



## FTMA Newsletter Winter 2022

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### Word from the Chair: Dan Howe

It is with mixed feelings that I look to the end of my term as Chair of the FTMA. At the next annual general meeting in September I will be stepping down as Chair and from the executive committee. A new Chair and executive members will be nominated for confirmation at the meeting. The last 2 years have been a roller coaster ride for our sector with ongoing Covid restrictions, a massive surge in demand, supply chain disruptions and significant pending changes to the building code among other issues. These issues have meant more work for the FTMA and in my view made the FTMA more valuable to our members. In addition, for me this period has seen increased demands and responsibilities in my normal job and also the arrival of a new member to my family. So as much

as I have enjoyed my time as Chair of FTMA, unfortunately I just can't keep all these balls in the air past this September.



In my time with FTMA I am very proud of the work that we have done with training by working with industry partners and BCITO where the number of apprenticeships in frame and truss manufacturing and timber structural detailing has more than doubled. Also, as will be presented at the September meeting, we have developed a suite of SOP safety training videos for our most common equipment and processes. This has required a large commitment from our suppliers as well as from the organising committee of the FTMA executive. I am very pleased with the results and I believe that these will be an invaluable tool for our members in providing safety awareness, on-the-job training and new employee induction.

After September although I will not be in any official capacity with FTMA, I am more than happy to continue communications with members regarding industry issues such as training and technical standards and of course I will do everything that I can to support the new Chair and FTMA executive members. I wish FTMA members and our industry sponsors and partners all the best for the future and I am sure that FTMA will be in very good hands going forward.

**Dan Howe - Chairman**  
FTMA New Zealand

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## **FTMA Annual General Meeting**

We invite everyone to come along if you can to our annual general meeting from 11 AM to 12:30 PM on September 28 at the Remeura Club, Ohinerau Street, Remuera. This will be the first face to face members meeting that we have held since 2020 due to the various lockdowns and event restrictions. This year, a new FTMA chair will be nominated and potentially other board positions. If anyone is interested in nominating for a position of the FTMA board please contact Dan Howe on 021 798 811 or Peter Carruthers on 021 912 977.

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The AGM meeting will commence at 11 AM and refreshments and a light lunch served at 12:30. We look forward to seeing as many members and sponsors as possible.

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## New H1 Insulation Implementation - MBIE

As presented in previous editions, MBIE are upgrading the insulation performance expected for new housing by increasing the R values required under the building code. While the direct implications for frame and truss manufacture have been limited to date and FTMA have been actively involved in the consultations, the current changes are the start of a number of increases expected to be introduced over coming years.

Originally the new requirements were to be phased in from November 2022. However following concerns expressed by a number of building industry associations regarding timing of the changes, MBIE has agreed to delay introduction of most of the new requirements until May 2023. FTMA commends MBIE for listening to, and taking account of, industry concerns.



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## NZ Commerce Commission - Residential Building Supplies Market Study

The Commerce Commission has released the draft report on the building materials market study. Their findings include that while some parts of the supply chain are operating effectively and competitively, overall the system is not working as well as it could. In particular, the regulatory structure and the consenting process has impacted on competition in the market. The system incentivises designers, builders and building consent authorities (BCAs) to favour 'tried and tested' building products over new or competing products. This has limited the potential for new products and suppliers to enter the market and introduce more competitive pressure.



In a number of categories they noted that there is an unusually high concentration of market share among a small number of suppliers. While this does not necessarily have adverse impact on competition and consumer welfare, it can make the overall supply chain more vulnerable to major disruptions when those same key suppliers have disruptions or shortages. For further details see [ComCom report](#). Public response to the draft report is invited up to September 1, 2022 and the final report is expected to be issued in December.

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## NZ Standards - Review of Process



FTMA is participating with other industry organisations and Standards NZ in a review of the current process to generate new standards and update existing ones as are relevant to the building and construction sector. In particular, FTMA is concerned that with the failure of the standards committee process to deliver the expected updates to NZS3640 and NZS3602, the ability of the existing system to deliver on a major project being review of NZS3604 in a timely manner is in doubt.



Further to that, as members will be aware, MBIE is pushing through a number of substantial changes to the Building Code including Building for Climate Change and in general the goal of building more medium density dwellings. Frame and truss manufacturing has a very significant contribution to make in these areas but it all needs to be underpinned with clear Acceptable Solutions which have traditionally been provided by way of NZ Standards. Without those industry wide solutions being available, we can see a lot of unnecessary time and effort being spent by industry and Building Consent Authorities verifying bespoke solutions. At this stage we don't see other paths to Building Code compliance such as CodeMark as being suitable for the scale of the broad industry.

Contact member services for further information.

