

SUMMARY

At the present time, approximately 27 percent of the lumber and plywood used in the state is imported. By the year 2020, more than 60 percent of the State's requirements will need to be met by imports.

Approximately 50 percent of the total quantity of lumber and plywood consumed is used in the construction, remodeling and upkeep of single and multi-unit dwellings.

Two-thirds of the total housing starts are single family units. The roof, floor, and exterior wall components require more than 80 percent of the total quantity of lumber and plywood consumed per unit. Single family units in California use, on the average, 15,000 board feet of lumber and 5,000 square feet of plywood (3/8" basis). This is less than the national average requirements.

Improved utilization of lumber and plywood is essential in order to meet the future demands for housing. Wood saving construction techniques and methods which do not require extensive engineering analysis or structural testing are available and generally acceptable for light frame construction. For the most part, they do not rely on the use of substitute or alternate materials.

Single family dwellings in California use 20-30 percent less lumber and plywood than the national average. Less material is required for the floor system due to the prevalence of slab construction and less in the roof-ceiling system which generally does not have to be engineered to accommodate snow loads. In addition, heavy use is made of traditional, non-wood materials such as stucco for exterior wall coverings. The resultant savings in material can be further augmented by adoption of the techniques described in this section.

Approximately 140,000 single family dwellings will be constructed annually in California for the next three decades. If material saving techniques were to be utilized in the construction of these houses, an annual savings of approximately 140,000 MBF of lumber and 56,000 M Sq. Ft. (3/8" basis) of plywood could be realized. Additional savings could result by adoption of these techniques, where applicable, in construction of multi-unit dwellings and on remodeling projects.

OVERVIEW

Production - Consumption (Table 1)

According to information contained in the Economic Report of the Governor, 1978, which was based in part on estimates developed by the U.S. Forest Service, the total quantity of lumber used in single-unit conventional home construction in California in 1976 was 1.857 billion board feet. An additional 599 million square feet of plywood was used.

Forecasts indicate that by the year 2010, building starts are expected to be 141.1 thousand, and peak demand of 2.154 billion board feet of lumber and 731 million square feet of plywood will be required annually.

U.S. Forest Service forecasts based on national ratios indicate that an additional 1.266 billion board feet of lumber and 658 million square feet of plywood will be used annually for the upkeep and remodeling of residential structures.

At the present time, the State imports about 27 percent of the lumber and plywood used. Barrette et al, Timber Projections for California Production vs. Consumption, State Forest Note No. 71, reports that by 2020 more than 60 percent of the State's requirements will need to be met by imports.