

AWI's Vision

To be the global leader in architectural woodwork standards, industry-specific education and member networking opportunities.

AWI's Mission

Create, publish and continually improve the architectural woodwork industry standards.

Provide education and opportunities for members to participate, collaborate, share resources and engage through AWI.

Develop, deliver and continually improve AWI's high value member benefits.

Cultivate and strengthen relationships with leading industry partners on behalf of the architectural woodwork industry.

Update Report ANSI/AWI Standards Development November 2016

The Architectural Woodwork Institute continues to move forward in its mission to “Create, publish, and continually improve the architectural woodwork industry standards.” This commitment to mission centers on a process that engages woodwork manufacturers, design professionals, suppliers and related industry associations.

Through AWI's ANSI-approved standards writing process, the Technical Committee and volunteer subject expert review teams will develop a multi-section suite of standards that harmonize with other relevant ANSI industry standards. By doing so, differing interpretations and conflicts surrounding the Standard will be minimized.

AWI's new standard's content will be determined through balanced input between standards users, woodwork producers, and general interest industry stakeholders. It promises to be relevant to the industry, comprehensive in scope, concise in content, and complete with meaningful product performance and visual aesthetics measures.

In May of 2016, the AWI Board of Directors affirmed four (4) key points related to the development of the next generation of the architectural woodwork industry standards:

1. *“AWI has the golden opportunity to create the Next Generation of Industry Woodwork Standards that is radically different and highly effective as a compilation of architectural woodwork and specialty interior finish specification guidelines and industry standards document.*
2. *The ANSI/AWI Standard is based upon two fundamental concepts:*
 - *Product Performance Measures to establish minimum service duty.*
 - *Product Aesthetics Measures to establish minimum appearance levels.*
3. *The Standard will be sub-divided in harmony with CSI-Master Format Section Numbering and Section Formats.*
4. *Sections of the Compiled Standard may be independently completed and sent to Canvass for comment and vote for approval.”*

ANSI/AWI Standards for Our Evolving Marketplace

Each day architectural woodwork manufacturers and related industry suppliers are asked to include new materials, expanded services and to bring solutions forward to meet design and logistical challenges in the scope of work surrounding custom interior finishes.

In today's marketplace, architectural woodwork manufacturers are called upon as architectural interior experts and solution providers capable of custom manufacturing, factory finishing and exacting installation using a wide array of non-conventional materials.

In reality, over the past twenty years, the custom manufacturing industry has transitioned away from a reliance on woodworker skills to a reliance on highly integrated technology based manufacturing. With that evolutionary process comes a new generation of woodwork professionals who are meeting today's new manufacturing and logistical challenges and delivering repeatable accuracy never before imagined or possible by human skills alone.

No different than any other industry, as senior design professionals transition to retirement, a great deal of intuitional knowledge also transitions into obscurity. The next generation of tomorrow's design professionals are seeking partners and experts in industry associations to help bridge the knowledge gap. AWI is one of many sources of information, knowledge and practical experience that we share with the next generation of design professionals.

Design professionals are addressing emerging trends that impact design, custom manufacturing and perhaps the entire chain. Trends such as product life cycle, product performance ratings, environmental impact measures, carbon foot print impact, and perhaps many not yet identified as trending. The ever changing market needs require our industry to develop standards that can address today's and tomorrow's challenges through a process that thrives on communication, demands transparency and survives by serving the greater good of many.

The ANSI/AWI architectural woodwork industry standard is that next generation of industry standards and is being created to meet marketplace needs of today and most important, those that manufacturers will face in the years ahead.

How is the Next Generation of Woodwork Standards radically different and highly effective?

Each section of the ANSI/AWI Standard will be concise, short and to the point regarding Materials, Performance Measures and Aesthetic Measures. To meet the standard, the woodwork must meet the performance and aesthetic measures period.

If the ANSI/AWI format is short, where does all that great woodwork general information go?

