

RTA To Develop Tie Defects/Specifications Photo Guide

The Railway Tie Association Executive Committee has approved the development of a pocket sized flip-book on tie defects/specifications, and RTA needs your help. There may even be a reward or two in it for members if their photos are chosen for the publication.

The concept for the book is to publish pictures and/or illustrations of the defect. The style of booklet will mirror RTA Tie Grading Instructor John Zuspan's pocket guide entitled "How to Maintain Track" (see illustration).

RTA is asking members to pull their cameras out and submit their own photos showing tie defects in a manner that can help others learn the subtleties of tie grading.

Ultimately, RTA will need three photographs for each tie defect that is called out on the standard. One photo will need to be a relatively obvious illustration of the defect. One will need to be borderline, and the third photo will need to show an example of the same characteristic in a tie that would not be downgraded to industrial grade status or cull.

Pictures submitted should illustrate defects as published in the RTA/AREMA specifications:

- ✓ Wane
- ✓ Dimension
(this is a hard one, so be creative)
- ✓ Decay
- ✓ Holes
- ✓ Knots
- ✓ Shake
- ✓ Splits
- ✓ Checks
- ✓ Slope of Grain
- ✓ Bark Seam
- ✓ Manufacturing Defects
(mis-cuts, stump pull, etc.)
- ✓ Fire Scars

"This will be a substantial undertaking," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt. "But I believe it is one that between our archives and help from RTA members could be achieved in 2015 with publication scheduled for 2016."



Members are encouraged to find creative ways to develop photos that clearly show the details of dimensions for the actual defect where appropriate (see example photo). RTA members that have photos chosen for use in this new publication will be recognized in *Crossties* magazine and be eligible for prizes to be determined later in the year. ■



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