

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

### NEW PRODUCTS FOR 2008

Simpson Strong-Tie is introducing several new products this year to help with specification, installation and code requirements. Here's a sampling of some of the new products coming your way. To preview all of our new 2008 products, visit us at the International Builders Show in Orlando, February 13-16, booth W683, or go to [www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com).

#### **THJU Hip/Jack Hanger**

The THJU hip/jack hanger offers flexibility and ease of installation, without sacrificing performance. The unique configuration of the hanger allows it to



handle both right and left hand hips. It can be ordered to fit a range of hip skews up to 65 degrees as well as various single and 2-ply hip/jack combinations. The THJU can be installed either before or after the hip and jack are in place.

#### **HDU14 High Capacity Holdown Now Code Listed!**

This HDU14 is our highest capacity HDU holdown to date with more than 14,000 pounds of allowable load. Similar to the entire HDU series (which is now code listed), the pre-deflected geometry virtually eliminates deflection due to material stretch. The HDU14 installs with SDS screws, which reduce fastener slip. The HDU series can be installed flush with the sill plate or raised off of the plate.

#### **H2A & H10A – Two New and Improved Hurricane Ties for Uplift Conditions**

The new H2A is an improved version of the H2 hurricane tie with up to 575 pounds of uplift capacity – more than 200 pounds of additional uplift than the H2. It attaches to the stud, providing a continuous load path from the rafter/truss to the stud. Minimal nailing into the top plates eases installation while contributing to the uplift capacity. The H10A attaches to double top plates and provides up to 1340 pounds of uplift capacity when attached to a Southern Pine truss. This is nearly as much uplift capacity as the H14, yet lower in cost and easier to install.



*(continued on page 4)*

## CODE CORNER

### WALL BRACING CODE CHANGES FRONT AND CENTER LAST CYCLE

There were at least 62 code change proposals in the 2006/2007 cycle that concerned wall bracing in the IRC. Reviewing these proposals kept the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Wall Bracing very busy during its first year.

The committee's work in this cycle resulted in many noteworthy changes to the wall bracing section. First, the section was completely reorganized to make it easier to use. Critical factors, such as bracing methods permitted, percentage of bracing required and spacing of braced wall lines, were all collected into one table. In addition, a table was created containing all the adjustment factors applicable to bracing percentage.

#### **Construction of Wall Panels**

Several changes addressed the actual construction of braced wall panels. For example, the minimum thickness of wood structural panel (Method 3) braces was increased from 5/16" to 3/8". Gypsum wall board 1/2" thick now must be fastened to the interior side of braced wall panels (with a few exceptions). Further, when gypsum board is used alone as a braced wall panel, the code now clarifies how the gypsum is fastened. This change addresses the fact that gypsum is often "floated" and not attached to the top plates, which severely impacts its effectiveness as a bracing material.

Additional changes deal with constructability of braced wall lines to make it easier to meet the code. It's now permitted to vary bracing methods from story to story, from braced wall line to braced wall line, and even within a single braced wall line in lower Seismic Design Categories. "Partial credit" for braced wall panels between 36 and 48 inches in length is allowed in order for reduced-length panels to be used when calculating the percentage of a wall that is sheathed. Other changes include a method to address angled building corners, and a revision of the alternate braced wall panel method to increase constructability and inspectability.

*(continued on page 2)*

SERVICE UPDATE



**GIVING BACK TO HURRICANE SURVIVORS**

Earlier this year, Simpson Strong-Tie announced it would donate \$1M over the course of four years to Habitat for Humanity. The contribution includes sponsoring local Habitat house projects around the country. This fall, employees at Simpson’s McKinney, Texas, facility had the opportunity to sponsor a home in their local community. Many employees have volunteered their time to help build a home for a family that was displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The family, Diane Holmes and her two children, Tyree and Tyreione, lived in New Orleans their entire lives. Everything changed in 2005 when news came that a major storm was coming. Diane’s sister called several times urging her to leave the area before Hurricane Katrina hit. Diane was a little reluctant at first—she had experienced other hurricanes in the past and everything had been fine. However, her sister’s persistence finally convinced Diane they needed to go. Diane and her two children along with her entire extended family left New Orleans. They made their way to Houston and then eventually came to McKinney, Texas.

