



## NEWS RELEASE

### PFS·TECO Response to Plywood Coalition Complaint

**Cottage Grove, WI, USA** (September 10, 2019) — From a press release we have become aware of a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on September 5. Although we have not been served by the plaintiff's counsel, the suit is apparently filed on behalf of the U.S. Structural Plywood Coalition, a newly formed group of ten U.S. plywood manufacturers.

As described in the press release, the Coalition claims that PFS·TECO has certified "Brazilian plywood mills to stamp their plywood as meeting a U.S. structural grade standard called PS 1-09" but that its own testing of plywood determines that the plywood sampled did not meet that standard.

We intend to vigorously defend our reputation and look forward to doing so in due course. While the merits of the case are being decided, we ask that the public consider that:

1. The Coalition Complaint groups the actions of PFS·TECO and Timber Products Inspection together. However, PFS·TECO has no professional or ownership relationship to Timber Products Inspection. PFS·TECO stands behind its independent certification procedures as fully compliant with the relevant standards.
2. The Complaint's use of the calculated uniform load performance results for the plywood is not consistent with PS 1 sheathing test requirements. It appears from the allegations in the Complaint that this testing approach relied upon by the plaintiffs is not permitted to be used under PS 1-09 as an alternative to conducting the uniform load test. PFS·TECO testing uses the methods directed by the standard.
3. The Complaint alleges "it is impossible to consistently manufacture PS 1-09 compliant plywood" using wood from southern Brazil. PFS·TECO has more than 15 years of data showing that plywood from southern Brazil and produced by manufacturing facilities certified by PFS·TECO can meet PS 1 requirements.

PFS·TECO has been serving the structural wood products industry since 1933, and specifically the plywood industry in the U.S. since 1958.

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*PFS·TECO is a 100% employee-owned, independent, third-party certification, inspection, and testing agency for manufacturers of structural and non-structural panel products, engineered wood and mass timber products, building components, hearth products, adhesives, and wooden baseball bats; and is an approved IPIA/DAPIA for HUD-code manufactured housing, providing plan review and factory inspection services to HUD-code and modular building factories. PFS·TECO is based in Cottage Grove, WI; maintains a regional office in Pennsylvania; and operates test laboratories in Cottage Grove, WI, and Springfield and Clackamas, OR, to support clients in the U.S., Canada, and more than twenty other countries.*