

# The Strand Board

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The Editor

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## 2005 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The SBA will be holding its 2005 annual spring meeting at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, in Banff, Alberta, from April 19 to 21. Planning is well underway, with a one-day workshop as the focus point of the meeting. Several good speakers are lined up, including local motivational speaker Kevin Burns, Patricia Mohr of Scotiabank and Bernard Fuller of RISI, as well as academic members of the SBA who will provide some of their latest research findings.

Meeting notices and registration forms will be sent soon. We have negotiated a great room rate of \$CAN 169.00 per night. For members wishing to make an early booking, the reservation number is 1-800-257-7544.

A special thank you goes to Michael Adams of Huntsman Polyurethanes, who has been actively involved in the planning of the meeting and the mini trade fair being organized by the associate member committee.

For the skiers amongst you, please remember that Banff is located near excellent ski hills, and the Spring season is in full swing in April.

## CODES AND STANDARDS UPDATE

During the second half of 2004, SBA staff attended several technical committee and task group meetings.

At the American Wood Council Subcommittee on Fire meeting last summer, a report was made available to the SBA about a series of Roof Fire Tests conducted in Phoenix in 2000. In a nutshell the report found equivalent fire performance between OSB and plywood roof sheathing. The AWC was also developing educational resource guides on wood products for distribution to the US Fire Service, to give firefighters a better understanding of wood products used in construction. Noteworthy is the adoption in 2005 of the 2003 International Building Code by many US jurisdictions.

Staff also travelled to Vancouver, BC to attend the joint JAS/BEC meetings, where Japanese building code and standards issues, building practices and acceptance of wood products were discussed. Representatives from Japan, the US and Canada participated in the fifteenth meeting of its kind. Indoor air quality, fire safety issues, adoption of international standards and recognition of foreign certification agencies dominated the agenda.

In December staff travelled to Malaysia to participate in the annual ISO TC89 meetings on Wood-Based Panels. Of note was a task group meeting about the proposed new formaldehyde emissions standard, which will become the international reference test method for wood-based

panels. A testing program is currently underway at the Forintek laboratory in Québec to evaluate the method on plywood, OSB, particleboard and MDF samples. A round-robin test is also planned between several Asia - Pacific countries to study the reproducibility of results obtained using this new 1 m<sup>3</sup> test chamber.

In Canada, two CSA standards are worth mentioning, with meetings of the CSA-O86 technical committee on timber design, and the CSA-O325 task group on construction sheathing. A supplement to CSA-O86 will be published in 2005, containing some minor adjustments to OSB design values, as well as other changes including the load combinations to be considered by engineers when designing to the new 2005 National Building Code of Canada. Secondly, a draft of the proposed new version of CSA-O325 was submitted recently to CSA. This draft, as mentioned before in this newsletter, will contain a reference to and adoption of the recently approved US PS 2-04, with certain exceptions only for plywood products and for panel grade marking to be consistent with Canadian practice. A meeting of the parent technical committee on wood-based panels is planned in March, allowing further discussion of this draft.

Finally, as a result of comments received from the SBA and others, a proposed ICC-ES acceptance criteria for oriented structural straw board passed with amendments during a recent public hearing of their evaluation committee comprised of building inspectors and ICC staff. This internal document will serve as the basis for evaluating these new types of structural panels made of straw. The proponent will have to prove equivalency to OSB per the requirements of PS 2-92, as well as a series of additional tests and criteria. The qualified products will initially only be accepted as roof or wall sheathing. Anyone interested in this subject can visit the ICC-ES web site and download the document, which will be posted in early March (visit [www.icc-es.org](http://www.icc-es.org), and search for AC307 under Criteria/Guidelines). Future comments to this document are still welcome and will be considered by the committee at subsequent hearings.

## TRADE SHOWS UPDATE

During the second half of 2004 and to date in 2005, the SBA participated in eleven industry trade shows, either alone or with allied industry groups. These shows are an excellent opportunity to distribute our technical and educational literature to design professionals. The listing of shows attended is as follows: Toronto Wood Solutions Fair, National Remodelers Show in Chicago, Phoenix Wood Solutions Fair, Expo-CIHAC Builder and Construction Show in Mexico City, China Markets Conference and Show in Dalian, JLC Live Construction Show in Portland, Nashville Wood Solutions Fair, Japan Home Show in Tokyo, International Builders Show in Orlando, BAU in Munich and the Northeast Retail Lumber Association Expo in Boston. Total pieces of literature distributed was 8,400.

## RESEARCH UPDATE

Over the past two years Professor Colin Rogers of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics at McGill University in Montreal evaluated the performance of OSB and plywood on steel stud framed shear walls.

Several reports were made available to the SBA, and their abstracts can be obtained upon simple request. These reports are: Light Gauge Steel Frame / Wood Panel Shear Wall Test Data, Development of a Design Methodology of Steel Frame / Wood Panel Shear Walls, and Testing and Performance of Steel Frame / Wood Panel Shear Walls. This information could ultimately serve as the basis for a code change proposal allowing this type of mixed construction, or alternatively could be published in the design manual of the Canadian Sheet Steel Building Institute. More wall tests are planned this summer, as well as other longer term objectives, such as multi-storey shear walls, gravity load effects and shake table tests. Staff met recently with the scientist at McGill with the

purpose of gaining a better understanding of the project and to strengthen our relationship.