After learning the news that she lost her home to Katrina, Diane has done her best to make a new life in Texas. She has a full-time job as a billing reimbursement specialist and takes computer classes at night. In addition to work and school, Diane takes care of her children and volunteers in the local community. Having been familiar with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans, Diane found herself at a local meeting in McKinney and decided to apply for a home.

Diane’s application was accepted and in September Habitat broke ground on her new house. As a Habitat homeowner, Diane is required to contribute 300 hours of her own “sweat equity” to help build her home. Simpson Strong-Tie employees are also lending their support. Volunteers have been on the job site every day. To date, about 60 Simpson employees have volunteered, several of whom are very skilled at home building, which have saved costs on the project. “It’s an amazing feeling to help give a family a home,” said Phil Burton, Simpson Strong-Tie branch manager for McKinney. “I know our employees are getting just as much out of this experience as Diane.”

For Diane, having a home will help make her transition to McKinney a little easier. She misses New Orleans very much, but remains positive, “I’m extremely proud and determined—this is just a great feeling to even be able to accomplish having a home for my family through Habitat.”

If everything stays on schedule, Diane and her family will move into their new home before the holidays.



Diane and her two children.

**CODE CORNER** *(continued from page 1)*

**Continuous Sheathing Method**

Significant revisions also were made to the continuous sheathing bracing method. A major change permits this method to be used on only one or more braced wall lines within a structure. Previously, all braced wall lines in a building had to be continuously sheathed to use this method. Instead of relying on an entire perpendicular wall for restraint, continuously sheathed wall lines will only require either a 2-foot long sheathed section of perpendicular wall at wall ends,

or an 800-pound holdown at the end of the continuous wall. This also allows continuously sheathed wall lines to begin away from wall corners as long as the holdown is provided. Several illustrations were added to show the options now available when using this method. Finally, the permitted use of the continuously sheathed 6:1 portal system was expanded to all areas of the structure and all Seismic Design Categories, with certain limitations and with specific construction detailing to resist out-of-plane wind loading.

All these new provisions can now be viewed in the 2007 Supplement to the International Codes, which is available at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

With a full cycle of code changes behind them, the ICC Ad Hoc Committee has now developed a completely new set of code proposals addressing a wide range of issues for the 2007/2008 cycle. Future issues of Structural Report will detail those proposals.

## WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

### NORTHEAST

#### **Anchoring Systems**

Fairfax, Virginia	February 6, 2008
Grand Rapids, Michigan	February 13, 2008
Baltimore, Maryland	April 2, 2008
Buffalo, New York	April 16, 2008

#### **Continuous Load Path - Wood Framed Structures**

Palatine, Illinois	February 6, 2008
Novi, Michigan	March 12, 2008
Tyson's Corner	April 9, 2008
Taunton, Massachusetts	April 23, 2008

### SOUTHEAST

Check our website for upcoming dates.

### NORTHWEST

#### **Building Officials & Inspectors**

Stockton, California	February 5, 2008
Kent, Washington	February 21, 2008

#### **Engineers, Architects, & Specifiers**

Stockton, California	February 12, 2008
Kent, Washington	February 19, 2008
Denver, Colorado	March 18, 2008
Fresno, California	April 15, 2008

#### **Anchoring Systems**

Salt Lake City, Utah	February 27, 2008
Oakland, California	March 13, 2008
Reno, Nevada	April 24, 2008

#### **Authorized Stocking Dealers**

Stockton, California	March 4, 2008
Kent, Washington	March 25, 2008

#### **Contractors, Builders, & Developers**

Stockton, California	March 11, 2008
Kent, Washington	March 27, 2008

#### **General Contractor Technology**

Denver, Colorado	March 19, 2008
State of Montana	April 8, 2008
Fresno, California	April 16, 2008

