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INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ELICITATION PROCESS TO DEVELOP BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE-SAFE TALL WOOD BUILDINGS

FINAL REPORT Consisting of 128 Pages

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an expert elicitation project in support of the development of building code requirements for tall wood buildings. The following experts on fire safety of tall wood buildings were involved in the project:

- Prof. Andy Buchanan, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
- Dr. Steve Craft, CHM Fire Consultants, Canada
- Prof. Andrea Frangi, Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland
- Dr. Birgit Östman, SP Trätek, Sweden

An international survey was conducted to obtain information about the fire protection features of existing or planned tall wood buildings in different parts of the world. A questionnaire was developed to facilitate obtaining the desired information. Responses were received for 13 buildings in 13 countries; 1 building in the U.S., 1 building in Canada, 1 building in Australia, and 10 buildings in different countries in Europe. Three of the buildings were in the planning stages when the survey was conducted. Five of the European buildings, ranging between seven and nine stories in height, are unsprinklered and would not meet IBC Type IB fire resistance requirements. Three of the remaining buildings, ranging between eight and ten stories in height, would not meet IBC Type IB fire protection requirements since they lack pressurized exit stairs. Another three of the remaining buildings, ranging between ten and twelve stories in height, would meet all IBC Type IB fire protection requirements. One of the remaining buildings, fifteen stories in height, would not meet IBC Type IA fire resistance requirements. The final building is 18 stories in height and would meet all IBC type IA fire protection requirements. The reaction-to-fire characteristics of wall and ceiling linings in Europe generally exceed the equivalent IBC Type IA and IB surface burning class requirements.

The questionnaire was supplemented with a list of five questions. From the responses to the questions it was determined that (1) seven of the thirteen projects had additional safety and/or security procedures beyond what is normal on construction sites, (2) in three buildings, two unsprinklered and one sprinklered, all primary structural members and connections are exposed, and (3) the fraction of CLT wall and ceiling surfaces left exposed ranges from 0% in one of the unsprinklered buildings to 100% in one of the sprinklered buildings.

A Swedish study collected and reviewed fire incident data for 10,000 timber-frame apartment buildings over two stories constructed in Sweden over the period of 20 years. The results of the analysis indicate that modern multi-story timber buildings for housing exhibit a lower fire incident rate than the rest of the multi-family housing stock. Future monitoring of fire incident statistics will tell whether this finding can be extended to tall wood buildings.

Based on the results of the survey and a literature review, the following needs were identified:

- More testing to evaluate mass timber fire performance during the cooling phase;
- Improvement of simplified calculation methods and detailed structural fire models to more accurately predict mass timber construction performance during cool down.
- Additional work to better predict gypsum board fall-off and CLT delamination at the glue-line.
- Additional guidance for detailing of mass timber construction.
- Further study of the contribution of wood flooring (if permitted) to the severity of a room fire.
- Further development of time-equivalence methods for application to mass timber construction.
- Research to determine how the amount of exposed wood affects fire severity and spread.
- Analysis of fire statistics to gain a better understanding of the magnitude of the fire problem in tall buildings and to better determine if and how the use of mass timber might affect it.
- Development of a fire risk assessment model to provide a rational basis for trade-offs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The American Wood Council (Client), located in Leesburg, Virginia, contracted with Southwest Research Institute's (SwRI's) Fire Technology Department, located in San Antonio, TX, to convene an international group of technical experts on fire safety in tall wood buildings to do the following:

- 1. Identify issues that need to be addressed to ensure an acceptable level of fire safety in tall wood buildings;
- 2. Conduct a survey of fire safety requirements for tall wood buildings in the U.S. and foreign countries;
- 3. Determine if, how, and up to what extent these issues have been addressed in the surveyed buildings and identify gaps in the knowledge; and
- 4. Develop a list of needed fire testing, modeling, risk assessment and related activities to fill the gaps.

This report describes the results of this project, which was conducted between February 22, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

2.0 PROJECT TEAM

The project team consisted of the following individuals:

- Project Manager: Karen Carpenter, PE
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Marc Janssens, FSFPE
- International Group of Experts
	- o Prof. Andy Buchanan, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
	- o Dr. Steve Craft, CHM Fire Consultants, Canada
	- o Prof. Andrea Frangi, Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland
	- o Dr. Birgit Östman, SP Trätek, Sweden

Although the project was funded by AWC, the project team operated independently without industry direction and review.

3.0 FIRE SAFETY ISSUES IN TALL WOOD BUILDINGS

To identify fire safety issues in tall wood buildings one needs to first determine what constitutes a "fire-safe" building? In the context of performance-based codes, a building could be considered firesafe if it is equipped with features that in the event of a fire (1) minimize fire-related injuries and prevent undue loss of life for the building occupants, emergency responders, and the public at large; (2) minimize damage to the structure, avoid local structural failure, and prevent total collapse and fire spread to neighboring property; (3) provide for continuity of operation; and (4) limit environmental impact. In case of tall wood buildings (3) and (4) are of secondary importance.

However, except for some esoteric structures in places like Las Vegas, Nevada, fire protection of buildings in the U.S. is based on compliance with prescriptive requirements. These requirements are typically met through a combination of passive and active fire protection measures. Consequently, it seems logical to require that tall wood buildings (1) meet the same passive and active fire protection requirements as tall steel and concrete structures, and (2) include additional fire protection features that are necessary to address fire safety issues unique to tall wood structures.

American Wood Council 1 1 SwRI Project No. 01.21941.01.001 Depending on the building height, tall steel and concrete buildings in the United States have to meet the passive and active fire protection requirements for Type IA or Type IB construction as defined in the International Building Code (IBC). The primary fire protection requirements for these types of construction are given in Table 1. Type IB construction is limited to 12 or 11 stories, depending on whether the building is equipped with and automatic sprinkler system or not.

		IBC Type IA	IBC Type IB		
Height (f _t)	Unlimited	420 ^b	180 ^c	180 ^d	
Stories	Unlimited	Unlimited	12	12	
(ft. ²) Total Area	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	
Occupancy Class	All	All	M	B, R	
Fire Resistance of Columns (h)	3	3	$\overline{2}$		
(h) Fire Resistance of Walls	3	$\overline{2}$	2	1	
(h) Fire Resistance of Floors	$\overline{2}$	2	$\overline{2}$	1	
Wall Surface Burning Class (Exits/Rooms)^e	\bar{B} or C^{f}/C	$\rm B$ or $\rm C^{f}/C$	A or B^f/C	B or C^{f}/C	
Ceiling Surface Burning Class (Exits/Rooms) ^e	B or $C^{\rm f}/C$	B or C^{f}/C	A or B^f/C	$\rm B$ or $\rm C^{f}\!/\rm C$	
Sprinklered?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Smoke Detection and Alarm?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Maximum Distance between Exit Stairs (f _t)	250	250	250	250	
Pressurized Stairs?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Table 1. Fire Protection Requirements for Type IA and IB High-Rise^a Buildings.