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## MBIE Consultation of Building Consent System

We have heard from many members that there are often inconsistencies on how various Building Consent Authorities (BCA) review consents. A common reference is made to detailing or structure that may be acceptable to one BCA, but not to a neighbouring BCA in equivalent circumstances. MBIE has acknowledged this problem and has a consultation open for the review of the consent system. FTMA will be making a submission to this consultation as we have done with a number of other relevant MBIE consultations over the last year. We encourage members also to make individual or company submissions if possible. The consultation is open till September 4, 2022. Further information and documents can be found [here](#).

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## MBIE - 2022 Building Code Updates



Among a raft of 2022 Building Code updates that MBIE recently put out for comment, FTMA saw that proposals to greatly increase the Fire Resistance Values (FRR) for various aspects in medium density residential buildings did not appear to be well justified and would again increase the cost and complexity of compliance for this development type that is aimed at making more affordable and compact dwelling places. While there is justification for limiting the spread of flame, fumes and thermal transfer between adjacent dwellings, FTMA felt that the increases in FRR values and some other technical requirements proposed were excessive, overly complex and would increase cost of building for very limited benefit in relatively unlikely events. The consultation has closed but details can be viewed via this [link](#). For details of FTMA's response please contact member services.

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## Modular Component Manufacture & CodeMark Schemes

MBIE has ongoing consultations in progress regarding the Modular Component Manufacture (MCM) scheme and a revision of the CodeMark scheme. As previously reported, FTMA has been involved in the MCM consultation with the

point of ensuring that conventional frame and truss manufacturers are not required to be registered modular component manufacturers for this purpose.



There was some initial uncertainty about this but MBIE has subsequently made it clear that the MCM scheme is voluntary and current frame and truss documentation satisfies the product information requirements for consent and compliance.

A further consultation of the MCM certification scheme rules closed in July but FTMA did not make further comment at that stage. Frame and truss manufactures may elect to become certified manufacturers under the scheme for the following or other reasons.

- They want to extend their product range to include enclosed panels or volumetric structures which might justify inclusion in the scheme.
- They have a client or clients who requests that they become certified.
- They may want to use it as a point of differentiation in the market.

It is not clear yet when the scheme will be operational. FTMA has been concerned about potential confusion among Building Consent Authorities (BCA) asking frame and truss manufacturers to provide evidence that they are certified MCMs. We are certainly keen to head off any confusion like this, so if any members receive comments like that from their BCA's please advise us immediately.

The CodeMark certification scheme has struggled due to a range of systemic problems which eroded credibility and integrity of the scheme. In moves which are similar to the MCM scheme, MBIE is seeking to improve and strengthen the governance of the scheme to make it a more reliable means for certifying that building products, materials or systems to meet the Building Code. FTMA responded to a MBIE consultation on this matter earlier in the year.

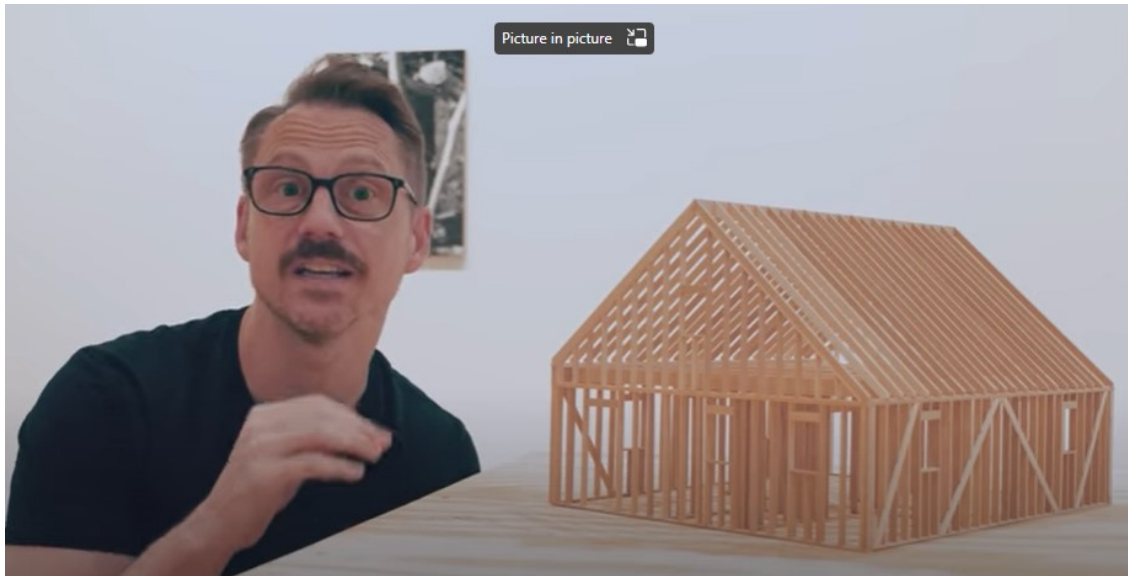
Our main concern is that the scheme is more suitable for new or niche products which may not fit with existing standards and the suppliers may not want to wait for the normal review period of New Zealand Standards. We struggle to see how this could be a viable mechanism for a mass market such as for structural wood products generally or constructions standards such as NZS3604. This is why we are also concerned that the New Zealand Standards process should perform effectively as previously discussed. We are also aware that other related industry organisations have similar concerns.

