



Fire Safety in Mass Timber: 2020 Code Updates, Considerations and Requirements



Featuring release of new fire performance demonstration video

Thursday, June 25, 2020 - 9am – 11:45am

FREE of charge with advance registration – [CLICK HERE](#) to register

Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction (EMTC) as permitted under the 2020 National Building Code, 2019 British Columbia Building Code (jurisdictional basis) and the Vancouver Building Code offers the BC design, construction and development industries significant advantages in terms of structural performance, scale possibilities, construction efficiencies and construction safety.

This education session comes at a timely moment as the BC provincial government just announced its support for mass timber construction as one of the means to move the BC economy forward from the COVID-19 crisis. Join us for a morning of online education and learn about the recent work completed to help advance this new form of construction.

NEW! Enhance your learning experience through the debut of a new video, **Fire Performance Demonstration Workshop 2.0 - Understanding fire design: applications**, which demonstrates a side-by-side comparison of building materials including one of mass timber, in a live burn scenario. Changes to the NBCC mean new considerations for fire, with Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction (EMTC) in tall buildings as a new construction type in the code. The video, shot at a Wood *WORKS!* BC workshop at the City of Surrey Fire Department Training Facility, summarizes the learning outcomes essential for understanding taller and larger wood building fire requirements.

Presentation #1: Marc Alam, Canadian Wood Council

Presentation title: Encapsulated Mass Timber: a new construction type for the 2020 NBC

This seminar will discuss the fire-related national building and fire code changes related to a new construction type called Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction (EMTC) to be used for wood buildings up to twelve storeys.

Learning objectives:

1. Learn about the new construction type EMTC
2. Learn about the new ULC encapsulation rating test

3. Learn about the new EMTC provisions in the 2020 NBC and NFC
4. Understand the allowance of exposed mass timber within EMTC buildings

Bio: Marc Alam, Manager, Fire Codes and Standards – Canadian Wood Council (Ottawa)



As manager of codes and standards in the fire division, Marc assists through participation in CWC’s building code and standards fire-related initiatives and the development of CWC’s fire design tools, as well as code-related fire research projects.

Presentation #2: Andrew Harmsworth, GHl Consultants Ltd.

Presentation title: Mass Timber Construction – A Fire Engineer’s Perspective

This presentation will explain how the demonstration fires relate to the new code changes and demonstrate that Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction (EMTC) provides the same level of performance as traditional concrete and steel construction. He will also show how course-of-construction fire risks can be appropriately managed.

Learning objectives:

1. Understand how mass timber attains the required fire resistance rating (2h)
2. Understand that mass timber can achieve the same fire resistance ratings as steel and concrete
3. Understand how, with buried connections, mass timber can stay in place during a construction fire with time for workers to escape and firefighters to respond

Bio: Andrew Harmsworth, Principal Fire Engineer – GHl Consultants Ltd. (Vancouver)



Andrew is the principal fire engineer responsible for many innovative projects, including the Tallwood House at Brock Commons, UBC. He is currently working on over 15 new tall wood buildings including the Arbour at George Brown College in Toronto, an educational building with 10 storeys of exposed timber on Toronto’s waterfront, and a 10-storey fully exposed timber office building in Vancouver. With 30 years of experience in fire science and building code consulting, and a master’s degree in fire engineering from UBC, Andrew Harmsworth has developed specialized expertise in the application of fire science and engineering of building code requirements. Andrew’s expertise is recognized in his membership on the Standing Committee on Fire Protection of Codes Canada, responsible for the relevant sections of the National Building Code of Canada.

Presentation #3: Mitchell Schittler and Robert Poystila, CertainTeed

Presentation title: Gypsum for Enhanced Fire Protection

Gypsum board is an abundant natural noncombustible product that is compatible for a multitude of assemblies including fire resistance, mold and moisture, and acoustics. This presentation will discuss the different types of enhanced fire-resistant gypsum boards and how they respond to preventing fire spread. It will include a review of the correct installation procedures following the ULC listings, introduce gypsum fire walls and review its basic functions as well as advantages.

Learning objectives:

1. Review type x and type c gypsum boards for fire-rated assemblies
2. Specifying the correct performance gypsum board for fire-rated assemblies
3. Review ULC details for proper installation
4. Introduction to gypsum fire walls

Bios:

Mitchell Schittler, Marketing Manager – CertainTeed (Pennsylvania)

Mitchell Schittler is a technical marketing manager for CertainTeed, a North American manufacturer of building products headquartered in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Mitchell has been in the building materials industry for 17 years, eight of which at CertainTeed. In his role, Mitchell is responsible for handling technical inquiries related to gypsum and finishing products, which includes fire safety, acoustics and moisture management. Mitchell is also a LEED® AP with BD+C Specialty.

Robert Poystila, Architectural Solutions Manager – CertainTeed Canada (Vancouver)

Robert Poystila, CTR, is the architectural solutions manager for CertainTeed Canada in British Columbia. Rob has been in the building industry for over 25 years. In his current role, Rob works closely with the design community and contractors to assist with product selection and solutions. Rob is an advocate for sharing new innovations within our industry and developing solutions that enhance safety, well-being, and the environment.

Workshop proudly sponsored by:



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