

Carolinas Roofing
Expo Information
PAGE 11

Could The Pro Act
Become Law?
PAGE 16

Construction Faces
Labor Gap of
430K Workers
PAGE 24

CAROLINAS CONTACTS

CRSMCA – Covering the Carolinas for over 65 Years



WORLD ECONOMY SUDDENLY RUNNING LOW ON EVERYTHING

MAY/JUNE 2021

CRSMCA'S 4TH ANNUAL GOLF

TOURNAMENT

TITLE SPONSOR



OCTOBER 14, 2021

Rocky River Golf Course
Concord, NC

Registration opens in Spring 2021

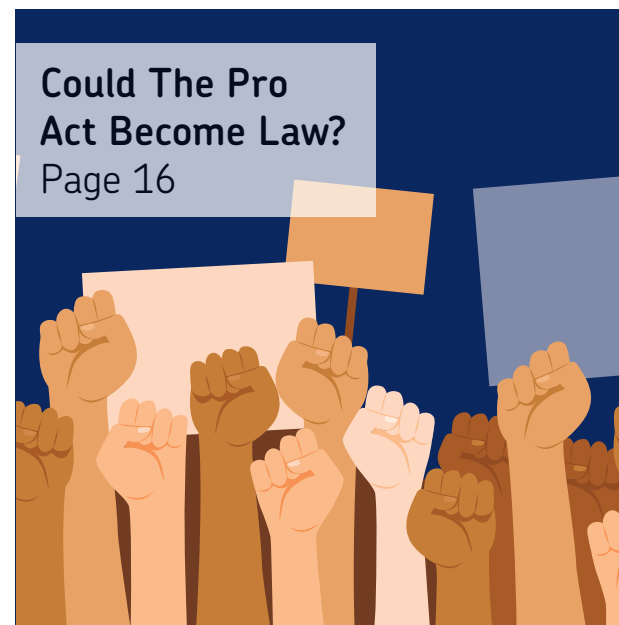
Proceeds of the Golf Tournament will benefit the CRSMCA Dottie Nagle Scholarship and further CRSMCA educational opportunities.



**Roofing Alliance
Announces Winners for
2021 Student Competition**
Page 10



**AIA's Next to Lead Program
to Advance Women**
Page 14



**Could The Pro
Act Become Law?**
Page 16

IN THIS ISSUE...

May/June 2021

Letter from the President	4
Letter from the Associate Group President.....	5
Association in Action	6
News in the Carolinas	7
Roofing Alliance Announces Winners for 2021 Student Competition	10
Carolinas Roofing Expo Information.....	11
AIA's Next to Lead Program to Advance Women	14
COVID-19 Is Not an Occupational Disease.....	15
Could The Pro Act Become Law?	16
The World Economy Is Suddenly Running Low on Everything.....	18
Soaring Material Prices, Supply Chain Delays Spook Owners and Developers	21
Construction Will Face a Labor Gap of 430K Workers This Year, ABC Says.....	24
Safety Talks/Charlas de Seguridad.....	26
Save the Date! 2022 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo.....	28



Letter from the PRESIDENT

I would like to start by thanking all my colleagues on the CRSMCA Board. This year has been very trying to say the least, in regard to the pandemic and the ability to plan events accordingly. Through it all the Board members, and the Executive Director (Carla Sims), came together "virtually of course" to figure out what we thought was the best way moving forward with the 2021 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo. So, this year we would love for you and your families to join us in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where we will be combining our Expo conference with our Annual Meeting/ Summer Convention. I would like to thank you ahead of time for your support, it will be a great time!

I also would like to thank CRSMCA for the opportunity to serve as President for a great association. It has been an honor. A special thanks to Carla and the Board members for their support. I look forward to seeing what the future board members do and wish them success next year! —Eric Campbell, Campbell Professional Roofing

CAROLINAS ROOFING & SHEET METAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 7643
CHARLOTTE, NC 28241-7643
710 IMPERIAL COURT
CHARLOTTE, NC 28273
PHONE: 704-556-1228
WWW.CRSMCA.ORG
STAFF@CRSMCA.ORG

AFFILIATED WITH: NRCA - ASAC/STAC



Carolinas Contacts addresses issues and concerns of the roofing industry. Technology, test, and building codes are constantly changing, and such changes may not be reflected herein. All information is presented for the benefit of our readers and does not necessarily reflect the views of CRSMCA. Press releases and product information presented do not reflect all available materials. Before purchasing, installing, using, or recommending any product, system, or method, readers should make independent evaluations.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ERIC CAMPBELL, CAMPBELL PROFESSIONAL ROOFING
1ST VICE PRESIDENT MATTHEW WILLIAMS, CITYSCAPE ROOFING, INC.
2ND VICE PRESIDENT BERT PICKENS, PICKENS ROOFING & SHEET METAL, INC.
SECRETARY-TREASURER JASON TETTERTON, CURTIS CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT MICKEY CHILDRESS, TRIAD ROOFING COMPANY, INC.

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARLA B. SIMS, CHARLOTTE, NC
ASSISTANT KARIN BARAHONA, CHARLOTTE, NC

DIRECTORS

01 BOBBIE JO DEAL, CITYSCAPE ROOFING, INC., CLAREMONT, NC
02 CASEY MORGAN, TRIAD ROOFING COMPANY, INC., WINSTON-SALEM, NC
03 ROBERT HODGES, R.K. HYDRO-VAC, INC., CHARLOTTE, NC
04 DAVID PANELLA, HAMLIN ROOFING COMPANY, INC., GARNER, NC
05
07 JIMBO SPANN, SPANN ROOFING & SHEET METAL, CONWAY, SC
08
09

ASSOCIATE GROUP OFFICERS

PRESIDENT BUBBA KEARSE, ABC SUPPLY CO., INC.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT SEAN DOUGHERTY, JOHNS MANVILLE
2ND VICE PRESIDENT CHRIS LOVE, MID-STATES ASPHALT
SECRETARY-TREASURER DARREN MCEVOY, PREMIER BUILDING PRODUCTS, INC.,
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ERIK HAUCK, ABC SUPPLY CO., INC.

ASSOCIATE LIAISONS

01 DAVID SUMMERS, RSG-COLUMBIA, ADVANCE, NC
02 STEVE HALL, SIKI SARNAFIL - ROOFING DIVISION, WINSTON-SALEM, NC
03 BRAD DAMEWOOD, BEST DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC., CHARLOTTE, NC
03 ANDY BUTLER, ROOFERS SUPPLY OF GREENVILLE, CHARLOTTE, NC
04 JUSTIN MAYCHER, GAF MATERIALS CORPORATION, RALEIGH, NC
05 CHAD BOLT, ABC SUPPLY CO., INC., CHARLOTTE, NC
05 TODD CASEY, BEST DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, GOLDSBORO, NC
06 ANNA READ, SUPERIOR DISTRIBUTION, INC., CHARLOTTE, NC
07 REID WESTER, BEST DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, MYRTLE BEACH, SC
07 LEE WELLS, BEACON ROOFING SUPPLY, CHARLOTTE, NC
08 BLAISE CRAFT, IKO PREMIUM ROOFING PRODUCTS, INC., GASTON, SC
08 NATHAN ROLLINS, ROYAL ADHESIVES & SEALANTS, GREER, SC
09 GREG NORMAN, GAF MATERIALS CORPORATION, GREENVILLE, SC
10 TARA BURGEI, JOHNS MANVILLE, LEXINGTON, SC
10 DAVID KING, NBHANDY COMPANY, CHARLOTTE, NC

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

HENRY SACKETT (CHAIRMAN), JOSH DERNOSEK, RAINY UGENMACH, BRANDON JACKSON, CARLA B. SIMS

CAROLINAS CONTACTS WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN "LETTERS" ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF CRSMCA. LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED AND INCLUDE A RETURN ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. CAROLINAS CONTACTS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT LETTERS FOR CLARITY AND LENGTH. SEND LETTERS TO CARLA B. SIMS, CAROLINAS CONTACTS, PO BOX 7643, CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28241-7643; FAX (704) 557-1736.

CAROLINAS CONTACTS IS OWNED BY THE CAROLINAS ROOFING & SHEET METAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION TO FURNISH INFORMATION, NEWS AND TRENDS IN THE ROOFING & SHEET METAL INDUSTRY IN THE TWO CAROLINAS, AND IS THE OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION. ISSUED BI-MONTHLY FROM ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS 710 IMPERIAL COURT, CHARLOTTE, NC 28273 (PO BOX 7643, CHARLOTTE 28241-7643) AS A SERVICE TO THE MEMBERS AND ADVERTISERS.

POSTAGE PAID AT CHARLOTTE, NC.

ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL FORMS CLOSE ON THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION. ADVERTISING RATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO CRSMCA, PO BOX 7643, CHARLOTTE, NC 28241-7643.

PRINTED BY CRSMCA, CHARLOTTE, NC

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY RHONDA SERGEANT, CHARLOTTE, NC

THE CRSMCA MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and safeguard the common business interest of its members and to improve conditions by educating all persons concerning the roofing and sheet metal business and industry. To work for the development and progress of the roofing and sheet metal business industry and to work with individuals' organizations and governmental agencies toward the achievement of a stronger profession of the roofing and sheet metal industry.



