

TOP STORIES

Looking Back to Reflect, Looking Forward to Prepare

As 2015 comes to a close, we wanted to take a quick look back at some of the many accomplishments of the Steel Framing Alliance and the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute: [More](#)

AISI Publishes Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing, 2015 Edition

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has published AISI S202-15, *Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing, 2015 Edition*, which supersedes the 2011 edition. [More](#)

AISI Publishes S230-15, Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Prescriptive Method for One - And Two-Family Dwellings, 2015 Edition

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has published AISI S230-15, *Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing—Prescriptive Method for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, 2015 Edition*, bringing AISI S230 into full compliance with the 2015 edition of the *International Residential Code*, ASCE 7-10. [More](#)

AISI Publishes Three S900-Series Test Standards

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has published three test standards in its S900-series. All test standards have been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and are available for downloading free of charge at www.aisistandards.org. [More](#)

COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE – NEWS AND UPDATES

2016 CFSEI EXPO to be Held May 23-24 in Annapolis, MD

The Executive Committee of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) has selected the Historic Inns of Annapolis in downtown Annapolis, Maryland as the site of the 2016 CFSEI EXPO, which will be held May 23-24, 2016. [More](#)

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HEADQUARTERS

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- Iron Engineering, PLLC
- Jablonsky, Ast and Partners
- Patrick McGuire
- Samuel Werder
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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18, 2016

CFSEI WEBINAR

Seismic Engineering of Cold- Formed Steel Framed Buildings and the CFS-NEES Effort

3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

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CFSEI to Host Webinar on Seismic Engineering of Cold-Formed Steel Framed Buildings and the CFS-NEES on February 18, 2016

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on "Seismic Engineering of Cold-Formed Steel Framed Buildings and the CFS-NEES" on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. [More](#)

MARKETPLACE

Call for Papers Issued for Wei-Wen International Specialty Conference on Cold-Formed Steel Structures 2016

The Wei-Wen Yu Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures (CCFSS) has issued a Call for Papers for presentation at its International Specialty Conference on Cold-Formed Steel Structures 2016, which will be held November 9-10, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland.

[More](#)

Steel Deck Institute Publishes New Edition of The Diaphragm Design Manual *Fourth Edition Complies with AISI S310-13; Webinar to be Held on Nov. 17*

The Steel Deck Institute (SDI) has published a new edition of the *Diaphragm Design Manual* (DDM04), which complies with the requirements of the new AISI S310-13, *North American Standard for the Design of Profiled Steel Diaphragm Panels*. [More](#)

October 2015 Construction at \$1,107.4 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during October 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,107.4 billion, 1.0 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$1,096.6 billion. [More](#)

The Wood -vs.-Steel Pendulum May Be Swinging Again, a Steel Advocate Believes

It looks like wood's turn to get nervous in the tug-of-war against steel to be the building material for mid-rise commercial construction, if numbers crunched by the Steel Framing Industry Association hold up. [More](#)

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U.S. Construction Spending Rises to 7-1/2-year High

U.S. construction spending rose in September to the highest level in 7-1/2 years as both private and public outlays increased, suggesting a modest upward revision to the third-quarter GDP growth estimate. [More](#)

US Judge Sides with Resolute Forest in Softwood Lumber Checkoff Suit

The Softwood Lumber Checkoff program is under scrutiny after a U.S. federal court ruling found that the tax imposed may not be "lawful." The September announcement stems from a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Department of Agriculture by Resolute Forest Products Inc. in December 2014. [More](#)

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As 2015 comes to a close, we wanted to take a quick look back at some of the many accomplishments of the Steel Framing Alliance and the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute:

- Responded to more than 1,890 inquiries from 1-800-79-STEEL and Ask An Expert.
- Developed and presented 97 educational seminars in cooperation with our members.
- Issued more than 14,600 Professional Development Hours and Learning Units.
- Produced and conducted seven educational webinars led by industry experts.
- Published the 2015 edition of the *Thermal Design Guide* and *Code Compliance for Cold-Formed Steel Walls*.
- Organized and conducted a successful 2015 CFSEI EXPO in Orlando, Florida, with 100 design professionals in attendance.

While so much has been accomplished, there is still much to be done! Stay tuned for upcoming news, events, and educational opportunities at www.cfsei.org.

