

The Strand Board

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OSB World Symposium Update

We recently sent out the invitation letter, preliminary speaker program, and registration forms to members and friends of the SBA. These files will be posted as well on our web site for future reference. (visit <http://www.osbguide.com/events.html>). A final speaker program and additional details for follow in due course. A short questionnaire about the SBA was also included, and we urge you to complete it and return by e-mail.

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NAHB Research Center's New OSB Certification Program

During the recent IBS show in Orlando, the NAHB Research Center announced the launch of a new third-party certification program for OSB producers who have developed, implemented and maintained a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001. The Weyerhaeuser US OSB mills became the first NAHB RC certified OSB mills through this program. According to the NAHB RC press release, the scope of their IAS accreditation was recently expanded to include OSB product testing and inspection. IAS is an independent subsidiary of the International Code Council. Third party inspection and testing is a building code requirement in the US for wood structural panels, including OSB.

A complete copy of the press release can be obtained by contacting the SBA office.

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Value to Wood Research Update

SBA was invited to the Value to Wood Research Advisory Committee Meeting in Vancouver, BC in late January. The purpose of the meeting was to review several research proposals by the stakeholders in this program (Forintek, and four Canadian Universities). The committee members were then asked to prioritize all the proposals, dealing with appearance products, panels, structural wood products, manufactured building components and engineered wood products. Three proposals dealt with OSB in particular, namely Roller coating of OSB with water repellent and fire-retardant coatings, Fastenings to improve performance of furniture frames

built from OSB, and Influence of OSB web stock properties on performance of I-Joists. Since this will be the final year of the program, a limited number of proposals will be funded by Natural Resources Canada. Due to its success, NRCAN is also contemplating an extension of the program beyond the initial five years. We have also obtained reports (in electronic format) from prior research projects undertaken under this program. These reports are available from the various institutions involved in the program. Please contact the SBA office if you are interested in obtaining the complete list of reports.

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2006 Trade Show Participation Summary

This past January staff participated in the International Builders Show in Orlando, Florida and the California Industrial Woodworking Show in Pomona, California. The IBS is the main attraction of the year for the homebuilding industry, and the SBA was a co-exhibitor in the Canadian Wood Council booth. Additional information about these two shows can be obtained from the SBA office.

Dates have already been established for the Vancouver and Edmonton Wood Solutions Fairs, in which the SBA will participate. Dates for the US Wood Solutions Fairs have not been confirmed yet. The SBA has also provided OSB technical literature to the Ontario government for distribution at the recent NW Building Products Expo in Bloomington, MN and the upcoming Mountain States Building Products Expo in Denver, CO.

We are also close to final production of a new SBA information CD which will contain the OSB manufacture video as well as numerous SBA publications, for distribution at future trade shows. The CD will replace the old VHS tapes, which will be discontinued.

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Ontario Proposed Wood Dust Regulation Update

A meeting took place in early January at the Ministry of Labour with several stakeholders and government staff to review the proposed wood dust exposure limit in the workplace. The Composite Panel Association, Ontario Forest Industries Association, Ontario Furniture Manufacturers Association, Structural Board Association and a wood dust expert from the US based NCASI represented industry. At the conclusion of this meeting, it was our firm impression that the Ministry was listening to our position and was willing to reconsider their proposal, provided further data could be supplied by industry. This would have far reaching implications as the proposal to implement a lower limit based on the ACGIH inhalable dust vs. total dust would be technically impossible to achieve. A follow up meeting will be arranged in the near future.

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Miscellaneous Upcoming Events

- The Wood Based Composites Center at Virginia Tech will be holding a short course on Wood Adhesion, March 8th and 9th at Oregon State University. For additional information, visit www.wbc.vt.edu/center.
- The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management at Virginia Tech is organizing a short course on Selling Forest Products on March 9th & 10th, in Blacksburg, VA. For complete program details, visit www.conted.vt.edu/sfp
- The University of Minnesota and Oregon State University are joint organizers of the Conference on Innovation in the Forest Sector in Orlando, Florida from April 2nd to 4th. For program details, visit www.cnr.umn.edu/FPMDI/workshops/conference/orlando.htm

- The Forest Products Center at the University of Tennessee will be holding a training course on Continuous Improvement Using Statistical Process Control from April 26th to 28th. The early bird registration **deadline** is **February 15**. For additional information, visit www.spcforwood.com
- As a result of EPA's finalized changes to the 2004 MACT rules, the American Forest and Paper Association will be organizing two workshops on the Plywood MACT and Boiler MACT, on June 28th-29th in Charleston, SC, and September 25th-26th in Portland, OR. For additional information, contact Glynn Rountree at AF&PA, by phone 202-463-2762 or e-mail, Glynn_Rountree@afandpa.org

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CSA Standard Update

At a recent meeting of the Technical Committee on Wood Based Panels held in Vancouver, BC, the committee agreed on several items, namely: to ballot the withdrawal of CSA O452, Design Rated OSB; to ballot the re-affirmation of CSA O437, OSB and Waferboard; and to ballot the withdrawal of CSA O115, Hardwood Plywood. These actions will be initiated by CSA by way of a letter ballot of the voting members of the committee.

Another item on the agenda was the approval in principle of the new revised draft CSA O325, Construction Sheathing. Unfortunately, one outstanding item will probably enquire further committee attention, as a result of a public comment and a motion to include a mandatory thickness swell test for single layer floors. This motion however did not obtain the necessary majority votes to pass at the meeting. It is unclear at this time if CSA will want to re-open the discussion in order to arrive at a committee consensus. This motion, supported by the plywood industry, would be in conflict with the optional test now part of PS2-04. Our members and the industry don't support it, primarily in the spirit of close harmonization of the two standards in US and Canada, and in light of the fact that thickness swell is a serviceability property that is easily controlled by voluntary testing. We are awaiting the meeting minutes to formulate an appropriate response to CSA.

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