Most of the informational content that has been included as part of AWI's standards initiatives over the past thirty years will be removed from the ANSI/AWI architectural woodwork standard.

The collective knowledge base of woodwork education and information will be re-purposed, updated and migrated into a digital resource book about architectural woodwork, today's high tech manufacturing environment and should well serve as a hub where selections of various products can be featured to help inform design professionals about various options for developing their own unique specification requirements.

We envision the education component and companion to our standard to be interactive, contain links to related information sources, it may contain video clips to help better explain a process, and will interact largely as an online "Woodwork Information App" of sorts.

What are Performance and Aesthetic Measures?

Where appropriate and applicable, performance test methodologies will be developed, test methodologies will be conducted, analytical outcomes will be obtained from testing, and from that analytical data, various levels of duty level or product grade performance will be benchmarked and established as requirements of the new standard. Not all sections will have structural performance levels, depending on the practicality of desired performance outcomes required.

AWI's current aesthetic requirements will be carefully reviewed to determine differences between measurable and subjective requirements. To the largest degree possible, aesthetic grade requirements will be modified and amended into measurable benchmarks. In some cases, aesthetics will have a component of subjectivity and may not be measurable to some degree.

How will this new standard be formatted?

The ANSI/AWI Standard will be formatted as stand-alone independent sections related to subject matter. By doing so allows for a more fluid development process where subject experts, stakeholders, and affiliated associations are able to collaborate and create standards that are focused and concise.

How will the subject matter be identified and numbered in the ANSI/AWI Standard?

The numbering system for the new ANSI/AWI Standard subject matter will follow the Construction Specifiers Institute's (CSI) Master Format. The CSI Specification Section numbering system is comprehensive and subject specific in its sub-divisions. Adopting the CSI numbering system provides for greater utilization of ANSI/AWI Standards in construction specifications and Contract Documents. For example, for architectural casework specified under the *CSI 06 41 00 Architectural Wood Casework Division 6* section will correspond precisely to the *ANSI/AWI Section 0641 Architectural Wood Casework*.

When will the new standards be released? (How long will this take?)

Drafts are currently in the development stage right now. The first sections of the new generation of AWI standards are targeted for release to canvas in 2018 and other sections to follow in 2019 and beyond.

What standard will AWI recognize as our prevailing Standard document in the interim?

The Architectural Woodwork Institute and the AWI Quality Certification Program both continue to provide support and services based on the *Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 2, 2014*. This also remains the standard of reference for ARCOM/MasterSpec.

Additionally, both the Woodwork Institute and AWMAC continue to provide services for the *Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 2, 2014*. AWI and QCP continue to collaborate on an advisory basis for any issues that may arise related to conflicts and interpretations of the AWS Edition 2.

What about the North American Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 3, 2016 (NAAWS)?

The NAAWS was developed jointly by the Woodwork Institute and the Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada. This standard was released in May of 2016 and adopted by the Woodwork Institute on July 1, 2016. As of November 10, 2016, the NAAWS has not been adopted by AWMAC. The Architectural Woodwork Institute does not endorse this standard and as such, Quality Certification Program (QCP) services are not available based on this standard.

AWI suggests that all architects and design professionals continue to use and specify the *Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 2, 2014* in order to access the largest pool of qualified manufactures for their projects as well as have the option of receiving services from the quality assurance programs of all three organizations.

Some time ago, I volunteered to help in the development of the standards, why haven't I been called?

As the standards development process has evolved, the AWI Technical Committee determined that the best use of volunteer resources would be to review partially completed drafts rather than creating those drafts from original source documents.

AWI is currently working with a contract technical writer in creating drafts that then will be released to subject expert reviewers for markup and comment. We still need volunteers to assist in this process and we value your input. You have not been forgotten and will be contacted as soon as the draft for the sections for which you volunteered are ready for review.

Questions, Concerns, want to discuss and learn more? please contact:

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