



## NEWS RELEASE

### PFS·TECO Response to Plywood Coalition Claims

**Cottage Grove, WI, USA** (June 10, 2020) — In September 2019, the U.S. Structural Plywood Coalition, a newly formed group of ten U.S. plywood manufacturers filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida against PFS·TECO, Timber Products Inspection, Inc (“TPI”), and International Accreditation Services, Inc. (“IAS”). Since the inception of the lawsuit, PFS·TECO has denied and continues to deny the allegations of improper certification practices asserted against it by the Coalition. PFS·TECO vigorously defends its certifications, policies, procedures, and reputation in the industry.

On June 5, 2020, Plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary injunction seeking to have the Court revoke the PS 1 certifications issued by PFS·TECO and TPI to Brazilian structural plywood manufacturers. Beyond the allegations made in this litigation, the Coalition has publicly released further comments. While PFS·TECO believes it will be successful both in responding to the injunction request and, if necessary, the merits of the lawsuit, we ask that the industry now consider that:

1. Despite claiming there is “overwhelming evidence” against PFS·TECO, the Coalition failed to file its motion for a preliminary injunction to halt or delay certification of Brazilian plywood for over two years after the APA Product Advisory was published and nine months after filing this lawsuit. The motion is supported by multiple declarations from the Coalition, many of which say nothing about PFS·TECO’s certification and testing procedures.
2. The studies and testing data upon which the Coalition rely on to support their claims against PFS·TECO are based on factual premises that we believe are inconsistent with the challenged standards for PS 1 plywood. For example, the studies relied upon by the Coalition utilized large-panel bending test data to estimate uniform-load performance of span-rated plywood. This is not permitted in PS 1 for the qualification of span-rated plywood. PFS·TECO has and continues to utilize the testing procedures and methods directed by the PS 1 standard.
3. Through court ordered mediation earlier this month, IAS settled with the Coalition. Their Settlement Agreement only states that IAS recommends changes to the PS 1 standard, to the PS 1 Standing Committee, and that IAS will voluntarily change its internal procedures. Nowhere in the Settlement Agreement does IAS admit it did anything wrong, that PFS·TECO did anything wrong, or that the PS 1 standard requires more oversight or inspections than IAS was previously doing.

We are confident the flaws in the underpinning of the Coalition’s claims will be revealed and that the Coalition’s motion will be denied. PFS·TECO has been serving the structural wood products industry since 1933, and specifically the plywood industry in the U.S. since 1958. We thank you for your continued support and trust in PFS·TECO.

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*PFS·TECO is a 100% employee-owned, independent, third-party certification, inspection, and testing agency for manufacturers of building products, and hearth products, and provides plan review and inspection services to the manufactured structures industry. 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.*