Letter from the ASSOCIATE GROUP PRESIDENT

First, I would like to thank CRSMCA for allowing me to serve on the committee for the past several years, and as the Associate Group President this year.

There have been some difficult times over the past year with the Pandemic, but I want to thank our current Board members for being able to provide our members with a variety of viral learning opportunities, hosting a successful golf tournament, and helping plan the upcoming Carolinas Roofing Expo in Hilton Head, South Carolina that is in a few weeks.

In closing, I would like to encourage all our members to take part in any of our upcoming events and I look forward to continuing serving our association in the future. —Bubba Kearse, ABC Supply Company, Inc.

PROVEN METAL ROOF Retrofit Solutions

Minimal prep time with no Tear-off of existing roof.
Install any new roof panel on our Sub-Framing systems.
Stay on schedule with prompt pricing, fabrication, & shipping.
Leaders in metal roof retrofit since 1991.

ROOF HUGGER

sales@roofhugger.com
800-771-1711
See Roof Huggers in Action at www.roofhugger.com

LSI GROUP INC. METAL BUILDING COMPONENTS
Logan Stampings - Roof Hugger - BPD

Commercial, Industrial

Johnny Atkins
President

PO Box 402
15 Clark Street
Pinewood, SC

jatkins1@sc.rr.com
Office: 803.452.5500
Mobile: 803.983.0623

321 Fields Drive | Aberdeen, NC 28315
910.944.9630

Jonathan Grieme
jgrieme@griemeroofing.com

The RAY COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Since 1904

ROOFING • MAINTENANCE • RENOVATIONS • SHEET METAL

WES WILKINSON
PRESIDENT

wwilkinson@raycompany.com
www.raycompany.com

P. O. BOX 19150
CHARLOTTE, NC 28219
PHONE 704-391-8001
FAX 704-391-8005



Association IN ACTION

Another year has come and gone for CRSMCA and its Board Members! THANK YOU to Eric Campbell (CRSMCA 2020-2021 President, Campbell Professional Roofing) and Bubba Kearsse (CRSMCA 2020-2021 Associate Group President, ABC Supply Company, Inc.). For the past five years, you both have served through the chairs from Secretary/Treasurer to President. A simple "Thank you" does not feel like enough. On behalf of the CRSMCA members and staff, I give you my gratitude and appreciation for your leadership and for supporting the vision of CRSMCA. The future of CRSMCA is looking better because of each of you!

CRSMCA NEEDS MORE DISTRICT DIRECTORS! The CRSMCA Board is need of Contractors to support and volunteer to help the success and growth of CRSMCA. As a District Director, you are asked to attend two (2) Board of Director meetings in January and June and discuss and share ideas to better the CRSMCA and the roofing industry; assist in promoting the Annual Golf Tournament; assist in location planning and promoting of the Spring District socials/meetings; and promote the CRSMCA in your community. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR COMPANY IS INTERESTED!

REMINDER OF CRSMCA'S NEAREST EVENTS

2021 Carolinas Roofing Expo | June 24-26
[Westin Hilton Head Resort & Spa,
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina]

Exhibitors will host table-top displays of their products and a few will offer hands-on demonstrations at this conference! If you are interested in participating as an exhibitor, please contact me ASAP via email (cbsims@crsmca.org) or phone (704.556.1228).

Contractors and Consultants can register online or by using the printable form available online! The Carolinas Roofing Expo will have three excellent educational topics, over 8 hours of ability to visit with exhibitors, and enjoy the beach during your downtime... check out the conference agenda enclosed in this issue or online. Visit the CRSMCA website for details and registration.

CRSMCA's 4th Annual Spring Golf Tournament October 14, 2021 [Rocky River Golf Club, Concord, North Carolina] Sponsored by Superior Distribution

Enjoy a day of fun with your peers on the golf course. This is a great opportunity for the roofing industry to unite in a networking and fun environment; vendors can participate at a sponsored hole to interact with players and contractors can participate as players and have an opportunity to purchase Mulligan Packages as well as raffle tickets for prizes during the tournament. Registration details are available on the CRSMCA website.

As always, if your company needs any form of training, please contact the CRSMCA office to discuss how CRSMCA can help your company stay safe and educated when on the job!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next CRSMCA event that is approaching soon. There is always growth and strength in numbers and opportunities to grow not only YOUR CRSMCA, but YOUR roofing industry! —Carla B. Sims, CRSMCA Executive Director

SAFRAN LAW OFFICES



SERVING INDUSTRY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

FIND US ON THE WEB:



www.safranlaw.com

SCHEDULE A LUNCH AND LEARN:



law@safranlaw.com

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:



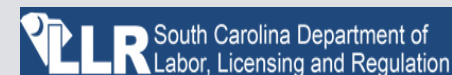
[@safranlawBJS](https://twitter.com/safranlawBJS)



LEARN ABOUT THE CRSMC SELF-INSURERS FUND

Carolinas Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors – Self-Insurers Fund is the oldest worker's Compensation group funded in the Carolinas and could be saving your company money! Members within the CRSMC-SIF program are not just purchasing their workers compensation but investing into a program that brings additional value to their company through a commitment to ensure the safety of their employees. As a member/customer within the program, you participate in building a fund that is beneficial for all members/customers within the program, you could receive competitive rates within the insurance industry, and you could receive a return of interest determined by the CRSMC-SIF Trustees and other approved returns during the year. In the year 2018, the CRSMC-SIF returned more than \$1 MILLION DOLLARS to the CRSMC-SIF members!

Additionally, the CRSMC-SIF is large component of support for the CRSMCA through sponsoring the CRSMCA Annual Meeting/Summer Convention and attendance of Trustees at the event. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CRSMC-SIF FOR YOUR WORKERS COMPENSATION NEEDS?



SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION/SC OSHA

General Information
803-896-7665 askscosha@llr.sc.gov

OSHA's Office of Outreach and Education provides a variety of training programs and presentations designed to reduce or eliminate safety and health hazards in the workplace. Training is available to employers and employees of both the public and private sector upon request and may occur on-site (requiring participation of 12 or more employees).

General industry, health, and construction areas are covered in the training curriculum. Examples of training programs offered include:

- The OSHA Inspection Process
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)
- Trenching/Excavation
- Hazard Communication
- Fall Protection (General Industry or Construction)
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Workplace Violations
- Scaffolding
- Confined Spaces
- Industrial Truck Safety Requirements
- OSHA Injury & Illness Record Keeping

To inquire for training, click here.



NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK 2021 WILL BE JUNE 6-12!

National Roofing Week 2021 will be held June 6-12 to raise awareness of the significance of roofs to every home and business and share the industry's good deeds.

Organized by NRCA, National Roofing Week traditionally takes place during the first full week of June and promotes the importance of hiring a professional roofing contractor and making informed decisions about maintaining or replacing any roof system.

In celebration of National Roofing Week, NRCA will host the We are Family Raffle, sponsored by A.C.T. Metal Deck Supply. Open to all NRCA

Continued on page 9

WHAT IS THE CRSMCA MASTER INSTALLER CERTIFICATION?

The CRSMCA Roofing Academy Master Installer Certification Program is designed to promote safety issues and concerns in the application of the roof systems to prepare the employee for best practices in their job performance. It is intended for the use by anyone with an interest in these roof systems, from roofing workers to foremen to supervisors. It is a culmination of efforts by contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and others who are dedicated to promoting safety.

Enrolled students will learn and train the basics of roofing, in-



creasing their knowledge and skills to make them more valuable to their respective companies, as well as build future leaders in the roofing industry.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

The CRSMCA Roofing Academy Committee is always searching for instructors of the classroom material and the hands-on demonstration. View the class and hands-on courses in this issue. Should you wish to be an instructor, donate materials, and/or be a hands-on instructor; please contact the CRSMCA office at 704.556.1228 or cbsims@crsmca.org or the Committee Chairman, David Griffin, at dgriffin@coastalcommercialroofing.com.



ED BENSON (JOHNS MANVILLE) RETIRES AFTER OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ROOFING INDUSTRY!

Ed was born in 1955, literally into the roofing industry. His father was a small roofing contractor who had his two sons loading shingles to the rooftop as soon as they were able.

In high school, Ed joined the ROTC and

became a student cadet major. He was the president of the Chess Club where he met his high school sweetheart (Joy) who later became his wife.

He spent the next 12 years serving our nation in the Army. For 8 of those years, he was a member of the distinguished president's own US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp and became the youngest Sergeant at the age of 21.

Ed has spent over 30 years in this industry working for Manville Corp. He served as an Associate Group Liaison for the Charlotte area for three years and was the President of the CRSMCA Associate Group in 2012. Ed continued to serve the CRSMCA as an active member

serving through the Associate Group Liaison Board and always answering the call when asked to serve or help with this association.

Ed and Joy have been married for over 45 years, they have two children and three grandchildren. He goes all out in everything he does. Including his hobby. He is an avid Harley Davidson motorcyclist. He has made several endurance rides including the 100 CCC which is traveling coast to coast to coast in 100 hours. He has also accomplished riding through the 48 continuous states in 10 days. He also proudly serves as a member of the Patriot Guard, an organization whose members attend the funerals of our military fallen.