^a Buildings greater than 75 ft. (note: all buildings greater than 75 ft. need to be sprinklered).

^b IBC-2015, Clause 403.2.1.1 (1) allows sprinklered Type IA buildings, 420 ft. or less in height, can have a fire resistance rating of Type IB, except columns.

c IBC-2015, Table 601 along with Clause 403.2.1.1 (2) allows sprinklered Type IB for Assembly, Educational, Business, Low-hazard Factory, Institutional, Residential, and Low-hazard Storage occupancies to have fire resistance ratings of Type IIA.

^d Fire resistance requirements in IBC-2015, Table 601 apply only to High-hazard Factory, Mercantile, and High-hazard Storage occupancies. Fire resistance requirements for other occupancies are modified by Clause 403.2.1.1 (2).

^e Per ASTM E84.

f Inferior class applies to R-2 use and occupancy group.

Buchanan identified the following additional issues that need to be considered for wood buildings 1 :

- Fires during construction, which is a particular problem during periods when large quantities of wood may be unprotected;
- Early fire hazard due to the potential for large areas of exposed internal wood surfaces;
- Exterior fire spread, i.e., vertical fire spread via combustible facades or cavities;
- Mechanical performance and fire containment, which may be affected by the contribution of the structural material to the severity of the fire; and
- Cleanup and restoration following burnout.

4.0 TALL WOOD BUILDING SURVEY

An international survey was conducted to obtain information about the fire protection features of existing or planned tall wood buildings in different parts of the world. Most of these features were provided to comply with fire safety regulations.

American Wood Council 2 2 SwRI Project No. 01.21941.01.001 An informative survey conducted by Östman and Rydholm in 2002, and updated in 2006, provides useful information concerning the national fire regulations as it pertains to wood construction in the countries outside North America where the surveyed buildings are located 2 . Summaries of building regulations and requirements for the fire resistance cross-laminated timber (CLT) construction in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland were presented at the Joint Conference of COST Actions FP1402 and FP1404 on CLT held in Stockholm, March 10-11, 2016³.

4.1 Survey Objectives

The primary objectives of the survey were as follows:

- Would existing or planned tall wood buildings comply with the prescriptive IBC requirements for noncombustible structures of the same height and area?
- Do these buildings have any fire safety features that go beyond the IBC requirements?
- Were any testing, modeling, or other related activities conducted to justify what would be variances from the prescriptive requirements?
- How were fire safety issues that are specific to wood construction addressed?

4.2 Selected Buildings

The survey includes one building in each country where tall wood buildings (>6 stories) have been constructed, are being built, or are in the advanced planning stages. If there are several tall wood buildings in a given country, preference was given to the highest building since it is likely to have more comprehensive fire protection. In addition, recent buildings were chosen over older ones as the designer may have incorporated new features or improvements as a result of lessons learned from previous experience.

The list of surveyed buildings is provided in Table 2. Three of the thirteen buildings are planned or under construction (shaded rows in Table 1). Photographs of the existing buildings and architectural renderings of the remaining buildings are shown in Figure 1.

*Total Stories/Timber Stories

(a) Cavallers 57, Spain (b) LifeCycle Tower One, Austria

(c) Toit Vosgien, France (d) Holz 8, Germany

(e) Cenni di Cambiamenti, Italy

(f) Limnologen, Sweden (g) Puukuokka, Finland

(h) Forté, Australia (i) Suurstoffi, Switzerland

(j) Cube, United Kingdom (k) Framework, United States

(l) Treet, Norway (m) UBC Brock Commons Phase 1, Canada

4.3 Questionnaire

A questionnaire was developed to facilitate obtaining the desired information. The questionnaire consisted of four tables and a list of five questions. The tables are reproduced in Figures 2 through 5 below. The questionnaire was in S.I. units since all surveyed buildings, except one, are located in countries that use the metric system. The tables were designed to collect the necessary information to ascertain whether the building would comply with IBC requirements for tall noncombustible buildings of Type IA or Type IB construction, and determine if and up to what extent calculation methods were used in lieu of testing to demonstrate compliance with fire safety regulations and requirements.

The tables were supplemented with the following five questions:

- 1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.
- 2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.
- 3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)
- 4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.
- 5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Figure 2. Questionnaire Table 1: General Information Concerning the Building.

Figure 3. Questionnaire Table 2: Information Concerning Fire Resistance.

Reaction-to-fire test standard to qualify wall coverings:	
Class required for wall coverings in interior exit stairs:	
Class required for wall coverings in exit corridors:	
Class required for wall coverings in rooms:	
Reaction-to-fire test standard to qualify ceiling linings:	
Class required for ceiling linings in interior exit stairs:	
Class required for ceiling linings in exit corridors:	
Class required for ceiling linings in rooms:	
Reaction-to-fire test standard to qualify floor coverings:	
Class required for floor coverings in interior exit stairs:	
Class required for floor coverings in exit corridors:	
Class required for floor coverings in rooms:	
Fire test standard(s) to qualify exterior claddings:	
Classification of the exterior cladding(s) used:	
Are bio-based exterior claddings used in the building?	\square No
If so, provide a brief description and, if applicable,	\Box Yes
trade names of these materials.	Reference(s):

Figure 4. Questionnaire Table 3: Information Concerning Reaction-to-Fire.

4.4 Comparison of Standard Test Methods

To compare the passive fire protection requirements between different countries, it is helpful to briefly review the fire test methods and classification systems that are used where the surveyed buildings are located. Fire resistance of structural elements and assemblies is discussed first. This is followed by an overview of test methods and classification systems to control the reaction-to-fire of interior finish materials. The term "reaction-to-fire" is not very common in North America, and terms such as "noncombustibility" and "surface burning" are used instead.

4.4.1 Fire Resistance

The primary fire resistance test standards that are used in the countries where the surveyed buildings are located are listed below:

- North America
	- o United States: ASTM E119
	- o Canada: ULC S101
- Other countries
	- o Europe: EN-1363 Part 1
	- o Australia: AS/NZS 1530-4

The European and Australian fire resistance tests standards are based on ISO 834. Conceptually, these test methods are all very similar. Wall and floor/ceiling assemblies, roof structures, doors, windows, etc., are mounted in a vertical or horizontal frame. The frame is placed against an open wall furnace or on top of an open ceiling furnace, and is exposed to a standard fire. Structural members such as beams and columns are (partially) immersed in the furnace environment.