As a recently appointed new member of the committee, staff participated in the Natural Resources Canada sponsored Value to Wood program Research Advisory Committee meeting in Vancouver, BC. Several project proposals by Forintek, University of New Brunswick, Université Laval, University of Toronto and University of British Columbia were presented dealing with five key areas of adding value to primary and secondary Canadian wood products manufacturers. A more complete overview of this program will be presented during the SBA annual spring meeting, with emphasis on projects dealing with OSB research.

A February 17 meeting of the research committee for the Concordia University project on Moisture and Mold in Wood-Based Building Envelope Systems, of which the SBA is a partner, was an opportunity for the partners to hear an update of last year's achievements. The industry partners were given a chance to meet the whole research team, as well as to see the installations and test chambers first hand. One outcome of the meeting was to add a component to the mold testing program, whereby test specimens will be tested in more severe humidity conditions. A member of the research team has been invited to Banff to present the whole project in more detail.

**NEW FOREST PRODUCTS SOCIETY  
PUBLICATION**

For our readers interested in reading a practical technology primer, the Forest Products Society recently published "The Swelling and Shrinking of Wood", written by Otto Suchsland of the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University. This book addresses the practical woodworker and technologist, and provides an introduction to some fundamental concepts of wood technology as well as a source of review and reference. This book can be purchased through the FPS web site at [www.foresprod.org/shop](http://www.foresprod.org/shop), with special discounted prices for FPS members and students. For further enquiries about this or other FPS

publications call Susan Stamm at 1-608-231-1361, EXT 202.

**WOOD PANEL BUREAU UPDATE**

The SBA-managed Wood Panel Bureau successfully received an extension to its funding partnership with the Northern Ontario Heritage Funding Corporation to the end of 2005, giving the SBA approximately \$60,000 in funding assistance for the balance of this year. The monies will go towards the production and distribution of OSB press releases, the printing of multi-language manuals, bulletins and brochures, participation in codes and standards committees, and participation at trade shows.

The Ontario government has recently announced changes to the NOHFC program to benefit Ontario companies more directly. Anyone interested in more information on the program can contact the SBA.

As part of the Wood Panel Bureau, the SBA has applied for an additional \$30,000 in funding assistance from the Canada Wood program for projects targeted to developing markets for OSB in Japan, Mexico and Brazil. We are currently awaiting a response.

Finally, the SBA has applied directly to International Trade Canada under the PEMD program for \$55,000 in funding assistance primarily for trade show participation in the US, and to produce literature and electronic media for distribution in the US, Japan, Korea and Mexico.

**SBA COMMENTS ON GREEN  
STANDARDS**

The SBA recently submitted comments to the proposed revisions of the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system for new construction. Although supportive of the concept of "green buildings" the

SBA and our industry partners have been vocal and adamant in our opposition to the existing version 2.1 of LEED. The proposed revisions show an effort on the part of the USGBC to address some of the deficiencies with LEED. Our comments commended the USGBC for proposing the improvements, however we pointed out that further changes are necessary. SBA's comments included the following:

1. A recognition that USGBC's move to consider Life Cycle Analysis is a step in the right direction.
2. The fact that wood products are renewable should be given more consideration. Renewable content should be considered at least on par with recyclable content.
3. Distance and mode of transport bear little relationship to the environmental or energy efficiency and performance of materials.
4. All major forestry certification schemes such as FSC, PEFC, SFI and CSA, should be endorsed by the program.

The SBA is also a member of the North American Coalition on Green Building. The Coalition was created to promote green building concepts and standards that reflect the views and concerns of all stakeholders. The Coalition supports green building, but not the LEED system as currently developed and implemented. The Coalition believes that green building rating standards should be developed through a universally-recognized voluntary consensus process, and should be based on objective, scientific criteria. The Coalition further believes that the LEED rating system is neither consensus-based nor completely scientifically-based. Therefore, the Coalition believes that it should not be used by governments to ensure green buildings. Unfortunately, although probably well-intentioned but nevertheless misinformed, a number of governments have passed resolutions requiring a specific LEED rating on buildings constructed within their jurisdictions. The SBA will continue to work with its industry partners to ensure that the positive environmental attributes of OSB are recognized.

## **BENEFITS OF SBA MEMBERSHIP**

**As a member company some of the benefits you receive are:**

- 1. Expanding and protecting market share for OSB through codes and standards representation**
- 2. Focus on OSB world wide, recognized as the major proponent and defender of the OSB industry**
- 3. Promotion program, with sales generated by trade shows, press releases, design competitions, and osbguide.com web site**
- 4. Strategic partnerships used to leverage membership dues**
- 5. OSB technical literature available in nine languages**
- 6. Access to on-line database on worldwide OSB research activities**
- 7. Continued education and networking opportunities at SBA meetings**
- 8. A technical program with emphasis on environmental concerns and product improvement to generate savings**