### SOUTHWEST

#### **Building Officials & Inspectors**

Brea, California	February 7, 2008
------------------	------------------

#### **Design Professionals**

Brea, California	January 10, 2008
Brea, California	April 3, 2008

#### **Contractors, Builders & Developers**

Brea, California	March 6, 2008
------------------	---------------

#### **Cracked Concrete and Advanced Anchor topics (Engineers only)**

Brea, California	April 17, 2008
Phoenix, Arizona	March 12, 2008

#### **Building Inspectors, Contractors, Builders, Distributors**

Phoenix, Arizona	March 13, 2008
------------------	----------------

**For more information regarding workshop content and for a complete schedule, visit the Workshops and Training section of our website at [www.strongtie.com/workshops](http://www.strongtie.com/workshops).**



## TRAINING & EVENTS

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS RECEIVE ACCREDITATION

The International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) is a non-profit association dedicated to quality continuing education and training programs. The IACET is one of the authorized agencies that grants accreditation to qualified education providers. In order to become an accredited provider and offer continuing education credits (CEUs), the education provider must be able to meet the IACET's strict continuing education standards. Simpson Strong-Tie is proud to announce it is now certified to offer IACET CEUs for its training and educational programs.

The IACET certifies thousands of educational programs worldwide. Their standards help to ensure educators deliver the highest

quality programs to attendees. By earning CEUs, professionals have a permanent record of their educational accomplishments, which is especially important to those that need to maintain a credential or license. For customers seeking these credits, Simpson Strong-Tie recommends contacting your certifying licensing organization or agency directly to inquire if they accept CEUs from IACET providers. Questions regarding CEUs can be directed to our training department at [training@strongtie.com](mailto:training@strongtie.com). For a list of training classes and workshops in your area, visit [www.strongtie.com/workshops](http://www.strongtie.com/workshops).



**PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT** *(continued from page 1)*

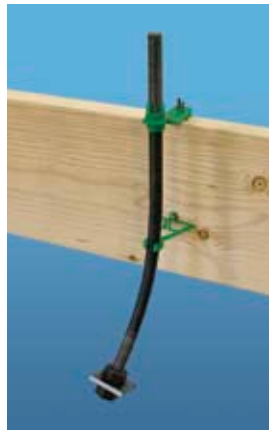
**S/HDU Pre-deflected Holdowns for Cold-Formed Steel**

The S/HDU series of holdowns for cold-formed steel applications combine performance with ease of installation. The pre-deflected geometry virtually eliminates material stretch, resulting in low deflection under load. The S/HDU installs using self-drilling screws into the studs, which helps reduce installation time and save labor costs.



**SB Anchor Bolt**

The geometry of the SB anchor bolt is the latest development in high capacity anchors. The smooth transition angle of the bolt places the head of the anchor in an optimum position in the concrete stem wall without creating excessive horizontal forces. This optimizes the performance of both the anchor and the footing, reducing the need for larger footings. The SB 7/8x24 is designed to maximize performance with minimum embedment. The SB 1x30 provides a pre-engineered solution for some of Simpson's larger holdowns, which exceed the capacity of SSTB anchor bolts.



**It's Time to Update Your Specs**

If you are currently using some of our "then" products, you might want to consider some of our newer "now" options. These products typically offer higher loads, are easier to install and have a lower installed cost. Change your specs now to these newer, more effective products (visit [www.strongtie.com/alpha](http://www.strongtie.com/alpha) to download drawings).

Then	Now
ITT	▶ ITS
IUT	▶ IUS
MSTI	▶ MSTC
HDA, PHD & HHDQ	▶ HDU
W, WP & HW	▶ LBV, B, BA & HB
HU (EWP Models)	▶ MIU
H2.5	▶ H2.5A
H2	▶ H2A
THGB	▶ THGQ
ECC	▶ ECCQ/



P.O. Box 10789, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
800-999-5099  
[www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ST JOSEPH, MI  
PERMIT NO. 335

*Inside this issue:*

- ▶ **New 2008 Products**
- ▶ **Wall Bracing Code Changes**
- ▶ **New Home for Hurricane Survivors**
- ▶ **Simpson Offers IACET CEUs**