And finally, as 2015 comes to a close, the staff at the Steel Framing Alliance and Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute wish to thank all of you who have made the work of our organizations possible through your generous contributions of time, energy, and talent. We also appreciate your financial contributions and look forward to an exciting new year. Together, we are making an important contribution to the building construction marketplace.

We wish all of you a happy and successful 2016.

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AISI Publishes Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing, 2015 Edition

New version updates 2011 edition of AISI S202

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has published AISI S202-15, *Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing, 2015 Edition*, which supersedes the 2011 edition. It addresses trade practices for the design, fabrication and installation of cold-formed steel structural framing products. The document serves as a state-of-the-art guide and a voluntary model for establishing contractual relationships between various parties in a construction project where cold-formed steel structural materials, components or assemblies are used. It is available for free download at <http://www.aisistandards.org>.

The 2015 edition includes a new Section I2, Wall Panel Responsibilities; and a new Chapter J, Practices Specific to Coordination of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing With Other Trades and Materials. It references the provisions of AISI S220, *North American Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing—Nonstructural Members* and AISI S240, the new *North American Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing*. The *Commentary* is included to clarify the justification for the various provisions included in the document. These documents are available for free download at <http://www.aisistandards.org>.

The *Code of Standard Practice* is not applicable to nonstructural members, which are instead addressed by AISI S220-15, *North American Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing—Nonstructural Members, 2015 Edition* (free download at <http://www.aisistandards.org>); ASTM C645; and ASTM C754. It is also not applicable to structural steel, structural steel joists, steel deck, metal building systems, or rack structures. These are addressed by the American Institute of Steel Construction, the Steel Joist Institute, the Steel Deck Institute, the Metal Building Manufacturers Association, and the Rack Manufacturers Institute, respectively.

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AISI S202-15 is endorsed by the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute, Certified Steel Stud Association, Steel Framing Alliance, Steel Framing Industry Association, Steel Stud Manufacturers Association, Structural Building Components Association, and the Supreme Steel Framing System Association.

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AISI Publishes S230-15, Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Prescriptive Method for One - And Two-Family Dwellings, 2015 Edition

New edition supersedes AISI S230-07 with Supplements 2 and 3 (Reaffirmed 2012)

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has published AISI S230-15, *Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing—Prescriptive Method for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, 2015 Edition*, bringing AISI S230 into full compliance with the 2015 edition of the *International Residential Code*, ASCE 7-10. AISI S230-15 includes applicable supplements and the latest referenced documents.

Provisions were added for larger openings in floors, ceilings and roofs. Additionally, the tables were streamlined to reduce complexity and volume of the provisions. The standard provides prescriptive requirements for cold-formed steel-framed detached one- and two-family dwellings, townhouses, attached multi-family dwellings, and other attached single-family dwellings. This edition supersedes the previous edition designated as AISI S230-07 with Supplements 2 and 3 (Reaffirmed 2012). It is available for free download at www.aisistandards.org.

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The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has published three test standards in its S900-series. All test standards have been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and are available for downloading free of charge at www.aisistandards.org.

The test standards include:

- **AISI S914-15, Test Standard for Joist Connectors Attached to Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing, 2015 Edition** – This standard, which replaces AISI S914-13, provides a method for determining the strength and deformation behavior of joist connectors used in cold-formed steel light-frame construction. In this edition, changes are made to allow the 1/8-inch deflection limit to exclude the initial deflection up to 10 percent of the ultimate load for gravity loading only.
- **AISI S915-15, Test Standard for Through-the-Web Punchout Cold-Formed Steel Wall Stud Bridging Connectors, 2015 Edition** - AISI S915 is a new test standard that provides the methodology to determine the strength and deformation behavior of through-the-web punchout bridging connectors for cold-formed steel wall stud bracing for nonstructural and structural wall studs in light-frame construction. This standard applies to bridging connectors attached to a cold-formed steel wall stud and the bridging member by mechanical fastening.
- **AISI S916-15, Test Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Nonstructural Interior Partition Walls With Gypsum Board, 2015 Edition** - AISI S916 is a new test standard that establishes a rational method of determining the strength and stiffness of nonstructural interior partition wall assemblies framed with cold-formed steel. In addition to the cold-formed steel framing, gypsum board panels are considered part of the wall assembly.

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This standard provides an alternative to the calculation of capacity based on AISI S100, *North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members*. It also permits manufacturers to determine limiting height values for the assemblies.

AISI test standards are updated every five years and facilitate research and development leading to improved state-of-the-art solutions in steel for the construction market. They are often referenced in industry acceptance criteria, and lead the way in establishing the performance characteristics of unique products and applications.