NRCA, continued from page 7

member companies, the raffle involves companies taking a group photo of all employees—their roofing family—and submitting it to NRCA for a chance to win a prize.

NRCA also will be sharing its members' stories through its various social media outlets and Professional Roofing magazine. Members throughout the U.S. are encouraged to share their stories of charitable giving, crew and staff appreciation, and signature roofing projects with NRCA.

Additional National Roofing Week information and materials will be available during the coming months. Visit the National Roofing Week page on NRCA's website.

NRCA LAUNCHES SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGE INFORMATION WEBPAGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the roofing industry in numerous ways, including leading to a widespread shortage of materials. The prices for materials have been increasing, and supply chains have been disrupted as lockdowns, tariffs and other factors cause delays and limited availability.

In response, NRCA has made available a Supply Chain Shortage Information webpage to help its members stay up to date with the latest news regarding materials shortages and price hikes in the industry.

The new page also houses a recording of NRCA's April 22 Live Action Alert: Supply Chain Shortages, during which NRCA CEO Reid Ribble and NRCA Vice President of Technical Services Mark Graham discussed the materials shortage issue facing the roofing industry. Visit the Supply Chain Shortage Information page.

RESULTS ARE IN FROM MARKET INDEX SURVEY FOR REROOFING

Nearly 300 respondents completed the eight-question survey during a two-week period in April; nearly two-thirds of responses came from contractors, and the balance came from roof consultants. The results indicate market conditions generally are improving for the roofing industry in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Some topline excerpts of the survey are:

- Forty-two percent of all respondents indicated their customer inquiries increased during the first quarter of 2021 compared with the same quarter in 2020. Twenty-one percent of respondents reported a decrease in customer inquiries during the same period, and 37% indicated no change in activity.
- The survey revealed a similar trend for project contracts with 41% of respondents reporting an increase during the first quarter of 2021 compared with the same quarter in 2020 and 24% re-

porting a decrease in project contracts during the same period.

- Eighteen percent of roofing contractors reported no project backlogs, 38% reported project backlogs of one to two months and 24% reported project backlogs of three to four months.

The complete results of the Quarterly Market Index Survey for Reroofing are available to those who participate in the survey via an online dashboard that enables users to filter results by region and other metrics. Contractors and consultants who want to participate in next quarter's brief survey can sign up for a notification.

START SAFELY, END SUCCESSFULLY

Online programs for all levels...Register at www.nrca.net/nrcauniversity

NRCA has a vast array of NRCA benefits to help your business prosper. Visit www.nrca.net/membervavigation to learn more.

NRCA is continuing their popular series of FREE WEBINARS on the third Thursday of each month. These new and innovative webinar topics and presenters have been selected to expand your knowledge by giving you new ideas that you can implement into your company immediately. Each webinar offers a unique experience specifically tailored to roofing professionals. Don't miss out on these live opportunities to stay up to date with industry issues affecting your business.

For upcoming webinars and previous recordings, visit www.nrca.net/webinars.

UP AND DOWN EASTERN U.S.

- Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals, www.varoofingprofessionals.org
- Tennessee Association of Roofing Contractors, www.tarcroof.org
- Kentucky Roofing Contractors Association, www.krca.org
- Roofing & S/M Contractors Association of GA, www.rsmca.org
- Florida Roofing & Sheet Metal Association, www.floridarooft.com



NC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR/ OSH

Compliance Bureau Contacts

- Tim Childers | 336-776-4420 | tim.childers@labor.nc.gov
- Phil Hooper | 919-779-8512 | phil.hopper@labor.nc.gov

NCDOL PROVIDES VIRTUAL CONSULTATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS DURING PANDEMIC

NCDOL Labor Ledger march-April 2021, by Dolores Quesenberry, Public Information Officer

With the help of virtual technology during the COVID-19 pandemic, NCDOL's Consultative Services Bureau continued providing its FREE safety and health consultative visits to small- and medium-sized business throughout the state.

While these virtual visits cannot replace on-site consultation, they have provided a way for the bureau to continue its mission of:

- Helping small business identify and eliminate workplace hazards

- Providing advice on complying with OSHA standards
- Training and education workers
- Helping employers establish and improve written safety and health programs

The consultation program offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services for small and medium-sized business, that is separate from the Occupational Safety and Health Division's compliance bureaus and its safety and health consultants do not issue citations or penalties.

The Consultative Services Bureau has consultants located throughout the state who are available to help you create a safer work environment. To find out more information about what services are available or to learn how to initiate the process, please contact the Consultative Services Bureau at 919.707.7846 or visit the NCDOL website (www.labor.nc.gov)

Training information, registration and training course and dates can be found at https://www.labor.communications.its.state.nc.us/OSHPublic/ETTA/class_regist/calendar.cfm

TRAINING EVENTS

Fall Protection (Spanish) June 4 | 9am – 11am (virtual)

FREQUENTLY CITED STANDARDS RELATED TO COVID-19 INSPECTIONS

Employers must be vigilant meeting all of OSHA requirements, including those related to COVID-19 inspections. Following are examples of these that employers have recently failed to follow:

- Establish, implement, and update a written respiratory protection program with required worksite-specific procedures
- Providing a medical evaluation before a worker is fit-tested or uses a respirator
- Assess the workplace to determine if COVID-19 hazards are present or likely to be present, which will require the use of a respirator and/or other personal protective equipment
- Train workers to safely use respirators and/or other PPE in the workplace, and retrain workers about changes in the workplace that might make previous training obsolete
- For any fatality that occurs within 30 days of a work-related incident, report the fatality to OSHA within eight hours of finding out about it
- Keep required records of work-related fatalities, injuries, and illness

To learn more about OSHA and COVID-19 requirements, visit www.OSHA.gov

ROOFING ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR 2021 STUDENT COMPETITION

Clemson University takes top honors



Left to Right: Allison O'Toole, Declan Fay, Hendrix Smith, Luke Skertich, Hannah Smith

(Rosemont, Ill.) April 16, 2021 —The Roofing Alliance, celebrating 25 years as the foundation of the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), is proud to announce the first- and second-place winners for the 7th annual Roofing Alliance student competition – Clemson University and Colorado State University respectively. Awards were presented to the winning teams and best individual presenters during an April 16 virtual awards ceremony.

The first-place award was presented to Clemson University for their outstanding written and oral presentations on the team's bid package proposal on the Las Vegas Raiders practice facility, part of the new Intermountain Healthcare Performance Center in Henderson, Nevada. The team will receive a \$5,000 L.B. Conway Scholarship for their school. The team consisted of team captain Luke Skertich and his teammates Declan Fay, Allison O'Toole, Hannah Smith and team alternate Hendrix Smith. Awarded a first-place position for Best Individual Presenter was Allison O'Toole. Clemson University's faculty coach is Dhaval Gajjar.

The second-place winning team was Colorado State University who will receive a \$2,500 Fred Good Scholarship for their school. The CSU team was led by team captain Joshua Houser with his team of Kendall Carter, Jacob Schneider, Mackenzie Voshage and team alternate Terry Copperman. Joshua Houser received a second-place award for Best Individual Presenter. The CSU faculty coach is Nicholas Rubino.

This year's competition challenged four finalist university-level construction management student teams that included:

- Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.
- Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.
- Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas



• University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

The teams were tasked with submitting a qualified bid package for a new roof system on the Raiders practice facility, part of the new Intermountain Healthcare Performance Center in Henderson, Nevada. Working with Commercial Roofers Inc. of Las Vegas owner Dennis Conway, the founder of the student competition, the Roofing Alliance student competition committee prepared the bid package for the schools. The project was originally re-roofed by Commercial Roofers Inc.

For more information on the Roofing Alliance student competition and overall information about the Roofing Alliance contact Bennett Judson, the Roofing Alliance's executive director, at bjudson@roofingalliance.net or visit www.roofingalliance.net.

ABOUT THE ROOFING ALLIANCE

The Roofing Alliance is committed to shaping the industry's future by funding education, research, scholarships and philanthropic initiatives, all for the purpose of securing the industry's future excellence. Composed of 175 members representing extraordinary leaders from the contracting, manufacturing, distribution and service provider communities, the Roofing Alliance has committed \$13 million to enhance the performance and long-term viability of the industry and allocated more than \$5.9 million to fund 51 research, education, technical and philanthropic programs and projects. Serving as the foundation of the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), Roofing Alliance members are focused on giving back and supporting high-quality educational programs and ensuring timely and forward-thinking industry responses to major economic and technological issues. For more information about Roofing Alliance initiatives, visit www.roofingalliance.net.



June 24-26, 2021

2021 Carolinas Roofing Expo

Explore Educational & Networking Opportunities!



Westin Hilton Head Resort & Spa
2 Grasslawn Avenue | Hilton Head Island, SC

Event Features:

- Visit with over 50 Exhibitors
- Over 8 hours of Open Trade Show
- Grow Your Business Through Liquid Applied Roofing [Mule-Hide Products, Inc.]
- Steep-Slope Roofing; Ventilation Solutions [GAF Materials Corporation]
- Mastering Your Memory [Tyler Enslin]
- Live Demonstrations provided by Exhibitors
- Networking receptions with peers & exhibitors
- Beach Social, Golf Outing, Cornhole Tournament & more!

