

**Evaluation of Valley Truss Connection Design**  
**For Wind Uplift Resistance**

**Sun City - Hilton Head**  
**Bluffton, South Carolina**

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## Table Of Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	1
Qualifications	1
Use Of Report	1
Initial Distribution	1
<u>Summary Of Conclusions</u>	2
Key Conclusions	2
Determination of Design Capacity	2
Basic Requirements Of Design	3
Calculated Design Capacity Of Nail & Screw Connections	3
Evaluation Of Engineer Documents	4
Truswal Valley Truss Connection Drawing	5
Design Solution	5
Existing Construction	5
Recommendations	6
<u>Background Information</u>	7
Initial Awareness	7
Previous Comments	7
<u>Conditions &amp; Conventions Of Report</u>	8
Limits Of Evaluation	8
Basis Of Evaluation	8
Design Standards & References	9
Information Not Available	9
Arrangement & Conventions Of Report	9
Terms & Names Used In Report	10
<u>Basic Scope &amp; Description Of Structural Evaluation</u>	11
Valley Trusses	11
Wind Uplift	11
Structural Design Requirements	11
Expectations & Understanding Of Design and Construction	12
Structural Analysis	13

<u>Description Of Engineer Documents</u>	14
Letter of July 7, 2005	14
Letter of February 13, 2007	15
Calculations For Nail Connections (2-12-07)	15
Letter Of March 8, 2007	17
Calculations For Screw Connection (3-7-07)	18
Design Plan Details	19
Design Plan Details; S2.0	19
Design Plan Details; S4.1	20
<u>Provisions Of NDS-2005</u>	21
Design & Analysis Of Valley Truss Connections	22
Toenail Connections; General	23
Screw Connections	24
Toenail Connections; Application To Wood Screws	25
<u>General Dowel Equations (AWC Technical Report 12)</u>	26
<u>Provisions Of TPI Code</u>	27
Responsibility For Connection Design	27
<u>Provisions of Building Code For Wind Uplift Resistance</u>	28
Determination Of Areas For Zone 2 Pressure	29
Mean Roof Height	30
Exposure Category	30
Resistance From Dead Load	31
<u>Required Design Uplift Force</u>	32
<u>Capacity Of Nail &amp; Screw Connections</u>	34
Fastener Properties	34
Capacity For Installation Parameters Per Design Plans (S4.1)	35
Sensitivity To Changes Of Installation Parameters	35
Table 1 - Design Uplift Capacity	36
Uplift Capacity; General Results	37
Uplift Capacity; General Approach For Design	37
Uplift Capacity Of Nail Connection	37
Uplift Capacity Of Screw Connection	38
Steel Strength Of Wood Screw	38
Withdrawal Capacity In Valley Truss	38

<u>Evaluation Of Engineer Documents</u>	40
Responsibility For Connection Design	40
Letter Of July 7, 2005	40
Calculations For Nail Connection (2-12-07)	42
Distribution Of Wind Uplift Force To Connections	43
Design Uplift Force	43
Tributary Area For Each Connection	43
Installation Requirements	44
Letter of February 13, 2007	45
Letter Of March 8, 2007	45
Calculations For Screw Connection (3-7-07)	46
Design Plan Details; S2.0	47
Design Plan Details; S4.1	47
<u>Description Of Truss Manufacturer Drawings</u>	49
Truswal Connection Drawing	49
Roof Truss Placement Plan; Builders FirstSource / MiTek	50
Valley Truss Diagram; Builders FirstSource / MiTek	50
<u>Evaluation Of Truss Manufacturer Drawings</u>	51
Truswal Connection Drawing	51
Roof Truss Placement Plan; Builders FirstSource / MiTek	53
Valley Truss Drawing; Builders FirstSource / MiTek	53
<u>Recommendations</u>	54
Valley Truss Connections	54
Further Structural Analysis	54
Evaluation Of As-Built Construction	55
<u>Photos</u>	56
Photo 1 - Valley Trusses On Main Roof Trusses	56

Attachments

Valley Truss Force Diagram	A1
Valley Truss Connection Detail	A2
Truswal Valley Truss Connection Drawing	B1
Truswal Valley Truss Diagram	B2
Builders FirstSource / MiTek Valley Truss Diagram	B3
Valley Truss Connection Detail; Building Design Plans (S4.1)	B4
Calculations for nail connection; Charles G Thom, Jr. PE	C1-C4
Calculations for screw connection; Charles G Thom, Jr. PE	C5-C7
NDS Code Provisions	D1 - D3
General Dowel Equations; Technical Report 12	E1
Uplift Capacity Calculation	F1, F2
Wind Uplift Calculation	F3
Letter To Editor; 11-19-09 (not published)	G1

## Introduction

This report describes engineering evaluation of design for connections between "valley" roof trusses and underlying main roof trusses installed on many one-story houses within a large development (Sun City Hilton Head) in South Carolina.

Extent of this report may at first seem excessive for analysis of what amounts to a single nail or screw connection. Yet, when considering that potential ramifications extend not only to hundreds or thousands of houses in Sun City Hilton Head, but also to many more houses along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the level of detail makes more sense.

Much of the report describes detailed engineering analysis that is necessary for thorough and complete engineering evaluation. For readers without engineering experience, much of this discussion will be difficult to understand. However, an effort is made to explain basic conclusions in terms that the general public can comprehend and appreciate.

## Qualifications

As a structural engineer, I review design plans for residential and commercial buildings that specify roof trusses. I also review truss diagrams prepared by truss manufacturers. I have evaluated truss design and construction for construction defect and personal injury claims.

I am licensed as a professional engineer in New Jersey (since 1983), Pennsylvania, Maryland and, most recently, South Carolina. I have 32 years total experience as a structural engineer, including 17 years as a consulting engineer in private practice, based in New Jersey.

## Use of Report

This report, intended for anyone interested, may be quoted, with proper reference.

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## Initial Distribution Of Report

This report has initially been distributed (via mail) to the following persons;

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5. Ryan Rasmussen; National Engineering Manager; PulteGroup
6. Charles G Thom, Jr., PE, Consulting Engineer
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