Fires can spread from the fire compartment to a neighboring compartment if the heat transfer results in a temperature rise that is high enough to ignite common combustibles on the side not exposed to the fire, or if cracks develop that allow the passage of flames and hot gases. End-point criteria for separating non-load-bearing assemblies in fire resistance furnace tests are therefore based on heat transmission (I) and integrity (E). Heat transmission is measured with a number of thermocouples attached to and distributed over the unexposed side of the test specimen. The end-point criteria for heat transmission are exceeded when the temperature rise of the thermocouples, either on average or individually, reaches a specified limit. The average and single point temperature rise limits are 250 °F (139 °C) and 325°F (181 °C) in the North American fire resistance test standards, and nearly the same (140 °C and 180 °C, respectively) in the tests that are used in other parts of the world. The integrity of an assembly is maintained as long as there is no passage of flames and gases hot enough to ignite cotton waste on the unexposed side. Fires can also spread when load-bearing assemblies or structural members cease to support the load. Fire resistance furnace tests on load-bearing assemblies and structural members therefore also determine whether the test specimen is capable of supporting the applied load for a specified duration (R). The time when the first applicable end-point is reached in an ASTM E119 or ULC S101 test determines the fire resistance rating of the assembly or structural element and is reported to the nearest minute. Outside North America, the ratings are reported for each applicable end point, i.e., R, E, and I, respectively.

The fire resistance test standards used in North America prescribe a supplementary hose stream test procedure to evaluate the ability of the construction to resist disintegration under adverse conditions. The hose stream test is either performed after termination of the furnace test, or on a duplicate specimen that has been exposed to the standard fire for half the duration of the desired fire resistance classification. A hose stream test is not required for columns, floor/ceiling assemblies, and roof structures; wall assemblies with a fire resistance rating of less than 1 h; and 20-min rated door assemblies. The hose stream requirement is unique to North America.

The fire resistance of a building element is a function of the severity of the fire. To provide a uniform basis for measuring the fire resistance in the laboratory, a number of standard fires have been defined. These standard fires are expressed in the form of a furnace temperature-time curve. Figure 6 shows the standard temperature-time curves for tests conducted according to ASTM E119 and ISO 834. The former is identical to that specified in ULC S101, while the latter is the same as the curve specified in the European and Australian fire resistance test standards. These curves are representative of a compartment fire involving typical building contents. The third temperature-time curve shown in Figure 6 is specified in the UL 1709 standard. This curve initially rises at a faster rate and is representative of a liquid hydrocarbon fuel fire. The UL 1709 curve will be referred to later.

Based on Figure 6 one would conclude that ISO 834 is slightly more severe than ASTM E119. However, the severity of the test is not only a function of the temperature-time curve but also depends on how the furnace temperature is measured. The ASTM E119 furnace temperature probe consists of 14, 16 or 18-ga Type K thermocouple wires in a porcelain insulator, located inside an Inconel pipe (see Figure 7). The time constant of the thermocouple assembly is between 5.0 and 7.2 min.

The ISO 834-based test standard prescribes the use of plate thermometers to control the furnace temperature-time curve. A schematic of the plate thermometer is shown in Figure 8. Plate thermometers respond significantly faster than the shielded thermocouples specified in ASTM E119 (response time less than one minute). The net result is that ASTM E119 is more severe than ISO 834, in particular during the first 10 minutes of a test⁴. Consequently, the North American fire resistance test standards are actually slightly more severe than the ISO 834-based standards during the first 10 minutes of the test. Based on the consistency of charring rate data for wood obtained in different parts of the world, the differences between the temperature sensors that are used to control the furnace appears to compensate for the variation in the temperature-time curve.

Figure 6. ASTM E119, ISO 834, and UL 1709 Temperature-Time Curves.

Figure 7. ASTM E119 Furnace Temperature Probe.

Figure 8. Plate Thermometer Schematic.

It can be concluded that fire resistance ratings obtained in various parts of the world are essentially equivalent. It should be noted that the additional hose stream requirement in North America generally does not present a problem for assemblies used in tall wood buildings, and, therefore, does not make it more difficult for mass timber walls and ceilings to obtain a specified fire resistance rating in North America compared to other parts of the world.

4.4.2 Reaction-to-Fire ("Surface Burning Characteristics" in North America)

North America

The Steiner tunnel test is the primary test method for evaluating the surface burning characteristics of interior finish materials in the United States. The method is described in ASTM E84*.* The apparatus, consists of a tunnel-like enclosure measuring $25 \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ ft. The test specimen is 24-ft long and 20-in. wide and is mounted in the ceiling position. It is exposed at one end, designated as the burner end, to a 79-kW gas burner. There is a forced draft through the tunnel from the burner end with an average initial air velocity of 240 ft./min. The measurements consist of flame spread over the surface and smoke obscuration in the exhaust duct of the tunnel test apparatus. Test duration is 10 min.

A flame spread index (FSI) is calculated on the basis of the area under the curve of flame tip location versus time. The FSI is 0 for an inert board, and is normalized to approximately 100 for red oak flooring. A smoke developed index (SDI) is calculated on the basis of the area under the light obscuration vs. time curve normalized to the area for red oak flooring, which by definition has an SDI of 100.

The classification of interior finish materials in the U.S. model building codes is based on the FSI and SDI. There are three classes: Class A for products with FSI \leq 25, Class B for products with $25 \leq$ FSI \leq 75, and Class C for products with $75 \leq$ FSI \leq 200. In all cases the SDI must be 450 or less. Class A products are generally permitted in enclosed vertical exits. Class B products can be used in exit access corridors and Class C products are allowed in other rooms and areas.

The National Building Code of Canada refers to a variation of the Steiner tunnel test described in ULC S102. The differences in the test apparatus result in a lower flame spread index for Class C materials. To account for this, the upper FSI limit for Class C is reduced to 150.

Europe

The Single Burning Item (SBI) test is the primary test method for evaluating the reaction-tofire of wall linings and ceiling materials in Europe. The test method is described in European standard EN 13823. Two specimens of the material to be tested are positioned in a specimen holder frame at a 90 angle to form an open corner section. Both specimens are 60 in. high. One specimen is 40 in. wide, and is referred to as the long wing. The other specimen is 20 in. wide and is referred to as the short wing. During a test, the specimen is exposed for 20 min to the flame of a triangular diffusion propane gas burner operating at 30 kW. The products of combustion are collected in a hood, and are extracted through an exhaust duct. Instrumentation is provided in the duct to measure temperature, velocity, gas composition (oxygen, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide concentrations) and light obscuration. The velocity and gas composition data are used to determine heat release rate on the basis of the oxygen consumption technique. Smoke production rate is determined based on the measured flow rate and light obscuration in the duct. During the test observations are made of lateral flame spread over the specimen surface and the presence of flaming droplets or particles.

The European reaction-to-fire classification system for construction products is described in European Standard EN 13501-1. Classification of construction products except floor coverings in Euroclasses A2, B, C, and D is primarily based on the fire growth rating (FIGRA), total heat released over the first 10 min of the test, and lateral flame spread across the long wing specimen measured in the SBI. The FIGRA is equal to the maximum value of (heat release rate)/(elapsed time). Euroclass A2 materials are of limited combustibility and have to meet additional requirements based on performance in tests conducted according to EN ISO 1182 (non-combustibility test) or EN ISO 1716 (oxygen bomb calorimeter). Euroclass B, C and D materials have to meet additional requirements based on performance in tests performed according to EN ISO 11925-2 (small open flame test).

