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für Södra Building Systems
AB*

Versuchsbau – moderne Holzprodukte – im viergeschossigen Wohnungsbau

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SödraSemi



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Södra Building Systems AB

Södra Building Systems AB is a subsidiary within the Södra concern. Södra's basic field of operations includes production of paper pulp and sawmilling. In 2000 the concern had a turnover of about 12 billion Swedish kronor.

Södra Building Systems AB is the result of a long-term commitment to value-added wood products. Södra Building Systems' business strategy includes the development, manufacture and sales of timber-based products and systems for the building industry in Europe.

This includes supplying everything from individual building components to complete structural systems. We have unique Södra products such as SödraSemi and SödraSinus, but also more traditional products such as walls and Flat Packs.

Södra Building Systems also co-operates with Gyproc primarily covering marketing, development and information in Sweden.

The company has its head office in Växjö and sales offices in Malmö and Stockholm. In Växjö there is in addition to sales personnel also a department for technical support. Production is in the company's own plant in Hultsfred and elsewhere.

Background

After almost the whole of the 20th Century under prescriptive regulations, functional regulations were at last introduced in 1994 as a result of comprehensive European work on regulations. Briefly this means that the new code stipulates the function rather than the solution. The old regulations stipulated that load-bearing walls in buildings of more than two storeys should be constructed of incombustible material. For the same wall, the current regulations give the functional requirements that the wall shall fulfil, e.g. that it must resist fire for x minutes. The regulation says nothing about the choice of material or the solution in other respects. It was this change that made it possible to build multi-storey buildings in timber.

The new code

The change in the code opened the way to a completely new market for timber. Since 1994 a number of multi-storey timber-framed blocks of flats have been built in the Nordic countries, and also in other European countries. In North America about 90% of all multi-storey buildings up to four to five floors are in timber. The choice of the timber frame is largely dictated by economic considerations. This is probably also the main reason why 90% of all individual houses are of timber. Multi-storey buildings should have the potential to achieve a similar share of the market in Sweden and in the rest of Europe. Completed projects have shown that it is not only possible but also competitive to build in timber.



Semi-finished products

A major restructuring of the building industry is currently in progress. It now follows a pattern found in other industries – except that in building it has come very late in the day. Building firms now integrate far ahead in the value chain. The aim is to get nearer the end user and more and more become know-how providers and/or specialists. Firms are also growing in size. They leave behind parts of the production phase to those who can better develop and effectivize production. This leads to an increased demand for more finished and worked-up products and systems. Procurement is less and less a matter of building materials and labour – it is increasingly important to buy a finished service with built-in a function. From the point of view of logistics there is an intrinsic value in products which can be produced off-site and be placed direct into their final position in the building.

Customer security

We can today offer the market “branded” sub-systems and pro-

ducts which guarantee technical functions such as fire, sound transmission, stability etc. in all sorts of timber buildings, large and small. This means security for the customer. Through our co-operation with other companies we have also established what we call a Competence Centre for timber building. Technical support, training/information and continued product and system development are amongst the activities to be found here.

This group includes people who have taken part in the realization of timber building projects in different parts of the country. There is a wide and deep level of technical competence, even by international standards.

What is unique here is that the material is sold with a knowledge content. You shouldn't have to be a timber expert to choose timber. It must be simple to choose timber. Our aim is to spread timber building technology to the players in the building industry, large and small.