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With publication of the 2012 editions of the International Code Council’s *International Building Code* (IBC) and *International Residential Code* (IRC), several new wood design standards are now referenced. The 2012 *National Design Specification® (NDS®) for Wood Construction* and the 2012 *Wood Frame Construction Manual (WFCM)* for One- and Two-Family Dwellings are each referenced in the 2012 I-codes. As jurisdictions begin to adopt and enforce the 2012 IBC/IRC, these new standards will be required for design of wood members and connections. To help designers navigate new provisions, this issue of *Wood Design Focus* will outline changes to the 2012 NDS and 2012 WFCM.

ANSI/AWC NDS-2012, was approved as an ANSI American National Standard on August 15, 2011. The 2012 NDS was developed by the American Wood Council's (AWC) Wood Design Standards Committee. The first article provides an overview of all changes to the 2012 NDS and major issues are covered in more detail.

The *NDS Supplement – Design Values for Wood Construction, 2012 Edition* contains design values for structural lumber, structural glued laminated timber, and timber poles and piles. The American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) Board of Review approved changes to design values for 2"- 4" thick, 2"- 4" wide, Southern Pine #2 Dense and 2x4 Mixed Southern Pine #2 and all lower grades (i.e. #3, Stud, Construction, Standard, and Utility). The second article provides common questions and answers related to these changes.

Chapter 6 of the NDS contains design provisions for round timber poles and piles. Changes to ASTM standards for developing and adjusting round timber pile and round construction pole design values necessitated changes to the NDS. The third paper in this issue outlines changes to design values and adjustment factors for these products.

ANSI/AWC WFCM-2012 was approved November 29, 2011 as an American National Standard. The 2012 WFCM represents the state-of-the-art for design of one- and two-family dwellings for high wind, high seismic, and high snow loads. Changes to the 2012 WFCM are detailed in the final article.

I hope you find this issue of *Wood Design Focus* informative. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

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