Australia

Requirements for the reaction-to-fire of interior finish materials in the Building Code of Australia (BCA) are based on performance in the AS ISO 9705 room corner test. The AS ISO 9705 test apparatus consists of a room measuring approximately 12-ft deep by 8-ft wide by 8-ft high, with a single v open doorway measuring approximately 32 in. wide by 80 in. high in the front wall. In the standard configuration the interior surfaces of all walls (except the front wall) and the ceiling are covered with the material being evaluated. The material is exposed to a propane burner ignition source located on the floor in one of the rear corners of the room opposite the doorway.

At the start of a test, the propane gas burner is ignited and the material is exposed to a 100-kW flame. After 10 min of exposure to 100 kW, the gas flow to the burner is increased to a heat release rate of 300 kW and maintained at that level for an additional 10 min.

The products of combustion emerging through the doorway are collected in a hood and extracted through an exhaust duct by a fan. The primary measurements are heat release rate and smoke production rate in the exhaust duct, and heat flux to the floor in the room. The test is generally terminated shortly after flashover. The BCA classifies interior finish materials into four groups based on the assumption that flashover occurs when the heat release rate measured in the exhaust duct reaches 1 MW:

- Group 1: No flashover in 20 min (300 kW fire)
- Group 2: Flashover $10-20$ min $(300 \text{ kW} \text{ fire})$
- Group 3: Flashover 2-10 min (100 kW fire)
- Group 4: Flashover $0-2$ min (100 kW fire)

Group 1 materials can be used anywhere in the building. Group 2 materials are not allowed in fire exits. Group 3 materials can be used in many areas, in particular if the building is sprinklered. Group 4 materials are not permitted.

Comparison of Reaction-to-Fire and Surface Burning Classes of Selected Materials

Table 2 compares the reaction-to-fire and surface burning classes for selected interior finish materials that are specified in the building codes and regulations of the countries where the surveyed buildings are located.

THOICE. COMPAINON OF INGRESSION TO THE CHANGED OF DURUCES HERE INTO							
Material	North America	Europe	Australia				
Gypsum Board	NC^a	$A2$ or B^c	Group 1				
FR-treated Wood			Group 2				
Untreated Wood	B or C^b		Group 3				

Table 3. Comparison of Reaction-to-Fire Classes of Selected Materials.

^a Gypsum board is considered noncombustible in the U.S. model building codes.

^b Softwoods are Class B. With a few exceptions, other wood products are Class C.

^c Gypsum board with thin paper is Class A2, and with thick paper is Class B.

4.5 Tall Wood Building Survey Results

4.5.1 Summary of Survey Results

Selected survey results are presented in the next three tables. The surveyed buildings are organized in three groups; unsprinklered buildings with less than 12 stories, sprinklered buildings 12 stories or less, and sprinklered buildings with more than 12 stories. The fire protection features of these buildings are compared for unsprinklered IBC Type IB buildings, sprinklered Type IB buildings, and IA buildings, respectively. Buildings features that exceed the IBC requirements are highlighted in green, while those that do not meet the requirements for the corresponding IBC type are in red.

	IBC Type IB Unsprinklered	Cavallers 57 LifeCycle Tower One Spain		Toit Vosgien Holz 8 France Germany		Cenni di Cambiamento	
Height (f ^t)	75	61	89	79	82	89	
Stories ^a	11/None	8/8	8/8	8/8	8/8	9/9	
Use and Occupancy	B, R	$1B + 5R - 2$	B	$R-2$	$2B + 6R - 2$	$R-2$	
$(f{t}^2)$ Total Floor Area	Unlimited	10118	24972	29138	18740	100684	
Fire Resistance of Columns (hr)			1.5		1.5^d		
Fire Resistance of Floors (hr)			1.5	4d	1.5^d	4d	
Wall Surface Burning (Exits/Rooms)	US A or B^b/C	EUR B/C	EUR A/D	EUR A/D	EUR A1/A2	EUR A2/A2	
Ceiling Surface Burning (Exits/Rooms)	US A or B^b/C	EUR B/C	EUR A/D	EUR A/D	EUR A1/A2	EUR A2/A2	
Sprinklered?	N _o	N _o	N _o	No.	N _o	N _o	
Smoke Detection and Alarm?	Yes	N ₀	N ₀	Yes	Yes	N ₀	
Number of Exit Stairs	\geq 2						
Max. Distance between Exit Stairs (f ^t)	200						
Pressurized Stairs?	Yes ^c	No.	N _o	Yes	N ₀	N ₀	

Table 4. Comparison of Selected Surveyed Buildings and Unsprinklered Type IB Buildings.

^a # of stories/# of timber stories

^c Exit stairways serving floors above 75 ft. shall be "smokeproof"

^b Class C applies to R-2 occupancies

^d Established through combination of testing and calculation (Eurocode 5)

	IBC Type IB Limnologen Pukuokka			Forté	Suurstoffi		The Cube Framework
	Sprinklered	Sweden	Finland		Australia Switzerland	UK	USA
Height (f ^t)	180	79	79	102	118	98	144
Stories ^a	12	8/7	8/8	10/9	10/9	10/10	12/12
Use and Occupancy	B, R	$R-2$	$R-2$	$1M+9R-2$	B	$R-2$	$7B + 5R - 2$
$(f{t}^2)$ Total Floor Area	Unlimited	37243	66916	25941	164257	NR ¹	NR ¹
Fire Resistance of Columns (hr)	1 ^b	1.5	1 ^e	1.5	1 ^e	1.5^e	$\mathbf{2}$
Fire Resistance of Floors (hr)	1 ^b		1 ^e	1.5	1 ^e	1.5^e	$\mathbf{2}$
Wall Surface Burning (Exits/Rooms)	US B or C^c/C	EUR B/C	EUR A ₂ /D	AUS G1	EUR $A2/D$	NR ¹	US B/C
Ceiling Surface Burning (Exits/Rooms) US B or C^c/C		EUR B/B	EUR $A2/D$ AUS $G1g$		EUR $A2/D$	NR ¹	US B/C
Sprinklered?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ^h	Yes	Yes
Smoke Detection and Alarm?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR ¹	Yes
Number of Exit Stairs	\geq 2	\mathfrak{D}	$1+1^1$		\mathfrak{D}	NR ¹	\mathfrak{D}
Max. Distance between Exit Stairs (ft)	250	33			92	NR ¹	43
Pressurized Stairs?	Yes^d	No	N ₀	N ₀	Yes	NR ¹	Yes

Table 5. Comparison of Selected Surveyed Buildings and Sprinklered Type IB Buildings.