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CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

2016 CFSEI EXPO to be Held May 23-24 in Annapolis, MD

The Executive Committee of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) has selected the Historic Inns of Annapolis in downtown Annapolis, Maryland as the site of the 2016 CFSEI EXPO, which will be held May 23-24, 2016. The EXPO will be held in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Steel Framing Alliance (MASFA) annual Expo, bringing together design professionals and builders from around the world.

“MASFA has always been a great host for our EXPO, and with the amount of cold-formed steel framing activity in the Annapolis area and the technical program that is being put together, the 2016 program should be very exciting and interesting,” said Jennifer Zabik, 2015-2016 CFSEI Executive Committee Chairperson. “Add all of this to the beautiful waterfront setting of downtown Annapolis—all good reasons to make this a must-attend event.”

In addition to the EXPO’s 15 educational seminars and the vendor exhibition, the planning committee is making arrangements for a tour of a cold-formed steel construction site. MASFA will provide an opportunity to test the skills of attendees with its highly competitive hands-on competition. Additionally, the annual CFSEI Design Excellence and Distinguished Service Awards—recognizing outstanding cold-formed steel framing projects and an individual who has significantly impacted the industry—will be presented.

Created as an event primarily for engineers, the CFSEI EXPO has grown over the years to appeal to construction professionals, developers, code officials, inspectors, architects and students interested in cold-formed steel framing. It is the premier event showcasing the latest technologies and methods for cold-formed steel design and installation for mid-rise building construction.

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More information will follow in the coming months. Make plans now to attend. For more information on the Historic Inns of Annapolis, visit

<http://www.historicinnsfannapolis.com/>

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ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI to Host Webinar on Seismic Engineering of Cold-Formed Steel Framed Buildings and the CFS-NEES Effort on February 18, 2016

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on “Seismic Engineering of Cold-Formed Steel Framed Buildings and the CFS-NEES Effort” on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. It is designed for architects, engineers, building officials and contractors. Participants are eligible for 1.5 PDHs.

A definitive shift is emerging in the cold-formed steel framed building industry towards system-level seismic evaluation – both in the codes and specifications and in the tools engineers use to evaluate existing buildings. The steel industry has always had empirical evidence that repetitive framing benefits system reliability and efficiency, and efforts to quantify these effects – through recent research grants from the National Science Foundation and through long-term industry investment, are starting to make broad positive impacts. This seminar will showcase these beneficial impacts with project-specific examples and case studies. Topics are presented from both practitioner and researcher perspectives, and the content is tailored to practicing structural engineers who will be the end users of these forthcoming cold-formed steel framing seismic evaluation methods, tools, and specifications. [Register today](#)

Benjamin Schafer, Ph.D., P.E., is the Swirnow Family Faculty Scholar, Professor, and Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Ben is a past-president of CFSEI, current Chair of the Structural Stability Research Council, Director of the Cold-Formed Steel Research Consortium, and North American Editor for the Journal Thin-walled Structures. He serves on standards committees for both AISI and AISC. Ben worked as a practicing engineer at SGH before starting his academic career, and continues to engage in engineering practice through his research and role as a consultant to NBM Technologies.

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Call for Papers Issued for Wei-Wen International Specialty Conference on Cold-Formed Steel Structures 2016

Abstracts are due on December 31, 2015

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Wei-Wen Yu Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures (CCFSS) has issued a Call for Papers for presentation at its International Specialty Conference on Cold-Formed Steel Structures 2016, which will be held November 9-10, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland. Abstracts are due to the CCFSS by December 31, 2015.

The International Specialty Conference is a biennial event that draws leading researchers, engineers, manufacturers, educators and students who engage in research, design, manufacture and the use of cold-formed steel members. It is an opportunity for technical presentations on a wide variety of topics related to cold-formed steel, discussion, and networking. The conference will include presentations on:

- Basic and applied research
- Structural design
- Development of new products
- Development of new design criteria
- Manufacturing technique
- Construction methods
- Economy and effective use of cold-formed steel
- Engineering education

In addition to presentations, two conference awards will be presented:

- Wei-Wen Yu Outstanding Paper Award – Awarded to the best student authored or co-authored paper at the conference.

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- Wei-Wen Yu Student Scholars Program – Awarded to qualified university students to provide travel reimbursement support to attend and present a paper at the conference.

