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Democrat-Herald

Peavy Hall at Oregon State University CLT panels Coming Out

- [BENNETT HALL Corvallis Gazette-Times](#)
- Jun 1, 2018 Updated Jun 1, 2018
 - Some CLT panels used in the project have been identified as defective and are being replaced.
 - OSU officials say testing of structural members continues at the construction site and it's not yet clear how many will have to be replaced.
 - Manufacturing issues with some of the CLT panels used in the Peavy project have delayed construction by an estimated three months
- CORVALLIS — Contractors have begun removing defective wooden panels from the George W. Peavy Forest Science Center, an 80,000-square-foot classroom and laboratory building under construction at Oregon State University.
- The three-story building, the centerpiece of an \$80 million Oregon Forest Science Complex, is meant to be a showcase for cross-laminated timber and other new engineered-wood construction components produced by homegrown forest products companies.

But the reliability of that new technology was called into question after a 4-foot-by-20-foot section of CLT subflooring delaminated on March 14, causing two layers of the massive seven-ply panel to fall.

No one was hurt in the incident, but installation of new CLT panels was temporarily halted and OSU brought in two outside engineering firms to take core samples and perform stress tests.

An investigation traced the cause of the failure to an issue in the manufacturing process used by panel maker DR Johnson of Riddle, which has since corrected the problem.

On Tuesday, workers with general contractor Andersen Construction began using a crane to lift CLT panels out of the building and stack them on the ground at the construction site.

Some of the panels have been identified as defective, either because they were part of the same batch as the panel that failed or for other reasons, OSU Vice President Steve Clark said.

Those panels, which include both floor and wall sections, will be replaced, Clark said, but he added that not all of the panels that are being taken out are defective.

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"Some panels are being removed to allow access to the panels that are being replaced," he explained.

Clark said testing of all CLT panels used in the building is continuing and it wasn't yet clear how many would ultimately require replacement.

Other issues have been discovered during the course of construction and have been addressed, Clark said.

"For example, we had a limited problem with a fastener that was identified within the Peavy Hall project and was corrected," Clark said.

That problem involved two steel plates used to secure glu-lam beams to support members, Clark said. The affected beams were shored up and the connectors were redesigned and will be replaced, he added.

Clark said it's not yet clear how long the process of removing and replacing the defective panels will take.

After the floor panel failed in March, Clark said the issue would push back completion of the project by about three months, to the summer of 2019. He said OSU is shielded from any additional costs related to the delay or the defective panels by its guaranteed-bid construction contract with Andersen.



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A crane lifts a cross-laminated timber panel on Thursday from the George W. Peavy Forest Science Center at Oregon State University.

- Andy Cripe Mid-Valley Media



A worker with Andersen Construction rigs a CLT panel for lifting.

- Andy Cripe Mid-Valley Media



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