, such that protection against decay and termites is not required in accordance with IBC Section 2304.11 and IRC Sections R317 and R318.

(No changes to Sections 3.8, 4.1 or 4.2)

4.3 Quality control documentation for thermally modified wood and laminated veneer bamboo shall include the specific species and the location where the wood or bamboo is harvested, along with other unique characteristics and the grading requirements, including test requirements to ensure a consistent product

ICC-ES seeks input on whether a subsection should be added to proposed Section 3.7.2, above, requiring an analysis of the thermally modified wood's response to hygrothermal cycling (especially exposure to wet conditions). Given the fact that these products are intended to be used in exterior, exposed conditions as decking and guardrail systems, provisions for derivation of applicable wet service factors, C_M , may be necessary.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments on agenda items, or to attend the Evaluation Committee hearing and present verbal comments. If you wish to contribute to the hearing, please note the following:

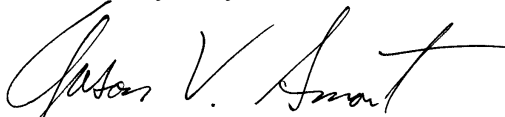
1. Written comments that are received by the Los Angeles business/regional office by **September 17, 2010**, will be forwarded to the committee prior to the hearing, and will be posted on the ICC-ES web site shortly after the comment deadline.
2. Written comments received up to ten days before the meeting, and staff memos responding to comments, will be posted to the web site on **September 28, 2010**.
3. ICC-ES is no longer providing printed copies at the meeting of proposed acceptance criteria, staff memos or public comments. These documents will be available on a limited number of CDs at the meeting, for uploading to computers; and ICC-ES will make

arrangements with the hotel business center to have hard copies available for photocopying.

4. Written comments that miss the deadline noted in item (1), above, will only be available at the meeting if you provide 35 copies, collated, stapled, and three-hole punched, either at the meeting itself or to the Los Angeles business/regional office by **September 28, 2010**.
5. If you plan to speak for more than 15 minutes, or offer a visual presentation lasting longer, you should notify ICC-ES staff as far as possible in advance. There will be a computer, projector, and screen available at the meeting for anyone wishing to make a visual presentation, and presentations in most cases will need to be in PowerPoint format. Also, ICC-ES will need to be provided with your presentation at least a half-hour before the start of the relevant meeting session (morning or afternoon) on either a CD or a flash card.
6. If you have any special needs related to a presentation, you should contact ICC-ES staff well in advance of the meeting.
7. Any visual aids for viewing at committee meetings (charts, overhead transparencies, slides, videos, electronic presentations, etc.) will be permitted only if a copy is provided to ICC-ES, before the presentation, in a medium that can be retained with other records of the meeting.
8. Any materials submitted for committee consideration are considered nonconfidential and available for public discussion, as noted in Section 2.7 of the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for the Evaluation Committee.
9. Prior to the meeting, you should refrain from trying to communicate directly with committee members about agenda items, either verbally or in writing. Committee members reserve the right to refuse such communications.

Your cooperation with these guidelines is much appreciated, as is your interest in the deliberations of the Evaluation Committee. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 423-6587, extension 5692, or Kurt Stochlia, Technical Director, at extension 3260. You may also reach us by e-mail at es@icc-es.org.

Yours very truly,



Jason Smart
Senior Evaluation Specialist

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Enclosures

cc: Evaluation Committee