^a # of stories/# of timber stories

^b 2 h for Mercantile occupancies

^c Inferior class applies to R-2 use and occupancy group

d Exit stairways serving floors above 75 ft. shall be "smokeproof"

^e (Partly) established through calculation (Eurocode 5)

^f Exit stairs and additional egress path (rescue from balcony) ^g One side of one wall in each apartment can be G3 (wood)

^h Sprinklers can be used to reduce fire resistance by 0.5 hr ⁱ Not reported

^a # of stories/# of timber stories

^b Inferior class applies to R-2 use and occupancy group

 c (Partly) established through calculation (Eurocode 5 or similar)

^d Primary framing members fully encapsulated in 3-4 layers 5/8 in. Type X GB

The following observations can be made based on the results of the survey:

- None of the unsprinklered buildings meet the IBC Type IB fire safety requirements.
- Two sprinklered buildings (Limnologen and Puukuokka) do not meet the Type IB requirements only because the exit stairs are not smoke-proof.
- One sprinklered building (Treet) does not meet Type IA requirements because the fire resistance rating of the loadbearing frame, walls, and floors is inadequate.
- The reaction-to-fire characteristics of walls and floors in the European buildings generally exceed the equivalent IBC surface burning requirements.
- Structural fire protection of most European buildings is demonstrated through calculation with little or no testing.

4.5.2 Summary of Additional Information Obtained

The information that was obtained as a result of the responses to the additional questions can be summarized as follows:

- The presence of large amounts of unprotected mass timber at tall wood building construction sites poses increased risk for large fires. Seven of the thirteen projects had additional safety and/or security procedures beyond what is normal on construction sites. Guidelines for fire safety at mass timber construction sites in New Zealand can be found in Appendix B. Guidelines for construction sites in the UK are discussed in Hopkin et al.⁵
- In two projects CLT panels were lined with gypsum board prior to or during building construction; Holz 8 and UBC.
- All primary structural members and connections are exposed in 3 buildings: LifeCycle Tower One, Toit Vosgien, and Suurstoffi; only the latter is sprinklered.
- The fraction of wall and ceiling surfaces left exposed varied widely from 0% in Cenni di Cambiamento, almost 0% in Limnologen and UBC, to 100% in Suurstoffi. Additional details are provided in Table 7.

Country	Project Name	Exposed Wood
Spain	Cavallers 57	The ceiling of the bedrooms and dining rooms
Austria	LifeCycle Tower One	All primary framing members (glulam posts and beams)
France	Toit Vosgien	About 2/3 of wood surfaces, incl. framing members and most connections
Germany	Holz 8	CLT in the living rooms, and wood laminate flooring in all flats and offices
Italy	Cenni di Cambiamento	Nothing left exposed
Sweden	Limnologen	Negligible
Finland	Puukuokka	Laminated floors, ceiling surfaces, window frames (based on pictures)
Australia	Forté	One side of one wall in each apartment
Switzerland	Suurstoffi	Primary glulam framing members; floor, wall and ceiling surfaces
UK.	The Cube Building	Facade and balconies, laminated wood floors inside (based on pictures)
USA	Framework	Offices: \sim 40% of underside of floor and beams, \sim 80% of columns .Apartments: \sim 30% of underside of floor, \sim 20% of beams and columns
Norway	Treet	CLT panels, glulam beams and columns (coated with fire protective paint)
Canada	UBC Brock Commons	Nothing left exposed, except walls in top floor lounge.

Table 7. Fraction of Wood Surfaces Left Exposed in Surveyed Buildings.

4.6 Swedish Fire Incident Data Study

Although at this time it is not possible to evaluate the effect of the use of mass timber on fire statistics in tall buildings due to the lack of incident data, a recent study conducted in Sweden may provide some insight ⁶. The study collected and reviewed fire incident data for 10,000 timber-frame apartment buildings over two stories constructed in Sweden over the period between 1994, when the building code became performance-based, and 2014. The results of the analysis are summarized in Table 8. The first row gives the total number of fire incidents for all apartment buildings with more than 2 stories, and the number of incidents broken down according to the extent of fire damage. The values in the second row are equal to those in the first row apportioned based on the number of woodframe apartment buildings. The actual values in the third row are based on the fire incident statistics. Table 8 indicates that modern multi-story timber buildings for housing exhibit a lower fire incident rate than the rest of the multi-family housing stock. Only one fire was reported for which the wood framing was a contributing factor to fire spread. The building was a student dormitory, which had code violations that were not caught during the initial inspection and had to be demolished.

		Extent of Fire Damage						
	Incidents Fire ಕ #	Source Ignition	Room of Origin	Appartment	Building	Building(s) Other	Unknown	
Total for all apartments with more than 2 stories	48949	32386	11160	3865	1347	84	107	
Expected for wood-frame apartments with more than 2 stories	73	48	17	6	$\overline{2}$	0.1	0.2	
Actual for wood-frame apartments with more than 2 stories	22	12	7		2	0	θ	

Table 8. Swedish Fire Incident Data for Wood-Frame Apartment Buildings (1994-2014).

5.0 NEEDS FOR ADDITIONAL TESTING, MODELING, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

This section contains an extensive number of citations of references that are included in the bibliography in Appendix C. Appendix D is a list of the same references arranged by topic.

5.1 Needs Identified in the Literature

Over the past few decades several papers and reports have been published that provide a detailed discussion of the fire safety challenges of tall wood buildings $1, 7-15$. To meet the challenges many of those publication identified specific needs for research, testing, and other activities. For example, a recent white paper on fire resistance of timber buildings ¹⁴ reviewed relevant work and compiled the following prioritized list of needs:

- 1. Agreement on relevant design fires (parametric fires) to be used for the structural fire performance of buildings – these should be the same for all structural materials.
- 2. Determine the contribution of massive timber elements (e.g. CLT) to fire severity for nonstandard fire exposure.
- 3. Determine charring rates as a function of fire exposure (design fires) does not need large scale facilities.
- 4. Determine conditions for self-extinguishment of charred wood, and tests to compare the relative performance of different species and products.
- 5. Determine the performance of timber elements with non-combustible construction, including the fall-off times of protective boards for non-standard fire exposure.
- 6. Determine the performance of different types of connections for non-standard fire exposure.
- 7. Determine the relevant fire exposure conditions for different types of fire stops in voids in timber structures.
- 8. Determine the influence of wooden façade claddings on the exterior fire spread of multi-story buildings with flames coming out from a broken window after flashover in an apartment.
- 9. Determine the influence of passive (e.g. non-combustible claddings) and active (e.g. sprinkler) fire protection on the items above.

Although these needs are certainly relevant, some may be of lower or higher priority based on how they support the introduction of tall wood buildings in the IBC. Moreover, other issues not specifically related to fire resistance may have to be addressed also. The following sections aim at developing a revised list of needed fire testing, modeling, risk assessment and related activities to fill the gaps in our knowledge to address fire safety challenges in tall wood buildings.

5.2 Compliance with Prescriptive Code Requirements for Fire Resistance

Prescriptive fire resistance code requirements can be met through furnace testing, simplified calculation methods or detailed structural fire modeling.

5.2.1 Standard Fire Resistance Furnace Testing

An impressive amount of standard fire resistance furnace test results have been published in the literature. This includes data for mass timber (CLT, glulam, LVL, etc.) members¹⁶⁻⁴⁵, connections⁴⁶⁻⁶³, and protective membranes⁶⁴⁻⁸². Several publications address gypsum board fall-off^{67, 70, 75-77, 83-85}, which is an important aspect of its performance and ability to protect the underlying mass timber structure. Although there will always be a need for standard fire resistance testing to evaluate new materials and techniques or address project-specific concerns, the existing database of fire resistance test results has been used to develop simplified calculation methods that will greatly alleviate this need. One issue that may require more attention is the performance of massive timber members during the cooling phase in a fire, as standard fire resistance tests do not include it and available test data is very limited^{37, 44, 45}.