Registration is now open!

Just \$75 per contractor company

For further details, visit us at crsmca.org

THANK YOU EXHIBITORS!



For information on exhibiting, call 704-556-1228

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



For information on sponsorship, call 704-556-1228



AIA'S NEXT TO LEAD PROGRAM TO ADVANCE WOMEN

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is accepting applications for its new pilot program aimed at advancing ethnically diverse women into AIA leadership positions.

"It's critical that, as a profession and industry, we work together to advance racially and ethnically diverse women," said AIA 2021 President Peter Exley, FAIA. "We know that there's an opportunity to improve representation within architecture, and Next to Lead is one way we're working to make that happen."

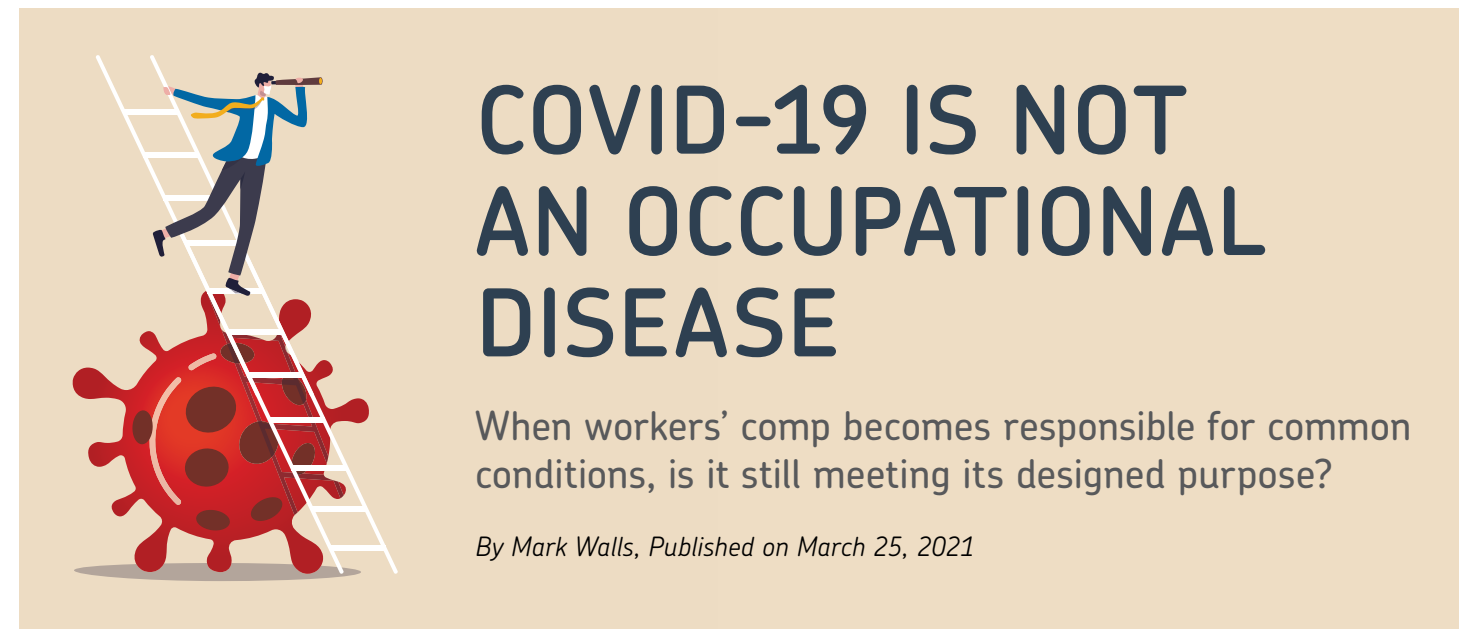
Next to Lead is a pilot program designed and developed to build a base of future AIA women leaders reflecting diverse ethnic backgrounds. The AIA aspires to create a pathway and expand access to local, state, and national leadership through experiential learning on association management and leadership, knowledge, and experience.

Next to Lead will be a two-phase program. In phase one, selected participants will engage in an online curriculum, monthly virtual sessions around association leadership, and in-person attendance at an AIA leadership conference during the first year. In the second phase, participants will work on a collaborative project developed with a local or state component or with the AIA.

The pilot program will launch this fall with an initial class of sixteen AIA members who have a minimum of five years in the profession. The deadline to apply is April 30. Complete details are available on AIA's website.

The Next to Lead program is the first to address association leadership for ethnically diverse women aspiring to be leaders of the AIA. It was created as a result of a member driven resolution from 2018, which was intended to ensure that the AIA is developing education, systems, and processes that are inclusive for the short and long term. The AIA is dedicated to increasing the presence of ethnically diverse women in leadership roles within the association.

Visit AIA's website to learn more about its steps to advance racial justice and equality within the membership and architecture profession.



COVID-19 IS NOT AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

When workers' comp becomes responsible for common conditions, is it still meeting its designed purpose?

By Mark Walls, Published on March 25, 2021

When workers' compensation was first conceived over 100 years ago, it was designed to cover traumatic injuries in an industrial setting. As workers' compensation evolved, that coverage expanded in many ways. It was recognized that there were certain diseases or conditions, like asbestosis and black lung disease, to which workers in certain occupations were exposed, and the general public was not similarly exposed.

The cause of these occupational diseases was not a sudden traumatic exposure but instead resulted from exposure over time and often took several years before the disease manifested itself. The traditional workers' compensation system was not set up for such conditions, so most states eventually passed occupational disease statutes as part of their workers' compensation laws.

Infectious diseases were never considered occupational diseases. However, despite this, most states will cover infectious diseases under workers' compensation if the worker can show all of the following:

- They contracted the disease.
- They were exposed to the disease in the workplace.
- Their risk of catching the disease at work is greater than the general public.

All of this leads us to the events of the last year with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although thousands of workers' compensation claims were paid under the existing standard previously mentioned, several states passed presumption laws, assuming that workers in certain occupations contracted COVID-19 in the workplace. These presumptions changed the burden of proof for covered employees so that workers no longer had to prove they had a greater risk of catching the disease than the general public.

A troubling legislative trend is emerging in 2021, which takes this one step further. Several states are considering legislation or regulatory action that will classify COVID-19 as an occupational disease under their statutes. This consideration is alarming for many reasons.

First and foremost, COVID-19 is not an occupational disease. Millions of people worldwide contracted the disease, most of whom did not catch it in the workplace. An occupational disease, by definition, is particular to the risks of the occupation. That is not the case with COVID-19. Will this open the door for future infectious diseases to be covered under workers' compensation? The flu of 1918 never went away; it lives on in a mutated form necessitating annual vaccinations. The COVID-19 virus will likely undergo similar mutations, which could also necessitate annual vaccinations. Will all respiratory viruses be considered an occupational disease in the future?

Additionally, by making COVID-19 a named occupational disease, are policymakers not creating a de-facto presumption that all COVID-19 is work-related? Policymakers seem to be using workers' compensation to cover some of the pandemic costs, but workers' compensation is not health insurance. There is no way for employers to run loss control against a global pandemic. There is no way for underwriters to assess the risks of a worldwide pandemic accurately.

If we continue to blur the lines between workers' compensation and group health, where does this lead? Cancer and heart disease are already considered occupational diseases for specific occupations in certain states, as are hernias and blood-borne diseases. When workers' compensation becomes responsible for common conditions that impact millions of people every year, it is no longer meeting its designed purpose. It is no longer a grand bargain for employers when they are being forced to pay claims under workers' compensation that should be the health care system's responsibility.

Mark Walls (mark.walls@safetynational.com) is vice president of communications & strategic analysis at Safety National. Walls hosts the "Out Front Ideas" educational series with Sedgwick's Kimberly George. The opinions expressed here are the author's own.

AssuredPartners

Solutions - Not Just Insurance!

- Personal Insurance
- Employee Benefits
- Commercial Insurance
- Surety
- Risk Management

Cindy Shumpert
 P 803.732.6331
 Cindy.Shumpert@AssuredPartners.com

Proudly Supporting
CRSMCA



Legal experts say it's a long shot, but if passed, the [Protecting the Right to Organize Act](#) would drastically change worker-employer relations in many states.

Written by Zachary Phillips, Construction Dive, Published April 14, 2021

When the Protecting the Right to Organize Act

was passed by the House of Representatives in March, it garnered votes from five Republicans. Now in the Senate, the bill's supporters — which include construction unions and workers' rights groups — would be lucky to get even one GOP vote. In fact, it's unlikely the bill will even get to the Senate floor for discussion, legal and political experts say.

The PRO Act seeks to:

- Largely change the way employers and unions interact and collectively bargain.
- Redefine what the National Labor Relations Board considers an "employer" and "employee," significantly impacting companies' liability and responsibilities to their workers.
- Eliminate right-to-work states.

Despite its uphill battle, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is continuing to search for PRO Act support, reportedly saying he will bring the vote to the Senate floor when the bill reaches 50 co-sponsors. It currently has 45. The remaining Democrat and independent holdouts are:

- Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema.
 - Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly.
 - West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin.
 - Virginia Sen. Mark Warner.
 - Maine Sen. Angus King,
- an Independent who caucuses with Democrats.

