

# KEEPING UP TO STANDARDS



by **Dean Ashton**  
Development and Training Manager,  
MiTek Australia Limited

In GN Guidelines 58, Tim Rossiter spoke about how the Australian Standards are revised, or completely new standards are introduced, and the need to keep up to date with these standards.

In 1997 AS4440 "Installation of nailplated timber trusses" was introduced. This Australian Standard has recently undergone revision.

As this Australian Standard has a major impact in the way your customers should be installing trusses and the materials that you supply, it is important that you are aware of the changes.

Standards Australia has recently held a series of workshops in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Darwin explaining this document, as well as highlighting the amendments and new sections.

The main changes include:

- Limit State Design wind classifications
- Fixing to external non-load bearing walls detail
- Revision of definitions for bow and plub
- Recommendations for fixing Intermediate Ceiling Joists
- Recommendations for fixing

Top Chord Ties to north-light and top hat trusses

You also have to be aware of the limitations when using these standards. AS4440 is generally for nailplated timber roof trusses with the following limitations:

- Residential structures (BCA Classes 1, 2, 3, and 10) and light commercial structures
- Maximum roof pitch of 45 degrees (take care beyond 35 degrees as other parts of the structure may have further limitations)
- Building plan view to be near rectangular in shape or a combination of near rectangular shapes. Splayed ends, boomerang shape and bay window projections are included.
- Maximum roof span of 16m
- Maximum truss spacing of 900mm (or 1200mm for light-weight roofs such as steel deck in wind classification up to N3)

Maximum wind classification C3 (74m/s ultimate design wind speed)

Beyond these limitations a qualified and suitably experienced engineer will be required to design and certify the roof structure.

The supporting structure may also require engineering design, as other Australian Standards such as AS1684 "Residential Timber Framed Construction" will also have similar limitations.

It is also important to note that AS4440 is for roof systems that are installed on a stable supporting structure.

It is common on some commercial jobs to use the roof trusses as part of the wall bracing system.

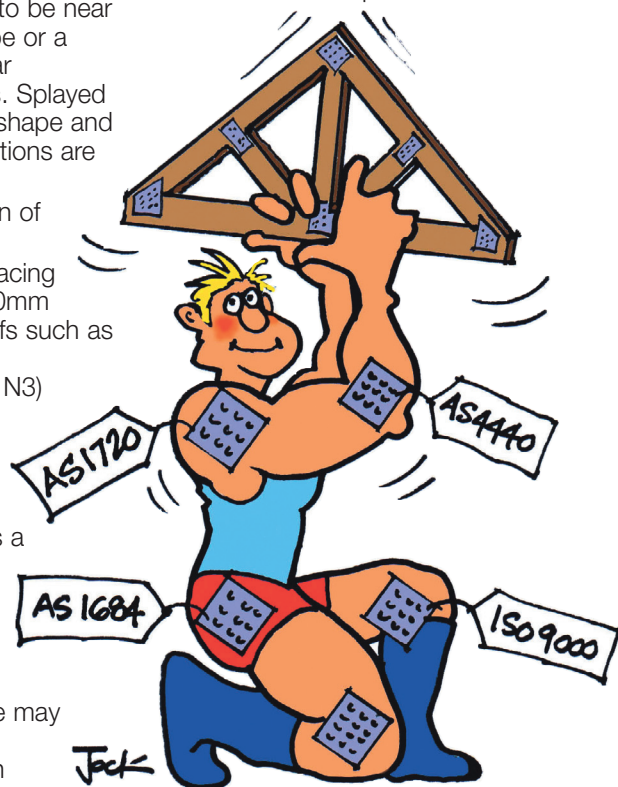
For these jobs the roof trusses and connection details will require a special design and it is recommended that you contact your nail plate supplier.

There have also been a number of changes to various Codes of Practice recently. In particular with regards to OH&S issues on building sites.

As these will vary from state to state, it is important to check with your local authorities.

This may affect any person, including you or your staff, who visits a building site. It may also affect the type of materials or quantities that you supply to site.

Australian Standards are regularly amended. It is important to



**ARE YOUR JOINTS UP TO GRADE?**

subscribe to the amendments and when amendments are published it is necessary to note these as required in your documents.

So it is important to keep up to date with Australian Standards or Codes of Practice, and to know your limitations.

Be aware of any notices from Standards Australia or any bulletins from your nail plate supplier. And if in doubt, ASK! The consequences could be costly.