



Designing & Installing Long Span Trusses

- 1.) Large Span Trusses are typically defined in the truss industry as:
 - a. Regular shape trusses of a span (bottom chord length) equal to or greater than 60'0".
 - b. Mono-Slope trusses of a span (bottom chord length) equal to or greater than 40'0".
 - c. Any truss of a span (bottom chord length) equal to or greater than 40'0" that involves a piggy-back or cap truss.
- 2.) The suggestions described herein are intended to provide information such that the potential for any problems or issues is minimized with the design, installation and service life of large span trusses. These suggestions are not a reflection on the truss manufacturer, the customer or the truss installer, and further do not suggest that the quality of workmanship by any party is in question. However, it is important to recognize the unique requirements of Large Span Trusses, and to take the necessary steps in order to minimize the potential for problems or issues with the design and installation of these trusses.
- 3.) Success with Large Span Trusses:
 - a. **Building Design:** A qualified design professional is contracted to review the project and provide the building owner and contractor with a complete set of engineered plans detailing the structural components of the building. These engineered plans would include the roof system bracing plan. A copy of these plans is often forwarded to the truss manufacturer as documentation that a design professional is involved in the project. It is important to note that the truss manufacturer is not the engineer of record for the project, and that the truss manufacturer will not be reviewing any structural plans for adequacy or accuracy.
 - b. **Truss Design & Roof System Bracing:** It is common for the design professional responsible for the building to interact with the truss manufacturer with respect to truss bracing. The truss manufacturer will provide the design professional a P.E. Sealed Engineered Truss Drawing which describes the truss and its individual bracing requirements. Using this component truss drawing, the design professional can then complete the roof system bracing plan and include it as part of his engineered structural plans for the building. The design professional should also provide information to the contractor relative to temporary building and truss bracing during the erection process.
 - c. **Truss Installation:** The contractor or truss installer is critical to a successful truss installation. The truss installer should have adequate training and experience in the installation of Large Span Trusses. In addition to following all current safety regulations and guidelines, the truss installer should be familiar with all current industry standards and practices with respect to truss installation, including but not limited to TPI, WTCA and SBCA guidelines and suggestions. It is often requested by the truss manufacturer that a written statement be forwarded by the contractor to the truss manufacturer confirming this training and experience with Large Span Trusses.

Designing & Installing Long Span Trusses (cont.)

- 4.) It is important for each party involved with Large Span Trusses to recognize their role in a given project. It is further important that each party do not expand their role or responsibility into the areas of others involved with the project. The truss manufacturer, for example, must not assume the role and responsibility of the building design professional or contractor for any project. Should a qualified design professional or contractor not be immediately or currently available to a project, the truss manufacturer can supply contact information of persons (not to be considered an endorsement, however) who have completed this type of work in the past.

Please review the above suggestions carefully. Should you have any further questions or require any additional information, please contact your Rigidply Rafters, Inc. Representative.