Since 1971, 22 International Specialty Conferences on Cold-Formed Steel Structures have been conducted. The 2016 conference will be held back-to-back with the [International Conference on Coupled Instabilities in Metal Structures](#) (November 7-8, 2016).

For more information on abstract submission and other details, visit <http://ccfssonline.org/international-specialty-conference/> or contact Christina Stratman at ccfss@mst.edu.

[View the flyer here.](#)

Source: *Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures, November 11, 2015*

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Steel Deck Institute Publishes New Edition of The Diaphragm Design Manual *Fourth Edition Complies with AISI S310-13;*

The Steel Deck Institute (SDI) has published a new edition of the *Diaphragm Design Manual* (DDM04), which complies with the requirements of the new AISI S310-13, *North American Standard for the Design of Profiled Steel Diaphragm Panels*. This 408-page fourth edition is larger than its predecessor and is available for purchase at SDI's website ([click here](#)). It replaces the Third Edition of the *Diaphragm Design Manual*, DDM03.

The just-published edition focuses on the design of steel deck diaphragms for roof and floor decks and is a valuable resource for structural designers. It includes information on diaphragm strength and stiffness, fasteners and connections, and warping and stiffness properties. The new edition also includes:

- 25 new and expanded design examples
- Load tables for proprietary fasteners
- Load tables for generic fasteners (a new feature)
- An expanded discussion of the interaction of wind uplift with diaphragm strength
- New diaphragm strength tables
- Updated fastener tables that include generic welds, mechanical fasteners, proprietary screws and power-actuated fasteners.

The companion publications *Roof Deck Design Manual* and *Floor Deck Design Manual* are also available for purchase at the SDI website, www.sdi.org. AISI S310-13, *North American Standard for the Design of Profiled Steel Diaphragm Panels*, is available to download at www.aisistandards.org.

Source: Steel Deck Institute, October 13, 2015

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October 2015 Construction at \$1,107.4 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during October 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,107.4 billion, 1.0 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$1,096.6 billion. The October figure is 13.0 percent ($\pm 2.5\%$) above the October 2014 estimate of \$979.6 billion.

During the first 10 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$888.1 billion, 10.7 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) above the \$802.3 billion for the same period in 2014.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$802.4 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$795.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$399.0 billion in October, 1.0 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$395.0 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$403.4 billion in October, 0.6 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$400.8 billion.

Public Construction

In October, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$304.9 billion, 1.4 percent ($\pm 3.0\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$300.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.2 billion, nearly the same as ($\pm 2.8\%$)* the revised September estimate of \$69.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$94.1 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 7.1\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$93.1 billion

Source: U.S. Census Bureau News, December 1, 2015

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The Wood -vs.-Steel Pendulum May Be Swinging Again, a Steel Advocate Believes

It looks like wood's turn to get nervous in the tug-of-war against steel to be the building material for mid-rise commercial construction, if numbers crunched by the Steel Framing Industry Association hold up.

Larry Williams, executive director of the Falls Church, Va.-based industry association, shared with *ProSales* numbers that suggest building designers are increasingly turning against wood-frame construction during the period between when they issue an initial project specification and what their specs said as of this past Aug. 1.

For instance, Williams' numbers show, between the first quarter of this year and Aug. 1, the number of project specs calling for cold-framed steel rose by more than 600 while the number of projects featuring wood fell by more than 400.

Here's what SFIA says it's seeing:

NUMBER OF PROJECTS (SPECIFICATIONS)

TOTAL PROJECTS / United States

	All Projects		CFS		Wood
	<i>(orig. snapshot)</i>	<i>8.1.2015</i>	<i>(orig. snapshot)</i>	<i>8.1.2015</i>	<i>(orig. snapshot)</i>
1Q 2013	15,261	15,312	4,472	4,552	1,988
2Q 2013	21,396	21,483	5,835	5,915	2,087
3Q 2013	18,220	18,232	4,283	4,408	2,484

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4Q 2013	15,350	15,321	3,581	3,624	3,515
1Q 2014	19,553	19,631	4,706	5,178	4,082
2Q 2014	25,487	25,517	5,504	6,626	5,311
3Q 2014	21,842	21,883	5,204	5,369	5,919
4Q 2014	18,533	19,058	4,358	4,315	6,453
1Q 2015	23,911	24,320	4,357	4,973	5,347

Williams told *ProSales* in a Nov. 20 email that he credits the shift to several factors, including several major fires that have taken place at wood-framed construction sites in the past year.