5.2.2 Simplified Calculation Methods

Simplified methods to calculate the fire resistance of mass timber members, unprotected as well as protected, are based on an estimate of the residual load-bearing cross section as a function of time. This section is (usually, but not always conservatively) determined based on an assumed charring rate, which may be constant or vary with time, and zero strength layer. The development and validation of reduced cross-section methods are documented in detail in the literature^{22, 24, 28, 29, 34, 40, 42, 86-100}. Simplified methods for connections either consist of design rules derived from experimental data, or rely on providing adequate protection to the fasteners. Although simplified calculation methods are well established, adjustments may be needed for new materials and construction techniques, or to address applications outside the validation range of the method. Needs pertaining to charring rate

estimates and the effect of a protective membrane are discussed in section 5.4. Guidance for detailing of mass timber construction has received relatively little attention^{101, 102} and could also be improved.

5.2.3 Detailed Structural Fire Modeling

Detailed structural fire models can be used as an alternative to simplified calculation methods to evaluate the performance of unprotected or protected mass timber structures under standard fire conditions34, 45, 56, 57, 69, 103-113. These models calculate the heat transfer through and thermal degradation of the protective membrane, if present, and the massive timber elements and connections. Some also evaluate the mechanical performance of the structure. The primary input data for the models consist of the thermos-physical and mechanical properties of the constituent materials. These properties are relatively well known, but strictly speaking only valid for standard fire exposure^{81, 84, 103, 114-131}. However, there is a need for additional work to better model changes in the geometry, e.g., due to gypsum board and char layer fall-off.

5.3 Performance-Based Assessment

Compliance with performance-based code requirements and justification for a variance from prescriptive code requirements often requires the evaluation of a mass timber structure in real fires, i.e., under natural (or non-standard) thermal exposure conditions. As with standard fire exposure, this can be accomplished through testing,

5.3.1 Custom Fire Testing

Although custom furnace tests with natural fire exposure have been conducted $41, 45, 73, 132$, natural fire tests in a compartment are far more common^{45, 79, 133-147}. In compartment fire tests the structure is generally not subjected to load, and the primary purpose of these tests is to assess the contribution of exposed mass timber to the severity of the fire. The focus is hereby on wall and ceiling surfaces. Only one set of room fire tests was found in which the performance of floor assemblies exposed to a fire from above was evaluated¹⁴⁸. The contribution of wood flooring to the severity of a room fire is a potential topic for further study.

5.3.2 Simplified Calculation Methods

Simplified calculation methods can be used for natural fires by adjusting the charring rate to account for the modified thermal exposure conditions. Another simplified approach involves the use of time-equivalence methods to linking performance in a real fire to that in the standard fire. The equivalent time is based on (1) equal areas under the temperature-time curve¹⁴⁹, or (2) equal temperatures at a critical part of the structure¹⁵⁰⁻¹⁵², or (3) equivalent normalized heat load¹⁵³. Timeequivalence methods are well established for steel and concrete structures, but present some challenges when applied to mass timber structures¹⁵⁴⁻¹⁵⁹.

5.3.3 Detailed Fire Modeling

Structural fire models that are used to evaluate the performance of unprotected or protected mass timber structures under standard fire exposures can also be used for real fires. However, if the thermos-physical and mechanical properties are expressed as a function of temperature, as for example in Eurocode 5, adjustments to the input data are needed to model the cooling phase $45, 120$. This is because

the thermal degradation process is not reversible. Moreover, the material properties in Eurocode 5 were developed based on data for the standard fire, and adjustments are needed to model performance of mass timber structures under natural fire exposure. Finally, the boundary conditions for the model need to be modified so that they are consistent with the thermal exposure conditions in the compartment fire. The latter can be estimated from closed-form compartment fire temperature equations or from zone or field compartment fire model calculations.

5.4 Charring Rate of Mass Timber

The charring rate of wood in general and more recently that of mass timber in particular, unprotected or protected, has been studied extensively^{16, 20, 21, 160-176}. The charring rate of wood can generally be predicted with sufficient accuracy for engineering calculations, and the effect of material properties and environmental factors is well known. However, the charring rate is very sensitive to abrupt changes in the thermal exposure of uncharred wood, e.g., due to gypsum board and char fall-off or delamination of CLT. Although gypsum board and char fall-off, and delamination of CLT are now well understood, more work may be needed to accurately model these phenomena as new types of gypsum board and mass timber adhesives are being developed and used. A related question is how the number and size of gaps between boards affect the fire resistance of CLT panels and the charring rate used in simplified design calculations.

5.5 Contribution of Exposed Wood

Architects prefer to leave wood surfaces exposed for esthetic reasons, while fire protection engineers want to protect them with gypsum board to control the fire growth and decay. Consequently it is important to understand how the amount of exposed wood may affect fire safety. Involvement of large wood surfaces is likely to increase the severity of the fire, i.e., gas temperature (if the fire is not ventilation-controlled) and fire duration. This was observed in room fire tests conducted with different amounts of exposed $CLT^{136, 138, 140, 141, 144-147}$. If the fire is ventilation controlled, more fuel makes it more likely to spread to adjacent rooms. The excess pyrolyzate may also result in a larger flame emerging from a window, which may accelerate flame spread over the façade and facilitate fire spread to adjacent structures. Although much research has been done on fire testing of exterior walls and modeling of façade fires¹⁷⁷⁻¹⁸⁸ and fire spread to exposed structures^{185, 189-192}, the effect of using more exposed wood is not entirely clear.

5.6 Trade-offs and Equivalence

The IBC allows an extra story or a reduction of the fire resistance requirements by one hour in Type IB buildings that are sprinklered. This type of trade-off can be justified on the basis of a risk assessment¹⁹³. The same approach could be used to justify the use of mass timber in tall buildings. Fire risk assessment models have been developed and used to evaluate the impact of the type of construction, use of sprinklers, proximity of the fire department, etc.^{185, 194-202} However, there are no fire risk assessment models readily available to evaluate the effect of using mass timber in tall buildings on life safety of building occupants and first responders, and on property losses. Fire safety analysis experience from the nuclear industry could be used to develop such a risk assessment model. The probabilistic risk assessment models used in nuclear power plants are based on a Bayesian approach²⁰³. To support the development of such a model a detailed analysis is needed of the fire incident statistics for tall buildings and pertinent occupancies.

5.7 Detailing

Additional guidance is needed for detailing of mass timber construction. For example, detailing the installation of fire-rated doors or fire dampers in solid wood walls presents some challenges. While fire resistance testing of penetration firestop systems installed in mass timber walls and floors is relatively straightforward, it is hard to justify testing a set of doors in a solid wood wall just to verify the attachment. Another example is the treatment of small combustible concealed spaces. Is a 25-mm gap acceptable, or can it be 50 mm before insulation is needed to fill the gap and prevent fire propagation in the space?

