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**DAVID C. WERT,  
DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT  
MITEK**

## ICC-ES MiTek Hinge Plate Evaluation

Competition for business in today’s global economy requires companies to be at the top of their game. Building professionals have a lot of choices when it comes to selecting products. To assure that they are using code complying products they depend upon the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES). ICC-ES Evaluation Reports insure that the products used adhere to requirements in the building code.

MiTek Industries is no exception; when the MiTek® Hinge Plate was ready to make its way into the market place, MiTek turned to the ICC-ES for an evaluation. David C. Wert, P.E., the Director of Technical Development for MiTek, said, “MiTek is the largest supplier of metal connector plates for wood trusses in the United States and throughout the world. Without our ICC-ES Evaluation Reports, we would have a hard time doing business in most areas of this country. They are simply a requirement to be in business.”

Mr. Wert credits ICC-ES with making it possible for MiTek to show that they meet codes and standards through the Evaluation Reports. According to David Wert, “The ICC-ES engineer made it a pleasant experience as we worked through the evaluation process that resulted in the issuance of ESR-1397.”

Regarding **MiTek's** standards, David Wert said, "Quality is evident in everything we do at **MiTek**. Our in-house quality control team monitors every phase of the plate manufacturing process including steel thickness, galvanized coating, yield and tensile strength, hardness, and nail characteristics."

**MiTek** hinge plates provide a splice between two pieces of lumber, which allows rotation of one piece with respect to the other. The top chord is hinged down during shipment but rotated up on site to form the truss peak. For manufactured housing, completed units can be shipped efficiently because the hinge plate allows the over-height upper roof section to be folded down as a unit for shipment.

Requirements for metal hinge plate connectors for wood trusses are found in the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Metal Hinge Plate Connectors for Wood Trusses (AC283). The criterion addresses metal hinge plate connectors that are installed in pairs in the 180 degree position on opposite faces of sheathed truss chord members.

Codes and referenced standards are as follows: the International Code Council's® (ICC®)'s *International Building Code*® (IBC®) and *International Residential Code*® (IRC®), the Truss Plate Institute's ANSI/TPI 1-2002, National Design Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Construction, and the American Iron and Steel Institute's NAS-01, NASPEC 2001, North American Specification for Design of Cold Formed Steel Structural Members, including 2004 Supplement.



MiTek® Hinge Plate



ESR-1397: MiTek Hinge Plate BEH 18

To find out more about this product, view **ESR-1397: MiTek Hinge Plate BEH 18** ([www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf\\_files/ICC-ES/ESR-1397.pdf](http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/ICC-ES/ESR-1397.pdf)), which was issued October 1, 2008. All ICC-ES Evaluation Reports can be accessed and downloaded free of charge at [www.icc-es.org/evaluation\\_reports](http://www.icc-es.org/evaluation_reports) and are readily searchable based on attributes such as product type, manufacturer or report number.

*This article is intended to provide information on a new or innovative building product or system for which an ICC-ES Evaluation Report has recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.*