

# *The Strand Board*

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## **Oregon State University signs up as Research Member**

Oregon State recently became SBA's latest Research Member. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Frederick Kamke back on board, who after his departure from Virginia Tech joined OSU as JELD –WEN Professor of Wood-Based Composites Science at the Department of Wood Science and Engineering. Apart from teaching Fred Kamke's current research areas of interest are the investigation of adhesive bond morphology using X-ray tomography, developing relationships between process parameters and selected mechanical properties of OSB, dimensional stabilization of wood in relation to composite manufacture, and the feasibility of producing structural laminated composites. For additional information about OSU research activities, contact Fred at [fred.kamke@oregonstate.edu](mailto:fred.kamke@oregonstate.edu) or visit [www.woodscience.oregonstate.edu](http://www.woodscience.oregonstate.edu)

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## **Florida Commission to Review Roof Sheathing Requirement**

As reported by Random Lengths, under the new Florida Building Code, most of the state would require 19/32 in. minimum roof sheathing in place of the existing minimum 7/16 in. requirement. But recent legislative developments may derail this change. However, the new requirement currently already applies in Dade County, Broward County and Palm Beach County.

State Governor Jeb Bush signed a bill directing the Florida Building Commission to take a second look at the code changes, seek additional public input and then consider rewriting the roof sheathing requirements. Rather than specify the actual thickness or type of panel required, the law directs the commission to provide clarification by writing new administrative rules. Rick Dixon, executive director of the commission intends to launch a renewed public input effort which was to begin on June 28 with a commission meeting at which the public input process was to be discussed. A second phase will be a rule development workshop in August. The commission is seeking input from product suppliers in particular on their ability to supply the products that will be needed to comply with the new code. The implementation date for the new code has now been pushed back to October 1.

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### **SBA Publishes New Chinese Manual**

The most recent new publication by the SBA is the Chinese (Mandarin) version of our very popular OSB in Wood Frame Construction Manual. The initial translation was corrected and thoroughly proofread by Meng Gong of the University of New Brunswick's Wood Science and Technology Centre. We are very grateful for Meng's critical review. We will be adding this manual to our Free Literature list our web site, and hopefully distribute some copies in the near future at industry events in China. Anyone interested in a copy of the manual can contact the SBA office.

We are also in the middle of revising and reprinting the US version of the OSB in Wood Frame Construction Manual. Expected publication date is later this month or early August.

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### **Virginia Tech Announces Two Workshops**

The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management offers two short courses in the Fall, one on Forest Products Marketing (Oct 20-21), the second on Selling Forest Products (Dec 1-2). Both courses will be held in Blacksburg, Virginia, and are offered to industry professionals who want to hone their skills. Additional information such as registration forms and course content can be obtained from Joanne Buckner at the Center, at [ctrfpmjo@vt.edu](mailto:ctrfpmjo@vt.edu).

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### **SBA submits comments regarding Ontario wood dust regulation**

As part of a larger Coalition of Wood Products Trade Associations, the SBA recently submitted comments to the Ontario Ministry of Labour regarding their proposed wood dust occupational exposure levels. The coalition efforts were spearheaded by Donald Bisson, Vice President Canadian Regulatory Affairs of the Composite Panel Association. Under the proposal, wood dust limits at the workplace would be substantially reduced from their current levels to very stringent levels proposed by the ACGIH. It is hoped that the coalition efforts will lead to a deferred decision by the Minister and allow for consultation with representatives of the Ministry. We are asking the Minister to wait until such time as the Tulane study results are made available. The Tulane study was underwritten by the US Industry Wood Dust Committee to evaluate the respiratory function of workers in a cross section of the wood and wood products industries and explicitly compare respirable, inhalable, and thoracic dust exposures and corresponding pulmonary function. Other areas of concern are the economic and technical hardships imposed on our industries.

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### **Industry News**

According to a recent Random Lengths survey, retail co-ops and buying groups remained the largest distributors of OSB in North America in 2004, with 32% of all OSB distributed. Producer-owned distribution centers came in second with 26%, followed by independent stocking distributors with 24%. Only 6% of OSB was sold direct to users.

In terms of products by thickness, the mix showed little change since 2002, with 7/16 in. accounting for 49% of total production, followed by 23/32 in. with 19% of the total. Other popular thicknesses were 15/32 in., 3/8 in. and 19/32 in. The survey also asked what percent was specialty panels. Responses varied from 1% to 90% of production, but the majority said they planned to increase specialty output. To receive an online version of the complete survey summary, in PDF format, write to [rlmail@rlpi.com](mailto:rlmail@rlpi.com)

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