Unions are lobbying hard to sway these five legislators. In late March, the Hanover, Maryland-based International Union of Painters and Allied Trades made 500,000 calls to the offices of these five senators, according to James Williams Jr., general vice president at large for IUPAT. Other unions, such as the AFL-CIO and North America's Building Trades Unions have cheered the passage of the PRO Act in the House, and urged the Senate to focus on worker-first legislation.

Despite its long odds, the 2021 iteration of the PRO Act is in a better position than the last version that passed the House in February 2020 but died in the Senate, Williams said, giving IUPAT confidence and a renewed sense of motivation.

"We started this campaign under worse circumstances and have made significant strides since then, including passage in the House with a larger majority than the 2020 bill and with bipartisan support," Williams said, referencing the five Republican representatives who voted for it in March as well as a pro-union White House. "We intend to capitalize on that progress and will keep organizing and keep mobilizing until the Senate votes on the bill."

CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK

Groups representing construction employers, like the Associated General Contractors of America, have fought the PRO Act in each of its iterations, and are especially vigilant now that the Senate flipped to Democratic control in January.

The AGC has set up coalitions in five states — Arizona, Alaska, Maine, Virginia and West Virginia — to oppose the bill by educating the business communities there on the PRO Act's potential impact, said Brian Turmail, AGC vice president of public affairs and strategic initiatives.

Instead of bringing the bill to a vote, Republicans, led by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, will more than likely filibuster it — effectively delaying it until it expires, political experts say. Schumer has until Dec. 31, 2022, to bring the bill to the floor for a vote, according to Trent Cotney, CEO of Tampa, Florida-based Cotney Attorneys and Consultants.

Nevertheless, Democrats are hopeful that if they can get 50 co-sponsors, it will give Schumer the political leverage needed to bring it to the floor for messaging purposes, even while knowing that it won't be able to surpass the filibuster, Cotney said.

NAVIGATING THE FILIBUSTER

If Republicans filibuster, the bill's supporters would need to meet the 60-vote threshold in order to bring it to a vote.

Abandoning [the filibuster] in an equally divided Senate will only exacerbate the partisan divide that makes compromise hard to achieve.

—Brian Turmail, Vice President of Government Relations, AGC

Discarding or circumventing the filibuster would be a major challenge, Cotney said, although there are some unlikely ways it could happen. They include:

If 67 Senators vote to abolish the use of the filibuster altogether. This is unlikely, Cotney said, due to the 50-50 deadlock of Republicans to Democrats in the Senate. Ties in the Senate are broken by the president of the Senate, Vice President Kamala Harris.

A "nuclear option" wherein Schumer sweeps the 67-vote rule aside with only 51 votes — an option for which Schumer does not have support, Cotney says.

The Congressional Review Act — which would be an unlikely means to repeal major congressional regulations.

Budget reconciliation, which is a one-time budget option each fiscal year. A Senate Parliamentary ruling last week allows Democrats to use revised budget resolutions for reconciliation, meaning they can revise the original Fiscal Year 2021 budget used to carry the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan to now carry the \$2.25 trillion American Jobs Plan, Cotney said.

In theory, Schumer could try to add the PRO Act to a package tucked into budget resolutions, but would likely face resistance from the five non-Republicans who are not co-sponsors. Additionally, the Senate Parliamentary could rule against adding

the PRO Act, and therefore it would need to be removed from the resolution, Cotney said. The same scenario occurred with the move to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15, when it was removed from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The idea of abolishing the filibuster has gained support recently, as President Joe Biden referred to the practice as «a relic of the Jim Crow era,» a sentiment Williams echoed.

"It has morphed into a shield used by politicians to hide from having to deliver on campaign promises," Williams said.

The AGC, meanwhile, supports the legislative tactic.

"The filibuster protects minority rights and encourages collaboration," Turmail said. "Abandoning that rule in an equally divided Senate will only exacerbate the partisan divide that makes compromise hard to achieve."

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the push for an end to the filibuster, the fact remains that without a historic change to Senate rules, the PRO Act will likely die in the Senate via delay, Cotney said. Nevertheless, the Biden administration has other tactics at its disposal to help promote its pro-union agenda.

Elements of the PRO Act may find their way into other pieces of legislation or agency guidance such as the revision to "employee" definitions or abolishing right-to-work laws in states, experts told Construction Dive. Biden could urge agencies, such as the Department of Labor or the National Labor Relations Board, to enact parts of the PRO Act — such as changing the definitions of "joint-employer" and "independent contractor" — through administrative means, Cotney said.

We support what's in the bill, and certainly support those provisions becoming law, which is why we're fighting to make sure the bill becomes law as written.

—James Williams, General Vice President at Large, IUPAT

Unions aren't just seeing increased support from the White House and Capitol Hill — public favor skews toward support for organized labor, according to a recent Gallup poll. Turmail, however, said being pro-union and anti-PRO Act is not incompatible and that surveys of public opinion do not have any bearing on the PRO Act debate.

For now, though, IUPAT and other labor unions are not looking for a backup plan, Williams said.

"Right now we're focused on getting the PRO Act passed," he said. "We support what's in the bill, and certainly support those provisions becoming law, which is why we're fighting to make sure the bill becomes law as written."



WORLD ECONOMY SUDDENLY RUNNING LOW ON EVERYTHING

'It is anything but efficient or normal.'
Surging corporate demand is upending
global supply chains.

By Brendan Murray, Enda Curran, and
Kim Chipman, Bloomberg, Published May
17, 2021

Supply Lines is a daily newsletter that
tracks trade and supply chains disrupted
by the pandemic. Sign up here.

A year ago, as the pandemic ravaged
country after country and economies
shuddered, consumers were the ones
panic-buying. Today, on the rebound, it's
companies furiously trying to stock up.

Mattress producers to car manufactur-
ers to aluminum foil makers are buying
more material than they need to survive
the breakneck speed at which demand
for goods is recovering and assuage that
primal fear of running out. The fren-
zy is pushing supply chains to the brink
of seizing up. Shortages, transportation
bottlenecks and price spikes are near-
ing the highest levels in recent memo-
ry, raising concern that a supercharged
global economy will stoke inflation.

Copper, iron ore and steel. Corn, coffee,
wheat and soybeans. Lumber, semicon-
ductors, plastic and cardboard for pack-
aging. The world is seemingly low on all
of it. "You name it, and we have a short-
age on it," Tom Linebarger, chairman
and chief executive of engine and gen-
erator manufacturer Cummins Inc., said
on a call this month. Clients are "trying
to get everything they can because they
see high demand," Jennifer Rumsey, the

Columbus, Indiana-based company's
president, said. "They think it's going to
extend into next year."

The difference between the big crunch of
2021 and past supply disruptions is the
sheer magnitude of it, and the fact that
there is — as far as anyone can tell — no
clear end in sight. Big or small, few busi-
nesses are spared. Europe's largest fleet
of trucks, Girtka Logistics, says there's
been a struggle to find enough capacity.
Monster Beverage Corp. of Corona, Cal-
ifornia, is dealing with an aluminum can
scarcity. Hong Kong's MOMAX Technol-
ogy Ltd. is delaying production of a new
product because of a dearth of semicon-
ductors.

Further exacerbating the situation is an
unusually long and growing list of cal-
amities that have rocked commodities
in recent months. A freak accident in the
Suez Canal backed up global shipping
in March. Drought has wreaked havoc
upon agricultural crops. A deep freeze
and mass blackout wiped out energy and
petrochemicals operations across the
central U.S. in February. Less than two
weeks ago, hackers brought down the
largest fuel pipeline in the U.S., driving
gasoline prices above \$3 a gallon for the
first time since 2014. Now India's mas-
sive Covid-19 outbreak is threatening its
biggest ports.

For anyone who thinks it's all going to end
in a few months, consider the somewhat

obscure U.S. economic indicator known
as the Logistics Managers' Index. The
gauge is built on a monthly survey of cor-
porate supply chiefs that asks where they
see inventory, transportation and ware-
house expenses — the three key compo-
nents of managing supply chains — now
and in 12 months. The current index is at
its second-highest level in records dat-
ing back to 2016, and the future gauge
shows little respite a year from now. The
index has proven unnervingly accurate in
the past, matching up with actual costs
about 90% of the time.

A LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARE

Transport, storage and inventory
costs are near record highs in
the U.S.

Source: Logistics Managers' Index

*The LMI is a diffusion index where 50 is
the dividing line between expansion and
contraction.

To Zac Rogers, who helps compile the in-
dex as an assistant professor at Colorado
State University's College of Business, it's
a paradigm shift. In the past, those three
areas were optimized for low costs and
reliability. Today, with e-commerce de-
mand soaring, warehouses have moved
from the cheap outskirts of urban areas
to prime parking garages downtown or

vacant department-store space where
deliveries can be made quickly, albeit
with pricier real estate, labor and util-
ities. Once viewed as liabilities before
the pandemic, fatter inventories are in
vogue. Transport costs, more volatile
than the other two, won't lighten up until
demand does.

"Essentially what people are telling us
to expect is that it's going to be hard to
get supply up to a place where it match-
es demand," Rogers said, "and because
of that, we're going to continue to see
some price increases over the next 12
months."