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The expert elicitation process described in this report identified the following needs and resulted in the following recommendations:

- More testing is needed to evaluate the performance of mass timber elements during the cooling phase of a fire;
- Simplified calculation methods and detailed structural fire models should be enhanced to more accurately account for mass timber construction performance during the cooling phase;
- Additional work is required to more reliably predict and better account for gypsum board falloff and delamination at the glue-line;
- Additional guidance is needed for detailing of mass timber construction;
- The contribution of wood flooring to the severity of a room fire requires further study;
- Further development is needed of time-equivalence methods so that they can be applied to mass timber construction;
- More work is needed to determine how the amount of exposed wood affects the severity of the fire in the room of origin, and the fire spread to adjacent rooms, over the façade, and to other structures;
- It is proposed to perform an analysis of fire incident statistics to gain a better understanding of the magnitude of the fire problem in tall buildings and to better determine how the use of mass timber might affect it; and
- It is suggested to develop a fire risk assessment model (or adapt an existing model) to provide a rational basis for trade-offs and equivalence.

APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

(CONSISTING OF 66 PAGES)

TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

Revision 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

 $\mathbf 1$

FIRE RESISTANCE

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

 $\overline{2}$ Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

REACTION-TO-FIRE AND EXTERIOR FIRE SPREAD

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

 3° Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

No special measures of protection during constructions process.

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

No tests were done.

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

The interior walls of the elevator are protected with a 15 mm gypsum board special for fire protection in order to achieve the EI-60. All the vertical walls, achieve the EI-60 protection adding a supplementary thickness of wood in CLT walls, with a 15 mm gypsum board as finishina.

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

The timber connections between the walls and the floors are all at the lower parts of the walls, so they are protected with the floor finishings as the radiant floor isolation and the acustic isolations.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

The ceiling of the sleeping and dining rooms are left with the wood exposed and they are finished with the called "domestic finishing", but with no special protection for the fire.

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

Revision 1

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

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FIRE RESISTANCE

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REACTION-TO-FIRE AND EXTERIOR FIRE SPREAD

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

 $3⁷$ Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1
ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.
	- >> One portable fire extinguisher on every floor
	- >> Recorded instruction of site staff
	- >> Non-smoking site
	- >> Site patrolled by security (2x a night)
	- >> Clean and tidy site conditions
- 2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

>> Hybrid slab tested according to EN 1365-2 on particular request of the AHJ

- 3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.) >> Primary framing members left exposed
- 4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

>> Timber connections exposed resp. embedded in grouting

- 5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?
	- >> All glulam posts and beams left exposed
	- >> All glulam posts and beams not protected

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FIRE RESISTANCE

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ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction. No special measure : construction carefully controlled as usual and prefabrication

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

None test have been realized

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

The primary framing members are left exposed

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

The timber connections are left exposed except in the technical room where they are protected with wood boards

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Approximately 2/3 of wood surfaces are left exposed. The unexposed surfaces are covered (but not fire-protected) by gypsum boards

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

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The given "requirements" represent the status negotiated with the building authority within the fire safety concept for the specific building (Holz8 - Bad Aibling Germany) and are in some cases an alternative solution deviation from the requirements of the building code. The prescriptive requirements of the building code are given in brackets ().

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\mathbf{3}$

ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

Prefabricated elements in general lined with gypsum boards Fire extinguishers in the offices Fire risk analysis and preventive actions

- 2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.
	- Not done for this building
	- However façade fire tests were conducted in a previous research projects in 2003-2005 (see HTO Research Report HTO TP2 (High-Tech-Offensive Bavaria, Subproject 2), Brandsicherheit im mehrgeschossigem Holzbau, TU München 2009)
- 3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Primary framing members are protected with F-type gypsum board, two 18mm layers

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

All connections are fully protected

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Only the CLT panels in the living rooms are unprotected and visible. The flooring system in all flats and offices are made from a timber laminate

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

Revision 0

GENERAL INFORMATION

Issue Date: June 15, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 0.1 $\mathbf{1}$

FIRE RESISTANCE

Issue Date: June 15, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 0.1 $2⁷$

REACTION-TO-FIRE AND EXTERIOR FIRE SPREAD

Issue Date: June 15, 2016

3 Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 0.1

ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

Issue Date: June 15, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 0.1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction. Carefully recommendations and instructions of the building site workers in order to avoid fire accidents by smoking or working activities (for example steel welding working). A general prohibition for smoking is not authorized, because a building site is an open place. Controlling by the supervision of the building site.

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

No fire tests have been performed.

- 3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.) All CLT structural elements are protected by two layers of gypsum plasterboards providing a fire resistance of El60.
- 4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

All CLT structural elements including connections are protected by two layers of gypsum plasterboards providing a fire resistance of EI60.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected? Timber surfaces are protected by gypsum plasterboards.

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

Revision 1

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FIRE RESISTANCE

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REACTION-TO-FIRE AND EXTERIOR FIRE SPREAD

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ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

The building site was carefully controlled with rules for good order, cleaning, nonsmoking and escape routes etc. The two-dimensional building elements were manufactured industrially and created a

separation similar to the one in the finalized building when mounted on building site. The building site was under a tent that gave weather protection and also a good working environment. The tent was moved upwards as further storeys were erected. Extinguishing equipment was available.

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

No

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Protected with 2 x 13 mm gypsum board.

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

Protected with 2 x 13 mm gypsum board.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Almost zero

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

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ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

Normal rules/guidance for construction work applied, e.g. hot work rules.

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

No.

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Protections used:

- \circ Internal walls: 15 mm F type gypsum board
- o Floors from below: Suspended ceiling made of 80 mm CLT (based of fire safety engineering analysis)
- o Eternal walls, inner surface of ventilation gap: K₂30 covering made of A2-s1, d0 material (mineral wool or gypsum board)
- 4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

As above.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

See figures below.

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $5₁$

Corridor:

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

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FIRE RESISTANCE

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REACTION-TO-FIRE AND EXTERIOR FIRE SPREAD

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ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.
- 2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

Load bearing and non-loadbearing furnace fire test were conducted for unprotected and protected scenarios.

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

With the exception of one side of one wall in each apartment which is unprotected, all apartment walls are protected with a single layer of 13mm fire rated plasterboard to each side and all soffits are protected with 2 layers of 16 mm fire rated plasterboard.

The internal surface of the lift shaft and fire escape stair are unprotected.

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, how. explain

Yes, protected by timer and/or fire rated plasterboard.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

See above.

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 $5₁$ Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

Revision 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

Note: based on the Swiss Fire Safety Regulations tall buildings are defined as buildings with a total height of more than 30m.

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1

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FIRE RESISTANCE

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

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REACTION-TO-FIRE AND EXTERIOR FIRE SPREAD

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

 $3⁷$ Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1
ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

Issue Date: June 20, 2016

Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

According to Swiss Fire Safety Regulations.

