

# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** All TQ Members

**CC:**

**FROM:** Rod McInnes

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004

**SUBJECT:** Bracing Plywood Delamination

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The recent period of wet weather, coupled with the extended weather exposure of timber frames currently being experienced in the housing industry, has resulted in a number of home owners requesting frame inspections to assess the impact the weather has had on the structural integrity of the framing.

In a number of instances, these inspections (see photograph) have revealed an area of concern regarding delamination of hardwood bracing plywood manufactured from what appears to be tropical hardwood veneers. These products do not appear to have any brands or identification indicating independent product certification.

Note: The weather exposure has not caused the delamination problem, it has only made it apparent.

Some bond quality tests carried out on samples of the product also indicate that it does not achieve the average bond quality requirements of AS/NZS 2269 when tested in accordance with AS/NZS 2089.2 – 1996.

As plywood bracing is a critical structural component of housing, it is recommended that TQ members who may be supplying, specifying or using plywood bracing ensure that these products comply with and achieve the minimum performance requirements as specified by relevant Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia.

There is no doubt that in some cases identified to date, litigation will follow.

Although they do not normally conduct bond quality assessment of non-members products, the Plywood Association of Australasia, have on this occasion agreed, that in the long term interest of industries image and integrity, to undertake tests on a cost recovery only basis.