More well-known barometers are start-
ing to reflect the higher costs for house-
holds and companies. An index of U.S.
consumer prices that excludes food and
fuel jumped in April from a month earlier
by the most since 1982. At the factory
gate, the increase in prices charged by
American producers was twice as large
as economists expected. Unless compa-
nies pass that cost along to consumers
and boost productivity, it'll eat into their
profit margins.

A growing chorus of observers are warn-
ing that inflation is bound to quicken. The
threat has been enough to send tremors
through world capitals, central banks,
factories and supermarkets. The U.S.
Federal Reserve is facing new questions
about when it will hike rates to stave off
inflation — and the perceived political
risk already threatens to upset President
Joe Biden's spending plans.

"You bring all of these factors in, and it's
an environment that's ripe for significant
inflation, with limited levers" for mone-
tary authorities to pull, said David Lan-
dau, chief product officer at BluJay Solu-
tions, a U.K.-based logistics software and
services provider.

Policy makers, however, have laid out a
number of reasons why they don't ex-
pect inflationary pressures to get out of
hand. Fed Governor Lael Brainard said
recently that officials should be "patient
through the transitory surge." Among
the reasons for calm: The big surges

Continued on next page

www.METALDECKSUPPLY.com
YOUR ONE-STOP METAL DECK SHOP!

**METAL DECK REPLACEMENT?
CAROLINAS... WE HAVE IT IN STOCK NOW!**

- ✓ LARGEST INVENTORY IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE USE
- ✓ KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF
- ✓ VARIETY OF DECK IN STOCK
- ✓ PICK UP OR DELIVERY
- ✓ MOBILE WEBSITE
- PROUD MEMBER

CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST SERVICE AND LEAD TIME

ALL ORDERS READY IN 2 HOURS FOR "TOUCH-FREE" PICKUP

800.894.7741 | SALES@METALDECKSUPPLY.COM

Metal Roof Clips & Accessories

We manufacture and supply clips and
accessories for the following roof systems:

- New Tech
- Englert
- Ultra Seam
- Zimmerman
- Knudson
- Rollformer
- Schlebach
- Quadra-Pro™

and many more

LSI GROUP INC.
METAL BUILDING COMPONENTS
Logan Stampings - Roof Hugger - BPD

866-766-3254
Use our Online CLIP FINDER at WeGotClips.com

lately are partly blamed on skewed comparisons to the steep drops of a year ago, and many companies that have held the line on price hikes for years remain reticent about them now. What's more, U.S. retail sales stalled in April after a sharp rise in the month earlier, and commodities prices have recently retreated from multi-year highs.

Caught in the crosscurrents is Dennis Wolkin, whose family has run a business making crib mattresses for three generations. Economic expansions are usually good for baby bed sales. But the extra demand means little without the key ingredient: foam padding. There has been a run on the kind of polyurethane foam Wolkin uses — in part because of the deep freeze across the U.S. South in February, and because of “companies over-ordering and trying to hoard what they can.”

“It's gotten out of control, especially in the past month,” said Wolkin, vice president of operations at Atlanta-based Colgate Mattress, a 35-employee company that sells products at Target stores and independent retailers. “We've never seen anything like this.”

Though polyurethane foam is 50% more expensive than it was before the Covid-19 pandemic, Wolkin would buy twice the amount he needs and look for warehouse space rather than reject orders from new customers. “Every company like us is going to overbuy,” he said.

HEATING UP

U.S. core and headline inflation both jumped more than forecast in April

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Even multinational companies with digital supply-management systems and teams of people monitoring them are just trying to cope. Whirlpool Corp. CEO Marc Bitzer told Bloomberg Television this month its supply chain is “pretty much upside down” and the appliance

maker is phasing in price increases.

Usually Whirlpool and other large manufacturers produce goods based on incoming orders and forecasts for those sales. Now it's producing based on what parts are available.

“It is anything but efficient or normal, but that is how you have to run it right now,” Bitzer said. “I know there's talk of a temporary blip, but we do see this elevated for a sustained period.”

The strains stretch all the way back to global output of raw materials and may persist because the capacity to produce more of what's scarce — with either additional capital or labor — is slow and expensive to ramp up. The price of lumber, copper, iron ore and steel have all surged in recent months as supplies constrict in the face of stronger demand from the U.S. and China, the world's two largest economies.

Crude oil is also on the rise, as are the prices of industrial materials from plastics to rubber and chemicals. Some of the increases are already making their ways to the store shelf. Reynolds Consumer Products Inc., the maker of the namesake aluminum foil and Hefty trash bags, is planning another round of price increases — its third in 2021 alone.

Food costs are climbing, too. The world's most consumed edible oil, processed from the fruit of oil palm trees, has jumped by more than 135% in the past year to a record. Soybeans topped \$16 a bushel for the first time since 2012. Corn futures hit an eight-year high while wheat futures rose to the highest since 2013.

A United Nations gauge of world food costs climbed for an 11th month in April, extending its gain to the highest in seven years. Prices are in their longest advance in more than a decade amid weather worries and a crop-buying spree in China that's tightening supplies, threatening faster inflation.

Earlier this month, the Bloomberg Commodity Spot Index touched the highest level since 2011.

ON A TEAR

Spot commodities index touches highest level since 2011

Source: Data compiled by Bloomberg

A big reason for the rally is a U.S. economy that's recovering faster than most. The evidence of that is floating off the coast of California, where dozens of container ships are waiting to offload at ports from Oakland to Los Angeles. Most goods are flooding in from China, where government figures last week showed producer prices climbed by the most since 2017 in April, adding to evidence that cost pressures for that nation's factories pose another risk if those are passed on to retailers and other customers abroad.

Across the world's manufacturing hub of East Asia, the blockages are especially acute. The dearth of semiconductors has already spread from the automotive sector to Asia's highly complex supply chains for smartphones.

John Cheng runs a consumer electronics manufacturer that makes everything from wireless magnetic smartphone chargers to smart home air purifiers. The supply choke has complicated his efforts to develop new products and enter new markets, according to Cheng, the CEO of Hong Kong-based MOMAX, which has about two-thirds of its 300 employees working in a Shenzhen factory. One example: Production of a new power bank for Apple products such as the iPhone, AirPods, iPad and Apple watch has been delayed because of the chip shortage.

Instead of proving to be a short-lived disruption, the semiconductor crunch is threatening the broader electronics sector and may start to squeeze Asia's high-performing export economies, according to Vincent Tsui of Gavekal Research. It's “not simply the result of a few temporary glitches,” Tsui wrote in a note. “They are more structural in nature, and they affect a whole range of industries, not just automobile production.”

In an indication of just how serious the chips crunch is, South Korea plans to spend roughly \$450 billion to build the world's biggest chipmaking base over the next decade.

SOARING MATERIAL PRICES, SUPPLY CHAIN DELAYS SPOOK OWNERS AND DEVELOPERS

The rising cost of many materials and increased sourcing headaches have project owners rethinking their return to normalcy and threaten to derail construction's expected resurgence.

By Joe Bousquin, Construction Dive; Published April 12, 2021

This story is part of a series of articles looking at the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the construction industry and how an expected rebound in construction work later this year could be slowed by a variety of forces.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY MAY BE LONGER THAN YOU THINK.

As the second quarter of 2021 kicks off, contractor confidence is high, with plenty of optimism that the coming resurgence of re-started projects will lift construction firms from the abyss of COVID-19 to go even beyond their pre-pandemic heights. Just look at the Associated Builders and Contractors' Confidence Index, which is now positive for sales, profit and staffing level expectations for the next six months.

The only problem is, to build things, contractors need willing owners to finance them. They may become more scarce in the coming months, as continued kinks in the global supply chain drive material prices higher, extend delivery times and make already anxious developers more skittish.

Continued on next page



“People are starting to become a lot more buoyant and confident around things,” said Chris Bailey, senior vice president of integrated solutions at San Francisco Bay Area-based general contractor XL Construction, who recently authored a report to clients about supply chain hurdles. “But there needs to be some degree of caution as to how we re-engage with all of this, because we can’t just do what we did in 2019. Product is not coming online as quickly as projects are.” Cold feet, again.

That juxtaposition is causing owners who want to get back to work to reconsider if now is the best time to do so. At Fort Worth, Texas-based Century Mechanical Contractors, secretary and treasurer Diane Mills said the recent explosion in materials costs is inducing sticker shock in her clients, especially those who priced their projects before the pandemic, but then hit the pause button at its outset.

As those owners re-enter the market, they’ve had to adjust their expectations or re-consider their projects all over again, she said.

“Owners are coming back and saying they want to build, but they set their budgets two years ago,” Mills said. “What might have cost \$100,000 if they started last June is now probably closer to \$160,000. So they’re even having to pull back again and rethink what they’re doing, because it’s out of budget.”

Finance professionals are also witnessing a second round of cold feet among developers trying to resuscitate deals in the current environment.

“I had a developer come back to the table with a deal he mothballed last year, but now it was going to cost him 20% more,” said Jake Clopton, founder of Chicago-based commercial mortgage broker Clopton Capital. “He said he couldn’t do it, that it didn’t make sense to build right now. I mean, in the end, it’s really all just a math problem.”