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

No test, only calculations.

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Primary framing members (glulam beams and columns) are left exposed.

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

Timber connections of primary framing members (glulam beams and columns) are left exposed.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Primary framing members (glulam beams and columns) are left exposed. Interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed.

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TALL WOOD BUILDING FIRE QUESTIONNAIRE

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ACTIVE FIRE PROTECTION AND EGRESS

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Tall Wood Building Questionnaire, Rev. 1 $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.
- 2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.
- 3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)
- 4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.
- 5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

Additional security, permanent staffing, no cooking on site

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

Tests on connections (glulam) and beam and floor assembly (glulam and CLT)

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Members partly exposed. Where encapsulated, 2 layers of 5/8 Type X gypsum

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

Timber connections exposed and also protected. Protected with two layers 5/8 Type X gypsum.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Residential unit - approx. 30% of underside of floor; and approx. 20% of beams and columns.

Office units - approx. 40% of underside of floor and beams; and approx. 80% of columns

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

High quality site safety program. Construction fire safety achieved by providing a single layer of 5/8in Type X gypsum wallboard on the underside of the CLT panels, installed after erection, but such that no more than 4 levels at a time are unprotected.

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

Only fire tests performed was a penetration firestop test.

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Primary frame members are fully encapsulated in 3 or 4 layers of 5/8in Type X GWB to provide full 2h fire rated encapsulation.

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

All connections for gravity loads are within the above noted encapsulation.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

Nothing left exposed, except walls in only lounge on the top floor.

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Describe any measures taken to prevent fires during building construction.

Fire extinguishers Fire risk analysis and preventive actions

2. Explain if any custom fire tests (e.g., furnished compartment fire experiments, fire tests of connection details, etc.) were (or will be) conducted to satisfy the local authority having jurisdiction.

No test, only calculations

3. Are the primary framing members left exposed, or are they protected? If the primary framing members are protected, explain how (e.g., one 16 mm layer of F-type gypsum board, two 16 mm layers of F-type gypsum board, etc.)

Primary framing members are protected (fire protective paint) and exposed to fire.

4. Are the timber connections exposed or protected? If the connections are protected, explain how.

Timber connections are protected using fire mastics, Securo cavity vent protectors.

5. What fraction of the interior wood floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces are left exposed? How are the unexposed surfaces protected?

CLT panels, glulam beams and columns left exposed, surfaces covered with fire protective paint.

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APPENDIX B

GUIDELINES FOR FIRE SAFETY ON EXPAN CONSTRUCTION SITES

(CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES)

TECHNICAL BULLETIN No. 1 | DECEMBER 2012

Guidelines for Fire Safety on EXPAN Construction Sites

BACKGROUND

Fires can occur frequently on building construction sites, due to the nature of the works which are undertaken at this time. The most common cause of such fires is malicious arson from outside the construction site, when fires are deliberately lit for a wide variety of reasons. The other major causes of construction site fires are accidental ignition as a result of hot work, heating equipment or accidents.

If a fire starts, large amounts of combustible material can allow the fire to grow rapidly. Rubbish piles are commonplace on many construction sites, and these can provide the fuel for rapid fire growth. Timber building materials can also act as a fuel source, especially if many small pieces of timber are available to fuel a growing fire. For this reason, more care is needed on timber building sites than on other sites where no combustible material is available.

Massive timber, such as the pre-fabricated LVL elements used in most EXPAN buildings, is difficult to ignite, hence it is a much lower fire hazard than light timber frames used in typical houses, where there is a much larger surface area of unprotected timber exposed to the fire. Nevertheless, all wood can burn, so appropriate safety measures should be taken.

In the finished building, timber structural materials provide no greater fire hazard than steel or concrete, but this is not always true during construction, before installation of fire protection measures such as fire protective Gib board, fire sprinklers, and other active or passive fire systems. Environmental conditions and the arrangement and species of timber can also play a significant role in the severity of any unwanted fire.

With much taller and larger timber buildings now being built around the world, the potential fire risk is larger than in the past. The risk to life safety, property damage and the threat to neighbouring properties increases with the size of any fire, so a sensible fire protection strategy is recommended for all building sites.

FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

A number of key management concepts are necessary to reduce the likelihood of fire ignition, and failing this, to control the growth and spread of any unwanted fire until extinguishment by workers on site, or the Fire Service.

The overall strategy is to:

- 1. Prevent access to the building site after hours
- $\overline{2}$ Undertake a rigorous fire risk assessment, as
- part of an overall fire safety plan.
- Plan for emergencies. \mathbf{a}
- $\overline{4}$ Prevent ignition and mitigate fire risk as much as possible.
- Identify and manage potential fuel. 5.
- Implement early installation of fire safe $\mathbf{6}$ construction.

Prevent Access to the Construction Site After Hours

- Maintain perimeter fencing when the site is closed
- Control all points of entry on to the site.
- Provide after-hours security and surveillance.

Fire Safety Plan

- Identify the site fire safety officer (and deputy) responsible for on-site fire safety.
- Write the site fire safety plan. This to be done by the site fire safety officer in cooperation with the local Fire Service and the design fire engineer for the building.
- Establish reporting lines from the site fire safety officer to the site foreman.

Plan for Emergencies

- Document emergency procedures, escape routes and safe assembly points.
- Ensure regular communication with the local Fire Service.
- Maintain emergency access routes with signs.
- Carry out fire evacuation trials.
- Document training and assigned responsibilities of site operatives.

Prevent Ignition

- Implement safe working procedures and training to minimise the risk of fire ignition.
- Identify and eliminate site specific ignition sources.
- Establish safe working rules for hot-work. Inspect hot-work areas 4 hours after finishing.

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- No smoking on site.
- Monitor use of electrical tools, and maintain safe site electrical systems.

Identify and Manage Potential Fuel Sources

- Identify site specific sources of combustible ٠ materials.
- Remove rubbish and other hazardous Ä combustible materials from the site.
- Maintain good housekeeping.
- Ensure correct storage of flammable materials, ٠ solids and liquids.
- Manage gas installations. ۰

Early Installation of Fire Safety Measures

Make site hoses available for fire fighting, well ä distributed around the site.

- Install fire extinguishers immediately when each part of the building is accessible.
- Ensure early installation of windows and doors to prevent illegal access, also to limit ventilation.
- Provide temporary fire walls to divide big buildings into a number of smaller more manageable sections, with fire doors between them.
- Install fire detection and alarm systems as construction proceeds.
- Arrange early placement of plasterboard wall linings and ceilings to protect exposed timber.
- Install fire sprinklers as soon as possible.

MAINTENANCE OF FIRE PROTECTION

It is suggested that the contractor should:

- Keep a copy of this document on display in the site office, and
- Maintain monthly monitoring of all items listed above.

DISCLAIMER

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use is current and for obtaining updated versions and related information fro

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APPENDIX C

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APPENDIX D

REFERENCES ARRANGED BY TOPIC

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