



Overcoming Market Barriers to Increase Use of Structural Mass Timber in Healthcare Environment

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Organization: University of Oregon
 Material: CLT (Cross-Laminated Timber)
 Application: Wood Building Systems
 Hybrid Building Systems
 Topic: Market and Adoption
 Keywords: Healthcare
 Hygienic Performance
 Moisture Performance
 Research Status: In Progress
 Notes: Project contact is Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg at the University of Oregon

Summary:

The goal of this project is to accelerate the application of structural mass timber, such as cross-laminated timber (CLT), in outpatient healthcare construction. In particular, this project will address concerns related to hygienic and moisture performance of CLT, as well as exploring other challenges faced in mass timber construction. The project will engage with industry partners representing architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC), healthcare professionals, and policy-makers to advance the state of knowledge and market penetration of CLT in healthcare. Healthcare construction is a large and growing sector; pioneering the use of CLT in this market would significantly increase utilization of small-diameter and lower-quality timber. Ultimately, successful implementation of this project would help achieve USFS regional priorities of supporting ecosystem restoration and wildland fire management, as well as Oregon’s State Forest Action Plan goals of protecting communities at risk of wildfire, maintaining the forestland base, and preserving diversity of upland habitats.