Clopton said he’s had several developers with land carrying costs approach him to

kickstart projects, but with old GC bids. When they’ve re-priced them, and evaluated the current state of the lending market, where bank loans can be non-existent for some project sectors and private money loans can have 10% interest rates, their deals are no longer penciling out.

“They’re just uneconomical at these levels,” Clopton said.

There’s even evidence that a recent increase in construction spending above pre-pandemic levels isn’t due to more projects coming online, as much as it is the need to absorb higher costs. Construction spending climbed 5.3% from February 2020 to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.52 trillion, the Census Bureau reported April 1.

But prices for goods used in construction jumped 3.5% from February to March and 12.9% since March 2020, representing the highest monthly and yearly increases in the 35-year history of tracking that data, according to the Associated General Contractors of America.

“These material cost increases—steep as they are—tell only part of the story,” said Ken Simonson, AGC’s chief economist, in a statement on Friday. “They are based on prices the government collected a month ago, and they fail to capture the notices contractors are receiving daily about longer lead times, shipments held to a fraction of previous orders, and other challenges.”

PROJECTS APLENTY

That said, projects are waiting in the wings. “Here comes the tsunami of economic and employment growth across America,” said Anirban Basu, chief economist for Associated Builders and Contractors, in a statement last week about the March jobs report, which included 110,000 new construction jobs, with 73,100 of them in the beleaguered nonresidential segment. “With more stimulus on the way, the United States may end up growing faster than China this year, which would be the first time that occurred in decades.”

Contractors have been adding workers as they’ve been building up their backlog

of new work, much of which they cannibalized in 2020 simply to stay in business. Indeed, overall backlog rose to 8.1 months in February, just 0.7 months shy of its pre-pandemic heights.

“Here comes the tsunami of economic and employment growth across America.”

—Anirban Basu, Chief Economist, Associated Builders and Contractors

But the new question is how many of those projects will get derailed again, before they can be re-started, due to skyrocketing material prices. The global supply chain has been stretched thin after nearly a year of dormancy, and hasn’t been able to achieve anywhere near its pre-pandemic, just-in-time efficiency.

“During this shutdown, a lot of shipping was taken out of commission because there was nothing to transport,” said Bailey. “People weren’t willing to put money into maintaining shipping and transportation equipment when there was no revenue at the other end of it, so things have fallen into a state of disrepair. What we’re seeing now is that even when product is ready to leave, the transportation market is trying to catch up.”

The fact that the mammoth Ever Given container ship blocked the Suez Canal, one of the world’s business cargo routes, for six days in March can’t help. “That will just provide more delay on top of everything that was already delayed,” Bailey said.

LONGER LEAD TIMES

No matter the reason behind the delays, contractors say longer delivery times are having a severe impact on construction schedules.

“If you had a project that was ready to buy structural steel and precast wall panels for a new distribution facility, if you got in line today, it would be nine or 10 months before you got that material,” said Scott Higgins, senior vice president at Chicago-based Pepper Construction Company. “The impact is going to be very simple: higher prices and longer schedules.”

Back in Fort Worth, Mills said opportunity for jobs is there, but material suppliers can’t keep up with orders.

“We could do the work,” Mills said. “We just can’t get the equipment in many cases.”

She pointed to a recent quote for air handling units for schools, which usually require a lead time of six to 12 weeks. Her suppliers recently told her they would take four to six months instead.

“The impact is going to be very simple: higher prices and longer schedules.”

—Scott Higgins, Senior Vice President, Pepper Construction

“Well, if you have a summer project that you need to start June 1 and you’re bidding it today, you’re probably not going to get your equipment in time to get it done,” she said.

At the same time, she says pressure in her local bid environment has heated up.

“There’s a lot of work being bid here,” Mills said. “But there are also a lot of

people needing work to fill their backlog again, so it’s very competitive. Even though the pricing is higher, the margins are lower.”

HIGH PRICES HEADED HIGHER

Construction material prices have risen so sharply in 2021 that the Associated General Contractors of America last week issued a rare Construction Inflation Alert, a move the group hasn’t taken since 2008, citing a 12.8% jump of input costs for projects since the pandemic began.

While that double-digit rise is notable in itself, some foundational materials for contractors have spiked even more, with lumber and plywood gaining 62%, and steel mill products recording a 20% jump since April 2020, according to AGC’s analysis. Diesel fuel, the lifeblood of the heavy equipment needed to build major projects, has surged 114%.

MATERIAL COSTS HAVE SURGED, BUT NOT BID PRICES

Courtesy of Associated General Contractors of America

But while those costs have been leaping upwards, contractors looking to rebuild their depleted backlogs haven’t been able to lift their bid prices by anywhere near the same amount, eking out just a 0.5% gain over the same period, according to AGC.

“Contractors should become even more vigilant about changes in materials costs and expected delivery dates and should communicate the information promptly to current and prospective clients,” read the alert from AGC, which is hosting a webinar on rising costs and strategies for dealing with them this week.

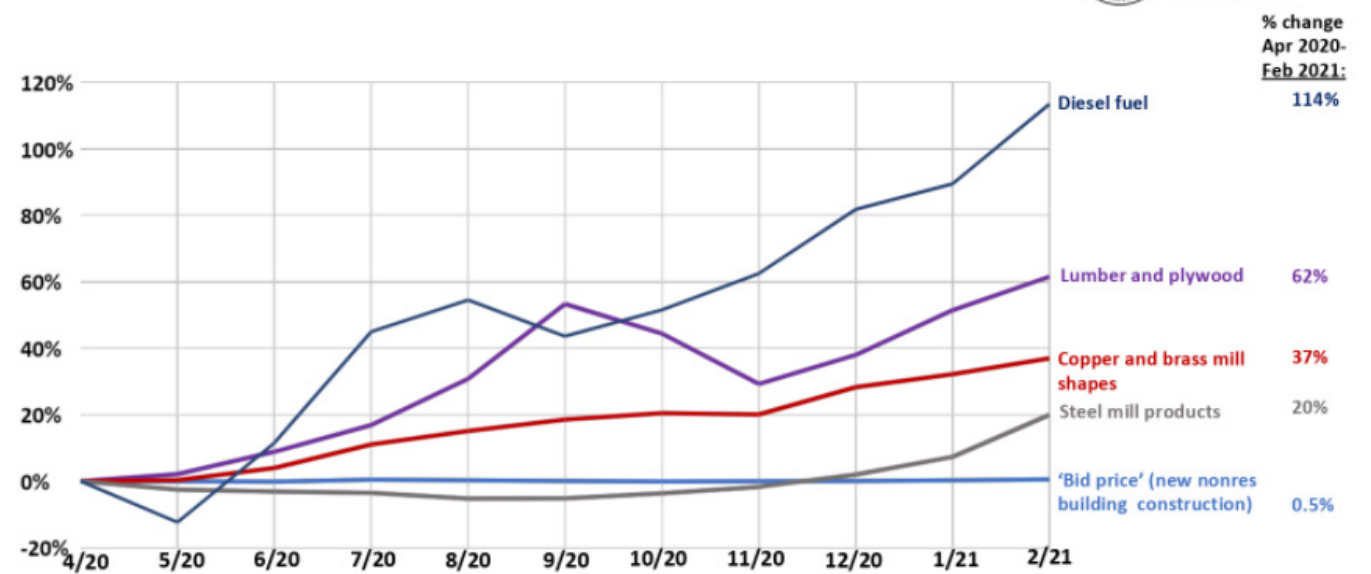
A RECOVERY COMING OFF THE TRACKS?

With higher prices, longer lead times and skittish developers, the real question then becomes whether these issues, which have emerged as contractors desperately try to put the impacts of the pandemic behind them, can actually derail the coming recovery.

“I think to a degree, yes,” said Mills.

Clopton feels confident that supply chain issues will eventually work themselves out, especially given the enormous amount of pent-up demand from pre-

PPIs for construction and selected inputs
cumulative change in PPIs, Apr 2020 -Feb 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)





CONSTRUCTION WILL FACE A LABOR GAP OF 430K WORKERS THIS YEAR, ABC SAYS

Written by Jenn Goodman, Construction Dive; Published March 26, 2021

This story is part of Construction Dive's ongoing 'Roadblocks to Recovery' series of articles looking at the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the construction industry and how an expected rebound in construction work later this year could be slowed by a variety of forces.

DIVE BRIEF

- Construction companies will need to hire at least 430,000 more workers this year than they employed in 2020, according to an average-growth analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data released this week by Associated Builders and Contractors.
- Under a higher-growth rate scenario, the number of additional construction workers needed in 2021 could swell to nearly 1 million, ABC said. Last year the industry employed 7.8 million workers.
- In addition, construction spending is likely to reach \$1.45 trillion in 2021, up 1.3% from 2020, according to the release. The analysis also revealed that every \$1 billion in construction spending generates an average of at least 5,700 construction jobs.

DIVE INSIGHT

The ABC study backs up recent findings from other groups that show a labor crunch is in the making for construction this year. For instance, the 2020 Marcum JOLTS Analysis of construction data released earlier this month found that despite coronavirus-induced layoffs, construction employees are becoming harder to find and more expensive.

