Ledger-Attachment Code Proposal Survives Committee Review

Final 2009 IRC hearings to be held in May

At the International Code Council's annual conference this past fall, committee members "approved as submitted" a schedule for bolting deck ledgers to band joists. The proposal, RB 159-06/07, "will be considered again at ICC's Final Action Hearings in May," says ICC spokesperson Jennifer Gibson, "and if approved, it will be included in the 2007 Supplement and the 2009 IRC (International Residential Code)."

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The proposed fastener spacing (**table R502.2.2.1, below**) is based on research done at Virginia Tech and Washington State University. Under controlled conditions, researchers attached pressure-treated southern pine and hem-fir ledgers to a spruce-pine-fir band joist and subjected the connections to successively larger loads until they failed.

Provision R502.2.2.1.1 in the same proposal requires the bolts to be staggered and to be placed 2 inches in from the bottom, top, and ends of the ledger. See the full text at www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/2006-07cycle/ProposedChanges/volume_2/11-RB139-RB162.pdf. — *Laurie Elden*

Recycling Treated Wood, Nails and All

Ramping up its efforts to recycle preservative-treated wood, Louisiana State University AgCenter is renovating its facilities at the Calhoun Research Station to house the new Louisiana Center for Treated Wood Recycling, says Todd Shupe, a professor of wood science at the AgCenter.

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Even though CCA is no longer used to treat decking lumber, thousands of structures built with CCA-treated wood since the 1940s are being torn down every year, creating a burden on the country's landfills. In 2004 alone, according to the U.S.D.A. Forest Products Laboratory, 430 million cubic feet of CCA-treated wood were disposed of.

Researchers at the LSU AgCenter grind CCA-treated wood — including nails or screws — into small particles, which are then liquefied in an organic solvent. The result is the separation of 99.8 percent of the preservative chemicals from a nontoxic, liquefied wood that can be used for resins, molded wood products, foams, and plastics.

Shupe says the goal now is to reproduce the success of bench-top experiments on a larger scale, to prove that the method is "technically feasible, environmentally friendly, and economically sound." — *L.E.*

Louisiana-Pacific Corp. has temporarily stopped production at its two composite-decking plants because of weak demand attributed to a cooling housing market. The Nashville, Tenn.-based maker of WeatherBest Decking and Railing announced the shut downs in October, after a disappointing third quarter. The company will draw down inventory until February 1, when it plans to reopen the Selma, Ala., and Meridian, Idaho, facilities.

A new joint venture in the wood-treatment industry combines one company's antimicrobial technology with another's wood-preservative expertise. Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Wood Biocides, and Princeton, N.J.-based Chemical Specialties (a subsidiary of Rockwood Holdings) announced the partnership in October. In the news release, Steve Ainscough, president and CEO of the new company, stated, "In 2007, we plan to introduce next-generation preservatives that have been through more than 10 years of field performance testing."

Three reports of lacerations caused by the failure of lower blade guards to close have prompted DeWalt to recall some 134,000 saws. The November notice includes DW378G/DW378GT 7 1/4-inch framing saws with date codes between 200301 and 200637, and DC300 7 1/4-inch circular saws with date codes between 200601 and 200637. Saws marked with a "V" have already been repaired. Contact DeWalt toll-free at (866) 854-5214 to arrange for a free repair. ❖

This deck "connection" was on a new house with a township-issued CO. What could this carpenter have been thinking? Maybe something like, "I'll stick another post down here just in case the deck gets overloaded," or "Hah — won't have to worry about ACQ corroding the framing connectors." See photos of other notable construction defects at www.remasinspections.com, the Web site of Jeff Remas, owner of Remas Inspections in Clark Summit, Pa.