"Through this all, I would say that it's notable that the numbers for cold-formed steel have remained relatively consistent--which is rather remarkable given the amount of resources the wood industry has poured into building code advocacy, education/promotion, lobbying, etc. over the last several years," Williams wrote. "I think there's two messages there: Owners, designers, and builders who use cold-formed steel have established a preference for the material characteristics (consistency, strength, non-combustibility, etc.) and understand the economic argument for cold-formed steel; The resilient base of users is a great platform to build a larger market on--but the industry has much more work to do in this area, and we're getting back to doing just that."

Source: *ProSales*, November 24, 2015

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U.S. Construction Spending Rises to 7-1/2-year High

U.S. construction spending rose in September to the highest level in 7-1/2 years as both private and public outlays increased, suggesting a modest upward revision to the third-quarter GDP growth estimate.

Construction spending advanced 0.6 percent to \$1.09 trillion, the highest level since March 2008, after an unrevised 0.7 percent increase in August, the Commerce Department said on Monday.

Construction spending has increased every month this year, and the latest gain suggested the economy remained on firmer ground despite some slowing in consumer spending and persistent weakness in manufacturing.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast construction spending rising 0.5 percent in September. Construction outlays were up 14.1 percent compared to September of last year.

September's increase is slightly above the gain the government had estimated in its advance third-quarter gross domestic product estimate published last week.

The government reported the economy grew at a 1.5 percent annual pace in the third quarter, hurt by business efforts to reduce an inventory glut and continued spending cuts by energy firms. A strong dollar also hurt the economy.

Data last week suggested consumer spending lost momentum at the end of the third quarter, with consumption in September posting its smallest increase in eight months. A report on Monday was expected to show a further slowdown in factory activity in October.

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In September, construction spending was boosted by a 0.6 percent rise in private construction spending, which hit its highest level since January 2008.

Spending on private residential construction jumped 1.9 percent in September, also reaching the highest level since January 2008, reflecting gains in home building and renovations.

Investment on private non-residential construction projects, however, fell 0.7 percent.

Public construction outlays gained 0.7 percent. Spending on state and local government projects, which is the largest portion of the public sector segment, increased 0.9 percent.

Federal government outlays declined 1.0 percent.

Source: Reuters, November 2, 2015

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US Judge Sides with Resolute Forest in Softwood Lumber Checkoff Suit

WASHINGTON - The Softwood Lumber Checkoff program is under scrutiny after a U.S. federal court ruling found that the tax imposed may not be "lawful." The September announcement stems from a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Department of Agriculture by Resolute Forest Products Inc. in December 2014.

The September 9 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg orders the USDA to provide "a reasoned and coherent treatment" of its decision implementing an order to collect taxes on softwood lumber shipments in the United States, according to information provided by Resolute Forest Products. Documents on file show Resolute Forest Products (NYSE: RFP) (TSX: RFP) has questioned the validity of the program since its inception in 2012.

The statement notes, "according to the court, the government's explanation of its decision to exclude certain softwood lumber manufacturers from paying or voting on the tax 'strains credulity,' and the USDA was either 'hiding the ball' or else 'ill informed' about the number of companies it had exempted." The program exempts from tax those U.S. manufacturers and importers that ship less than 15 million board feet of softwood lumber a year. The first 15 MMBF are also exempted for those producers shipping larger amounts, as are exports of softwood lumber.

The Softwood Checkoff program has been implemented since 2012. Administered by the Softwood Lumber Board, the collected money is used to maintain and expand softwood lumber markets, as well as develop new uses for the product. Funded programs include: the American Wood Council; Wood, Naturally; reTHINK WOOD, WoodWorks, Tall Wood Innovation, and the U.S. Tall Wood Building Prize Competition.

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September's decision by Judge Boasberg remanded a previous ruling by a USDA administrative law judge which had upheld the checkoff tax. In reaching his decision, Judge Boasberg said that "Resolute is understandably upset by the agency's evasion" and that the defendants' interpretation of the law "is dubious for several reasons," a news release said.

The tax structure will remain in place while the case is still under review. Resolute's claim that the Softwood Checkoff violates the U.S. Constitution also is still under review. Headquartered in Montreal, Resolute Forest Products owns or operates approximately 40 pulp and paper mills and wood products facilities in the United States, Canada and South Korea.

Source: *Woodworking Network*, September 17, 2015

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