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NFBA Technical & Research Committee Members Drive Revision of Standard for Mechanically Laminated Assemblies

December, 2010 (Glenview, IL) The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) has announced the revision of ANSI/ASAE EP559, their standard for mechanically laminated wood assemblies.

The revision of ANSI/ASAE EP559.1, Design Requirements and Bending Properties for Mechanically Laminated Wood Assemblies, was supported by the Technical & Research (T&R) Committee of the National Frame Building Association (NFBA).

The process of rewriting and marshalling ANSI/ASAE EP559.1 through the review process was conducted by T&R Committee member Dave Bohnhoff, professor of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Wisconsin Madison. Fellow T&R Committee members, Paul Boor, Mike Burkholder, Ben Doerge, Kris Owens, Al Schambach, and Leo Shirek, participated in the revision process. Major contributions were also made by ANSI/ASAE EP559 Committee members Jeffrey Linville, Director of Technical Services at the American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC), and Stuart Lewis, Research and Development Managers for Alpine Engineered Products, Inc.

The revised standard includes updates to reflect current practices used for wood preservation, fastener substrates and coatings, laminate strength and stiffness; both allowable stress design (ASD), and load and resistance factor design (LRFD) formats; and lateral torsional buckling. The revision also covers updates to terminology as well as symbol consistency with other ASABE standards.

“ANSI/ASAE EP559.1, Design Requirements and Bending Properties for Mechanically Laminated Wood Assemblies has been adopted by reference in the International Building Code (IBC),” notes Bohnhoff, “and since it controls the design of virtually all bolt-, screw-, and nail-laminated posts and beams, it is a major document in the design toolbox of all post-frame engineers.”



John Hill, President of Lester Building Systems and Chair of NFBA, remarked “EP559.1 is the definitive document that provides guidelines on the proper construction of mechanically laminated lumber assemblies. Since modern post frame construction frequently includes multiple ply lumber assemblies, EP559 provides an extremely important means to determine the engineering properties of that assembly so it can be utilized effectively in an engineered structure.”

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***The National Frame Building Association (NFBA)** is a trade association promoting the interests of the post-frame construction industry throughout North America. The NFBA strives to educate architects, engineers, code officials, building owners, and others about the extensive benefits of post-frame building, such as savings in construction cost, speed of installation, strength, durability, versatility of use, high energy-efficiency, and life-cycle payback. NFBA conducts technical and market research to benefit the industry, hosts an annual conference and trade show, and encourages the growth of post-frame construction through education and outreach.*

For more information about the National Frame Building Association, visit www.NFBA.org

*The **American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)** is an international scientific and educational organization dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food, and biological systems. A copy of ANSI/ASAE EP559.1 can be ordered by contacting ASABE headquarters directly at: martin@asabe.org.*