



Timber Products Inspection RTA Crosstie Inspection Outline

Introduction

Timber Products Inspection, Inc. (TP) is an independent inspection, testing and consulting company with expertise in all phases of the wood products industry. TP takes great pride in promoting the forest products industry through quality auditing services in the areas of sawmilling, pole and crosstie manufacturing, drying, component fabrication as well as value added processes such as pressure treating, gluing, and SFI Chain of Custody certification. TP's physical, biomass, and analytical labs are accredited by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) and American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC). TP currently performs crosstie inspections for organizations like the New York Transit Authority and Chicago Transit Authority.

It is the goal of TP to provide high quality services to all of our customers while maintaining the integrity and recognition of our name and quality mark in the industry. TP is actively involved with industry organizations that are responsible for the development, administration and formation of standards. We also participate in many associations and committees such as American Wood Protection Association and Southern Forest Products Association, which help contribute to the progress and promotion of the wood products industry (see a complete list at the end of this document). Our commitment to service, as well as the professionalism of our diverse staff, has propelled TP from a two-man operation in 1969 to the largest independent wood products testing and inspection agency in the USA.

Inspection Program Options

TP performs inspections according to customer and/or industry standards. This allows the customer the flexibility create an inspection program that fits their specific needs. Listed below are several options for your review:

1. Initial supplier inspections – TP personnel would perform inspections according to customer specification on untreated (white) ties from prospective suppliers. The material that passed the white inspection would then be treated according to customer specifications. TP personnel would then take core samples to determine penetration conformance. Retention conformance would be determined based on gauge or assay depending on the preservative used.
 - a. One possible benefit to an initial supplier inspection is the ability to get a baseline conformance rate to measure future inspections against.
 - i. This could provide assistance in selecting prospective suppliers.
 - b. TP could perform inspections at the request of the customer to compare current conformance levels to the baseline established in the initial supplier inspection.

2. Ongoing supplier inspections – TP personnel could perform inspections on a schedule selected by the customer. Available options include the following:
 - a. TP could certify the grade and treatment of each crosstie produced by the supplier. (100% Inspection)
 - b. TP could perform unannounced monthly or quarterly inspections of the suppliers' production. (Quality Audits)

Plant Quality Control

In addition to the “white” and treated inspections, TP personnel would also verify the plant was performing its own internal quality control and that minimum and maximum process parameters were in conformance with AWPA standards. The following items will be reviewed:

1. Marking – Ties shall be branded with identifying information, year of production, and any additional information which may be specified by the purchaser. The brands shall be significantly deep so that all characters are plainly legible after treatment.
2. Pressure limitations – Minimum pressure is 125 psig for refusal treatments. Maximum pressure shall not exceed 150 – 250 psig depending on species.
3. Analysis of preservative supplied by the preservative manufacturer.
4. Records shall show conformance with AWPA requirements for penetration, and for retention as measured by gauge or assay (depending on preservative used).

We hope that this outline provides the information you need to make an informed decision. We ask that you not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions or concerns. You can reach me at (770) 922-8000 (Ext 499). Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



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TP Points of Interest

Industry Involvement

TP is proud of its many contributions to the forest products industry. Please review the following list of industry-related associations in which TP is currently involved:

- Alabama Forestry Association
- American Institute for Timber Construction
- American Lumber Standards Committee
- American National Standards Institute
- American Society for Testing and Materials
- American Wood Protection Association
- International Accreditation Service
- Lumberman's Association of Texas
- Machine Stress Rated Lumber Producers Council
- Mississippi Lumberman Manufacturers Association
- National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
- North American Wholesale Lumber Association
- Railway Tie Association
- Southern Forest Products Association
- Southern Lumber Manufacturers Association
- Southern Pine Awareness Network
- Virginia Forest Products Association
- Western Pallet Association
- Western Wood Preservers Institute

TP Utility Division and Analytical Laboratory

- TP's lab is accredited by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) and American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC)
- TP's highly qualified field staff performs crosstie and switch tie inspections both at producing plants.
- TP inspects crossties and switches in the "white" according to the customer specifications
 - TP personnel inspect material looking at defects like dimension, decay, knots, straightness, shake, split, slope of grain, bark seams, branding and mechanical damage.
- Crossties and switch ties are assessed for proper chemical penetration and retention by core extraction and gauge retention or assay.
- Non-conformances are addressed with plant personnel.