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## Why light timber framing?

A very interesting [YouTube clip](#) explains a lot about how light timber framing evolved to be the predominant mode of residential construction. Based on US experience, architect and associate professor at the Illinois University, Stewart Hicks takes us back to the origins of timber framing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and why

it is still such a competitive and flexible system. There are a few nomenclature differences to be aware of. He talks about “light wood framing” as what we typically call timber framing whereas what he calls “timber framing” is heavy post and beam type construction, more like what we call mass wood construction.



He compares building with timber framing (90 x 45 timber in our case) to making hamburgers – with the efficiency of factory processes and rigorously standardised materials to provide low costs yet amazing versatility in the finished forms. His best quote - “. . . from absolute standardization comes infinite variety”.

If you ever wanted a way to explain why timber frame and truss is such a ubiquitous, competitive and flexible building system, watch this video.

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## Introducing Ezequote

FTMA is very pleased to welcome Ezequote as a category B corporate member. Ezequote provides a range of online construction industry services to customers, creating a simple to use, a one-stop shop for your professional support needs. Whether it's to expand and enhance your ability to work in more complex environments, extend your business reach for increased production volume or want to confidently move into more advanced projects. Working with your preferred fabrication software, Ezequote can take your building plans and estimating to the next level. They work with steel fabrication, concrete, and foundation works, even interface with Building Information Models (BIM). Additionally, they have certified engineers and detailers available to help you work through everyday frame and truss manufacturing problems.

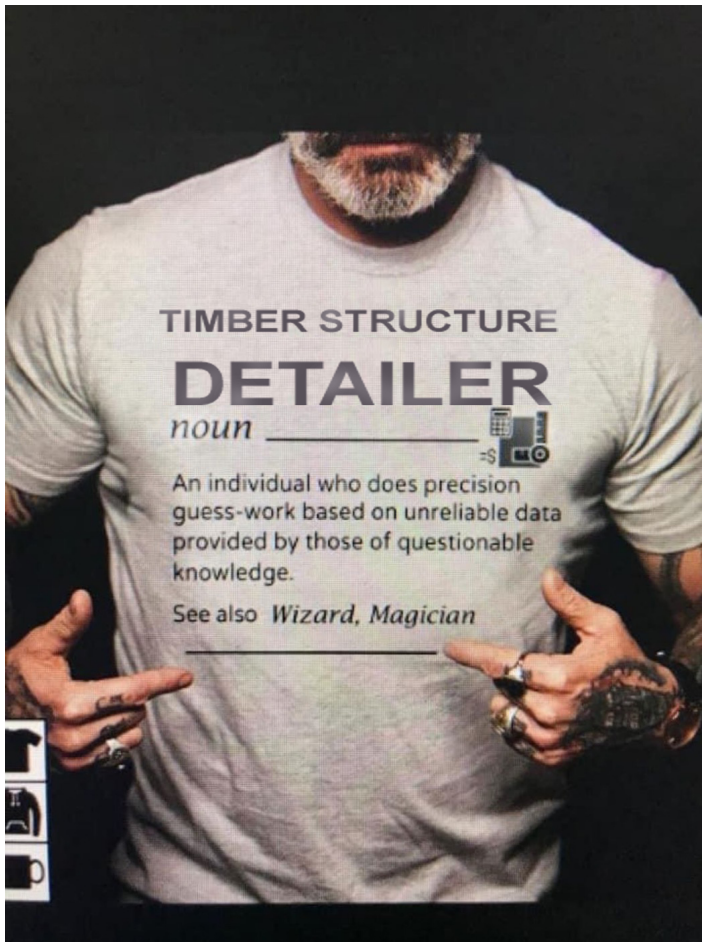
If this sounds like the solution you need or you wish to know more, reach out in New Zealand to Steve Jackson on 027 224 4075, email [steve@ezequote.com.au](mailto:steve@ezequote.com.au) and website [www.ezequote.net.au](http://www.ezequote.net.au)

# ezequote

YOUR ADVANTAGE

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## On the lighter side



In support of our valuable colleagues – the detailers. What would we do without them?



All members be advised,  
this is not the FTMA  
approved truss  
installation method.

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#### FTMA Executive

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