As the industry bounces back from pandemic-related downturns, contractors in some regions are struggling to find labor and wages have risen to record levels, the Marcum report said. In January 2021, average hourly earnings of construction employees reached their highest level ever, \$32.11, and average weekly hours worked rose to their highest level since 2019's third quarter.

"When the pandemic began, some thought (and hoped) that the massive job losses observed in March and April would mitigate the skilled labor shortages that have frustrated construction firms for years," wrote Anirban Basu, Marcum's chief construction economist and author of the report. "That simply hasn't happened to any meaningful degree."

The ABC analysis also found that last year's nominal construction spending rose 4.8% as employment fell 6.3%. This was due to several factors, ABC said:

- A spike in building materials and labor costs, attributed to shortages and supply chain disruptions.
- A change in the mix of construction work which included more residential construction, a segment that saw some of the largest cost increases due to an uptick in lumber prices.
- A labor supply reduction that encouraged faster than usual adoption of labor-saving technology by builders.
- Improvement in the scheduling and logistics of building materials delivery.
- Increased use of prefabrication and modularization.
- A decrease in the number of smaller, less efficient construction companies as they went out of business.

Soaring, continued from page 23

viously sidelined projects coming back online, coupled with the \$1.9 trillion in funding from the American Rescue Plan, and a proposed \$2 trillion infrastructure funding package.

"You've got an enormous amount of liquidity in the system that's looking to do projects and get the economy moving," Clopton said. "And while demand [for materials] is way outpacing the increase in supply, I think everybody expects that to be transitory."

Indeed, Basu, the ABC's chief economist, voiced a similar view Friday after the most recent price jumps emerged.

"While we will likely see further materials price increases going forward, the pace of increase may not be as rapid," Basu said in a statement. «As the COVID-19 pandemic fades, suppliers will be better positioned to respond to demand. That will help moderate price increases at some point, though in the very near-term, contractors should anticipate additional cost escalations."

The last fly in the ointment that gives construction market observers pause is how long the current impacts of the pandemic took to actually materialize on jobsites.

While an absence of toilet paper and PPE were hallmarks early in the pandemic, the more recent economic pains bearing down on materials and the supply chain now weren't felt until six to nine months after the pandemic began. With a quarter of 2021 already in the rearview mirror, it could take just as long for them to unwind themselves.

At least, that's Bailey's point of view at XL Construction.

"These disruptions to global trade are driving up the cost of shipping goods and adding a new dimension to economic recovery," Bailey wrote in his report to clients. "The chaos has forced buyers to pay record prices to secure space in whatever containers are available to move. This is predicted to remain an issue until early 2022.

Carolinas Contacts Magazine Touches Hundreds within the Roofing Industry



The CRSMCA *Carolinas Contacts* Magazine is published every other month, six-times a year, and is placed in over 800 roofing industry professional email inboxes throughout the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia and more located in the southeast region. The CRSMCA *Carolinas Contacts* Magazine is also displayed on the CRSMCA website page with archived issues.

The magazine provides valuable information from products to services and regulations that are important to the roofing industry businesses as well as news and events within the roofing industry.

2021 EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

January/February

2021 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo event details; Updates & Reminders of Codes
Ads due: January 15

March/April

2021 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo event details; Focus on Residential (Shingles); National Roofing Week; Ladder Safety Awareness
Ads due: March 15

May/June

2021 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo photos; 78th Annual Meeting/Summer Convention event details; Focus on Safety & Heat
Ads due: May 15

July/August

78th Annual Meeting/Summer Convention photos & member recognitions; Roof Drainage & Tapered Insulation
Ads due: July 15

September/October:

Insulation & Coverboards; Fire Prevention Awareness; 2022 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo event details
Ads due: September 15

November/December:

Perimeter Metals; 2022 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo event details; Cold Weather Awareness
Ads due: November 15



MEMBER PRICING

Ad Size	6xs	3xs
Full Page	\$588	\$615
1/2 Page	\$345	\$360
1/3 Page	\$255	\$268
1/6 Page	\$199	\$210
Contractor Card Ad	\$165	-

NON-MEMBER PRICING

Ad Size	6xs	3xs
Full Page	\$698	\$730
1/2 Page	\$408	\$428
1/3 Page	\$299	\$314
1/6 Page	\$236	\$248

AD SPECIFICATIONS

Size	Horizontal (Width x Height)	Vertical (Width x Height)
Full Page	7.5" x 10" (no bleed)	-
1/2 Page	7.5" x 4.625"	3.625" x 10"
1/3 Page	5" x 4.625"	2.375" x 10"
1/6 Page	3.625" x 4.625"	-
Contractor Card Ad	3.5" x 2"	-

Submit full-color, high-resolution pdf artwork to Carla Sims at cbsims@crsmca.org.



BODY HARNESS INSPECTIONS

When you are working on a roof and using a personal fall arrest system, you have confidence that it will work if you fall (right?). You are confident that the anchorage will hold; that the connection devices won't fail, and that the harness and lanyard won't break under the stress of quick tensioning. To place that much faith in your equipment you truly need to inspect it every day. If you are not doing this every day; or if you are not inspecting it thoroughly, the confidence you are placing your equipment may not be justified.

In this Safety Talk we are going to discuss how to inspect your harness. In future Safety Talks we will discuss how to inspect other parts of a personal fall arrest system. If you can, grab your harness right now so that you can inspect it as we discuss how to do that properly.

Let's start with the webbing. Start at one end and hold the body side of the webbing toward you, grasping the webbing with your hands six to eight inches apart. Bend the webbing in an inverted "U" (bottom of the U facing up). Look for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts or chemical damage. Inspect the full length of the webbing.

Then check D-rings and D-ring metal wear pads for distortion, cracks, breaks, and rough or sharp edges. The D-ring bar

should be at a 90-degree angle with the long axis of the harness and should pivot freely.

Next examine the rivets. The rivets should be tight. You should not be able to remove them with your fingers. Rivets should be flat against the material. It is important to know that bent rivets will fail under stress!

Next, examine the buckle tongues. They should be free of distortion in shape and motion. They should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth in their socket. Rollers should turn freely on the frame. Check for distortion or sharp edges.

Lastly, inspect the friction buckle for distortion. The outer bar or center bars must be straight. Pay special attention to corners and attachment points of the center bar.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR CREW

Have you been inspecting your harness as thoroughly as you should?

Have you been inspecting it as often as you should (every day)?

What defects have you found while inspecting a harness (either recently or in past years)?

INSPECCIONES DE ARNÉS CORPORAL

Cuando estás trabajando en un techo y usando un sistema personal de detención de caídas, tienes confianza en que funcionará si te caes (¿verdad?). Usted está seguro de que el anclaje se mantendrá; que los dispositivos de conexión no fallarán, y que el arnés y el cordón no se romperán bajo el estrés de tensión rápida. Para poner tanta fe en su equipo que realmente necesita inspeccionarlo todos los días; si usted no está haciendo esto todos los días; o si no lo está inspeccionando a fondo, la confianza en que está colocando su equipo puede no estar justificada.

En esta charla de seguridad vamos a discutir cómo inspeccionar su arnés. En futuras conversaciones de seguridad discutiremos cómo inspeccionar otras partes de un sistema personal de detención de caídas. Si puedes, coge tu arnés ahora mismo para que puedas inspeccionarlo mientras discutimos cómo hacerlo correctamente.

Empecemos con las correas. Comience en un extremo y sostenga el lado del cuerpo de las correas hacia usted, agarrando las correas con las manos de seis a ocho pulgadas de distancia. Doble las correas en una "U" invertida (parte inferior de la U mirando hacia arriba). Busque bordes deshilachados, fibras rotas, puntos tirados, cortes o daños químicos. Inspeccione toda la longitud de las correas.

A continuación, compruebe anillos D y almohadillas de desgaste de metal de anillo D para la distorsión, grietas, roturas y bordes ásperos o afilados. La barra de anillo D debe estar en un ángulo de 90 grados con el eje largo del arnés y debe pivotar libremente.

A continuación, examine los remaches. Los remaches deben estar apretados. No debes ser capaz de eliminarlos con los dedos. Los remaches deben ser planos contra el material. ¡Es importante saber que los remaches doblados fallarán bajo estrés!

A continuación, examine las lenguas de hebilla. Deben estar libres de distorsión en forma y movimiento. Deben superponerse al marco de la hebilla y moverse libremente de un lado a otro en su zócalo. Los rodillos deben girar libremente en el marco. Compruebe si hay distorsión o bordes afilados.

Por último, inspeccione la hebilla de fricción en busca de distorsión. La barra exterior o las barras centrales deben ser rectas. Preste especial atención a las esquinas y puntos de fijación de la barra central.

DISCUTIR CON SU TRIPULACIÓN

¿Has estado inspeccionando tu arnés tan a fondo como deberías?

¿Lo has estado inspeccionando tan a menudo como deberías (todos los días)?

¿Qué defectos ha encontrado al inspeccionar un arnés (ya sea recientemente o en años pasados)?



PRESENTS ITS

2022 Carolinas Mid-Winter Roofing Expo

EXHIBITS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
BY ROOFING INDUSTRY EXPERTS

JANUARY 18 - 20, 2022

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street | Columbia, South Carolina