

The Strand Board

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OSB World Symposium Update

Close to ninety participants were present during the third SBA sponsored OSB World Symposium in Miami Beach last month. A special thank you once again to all in attendance, and in particular the speakers, moderators and co-sponsoring companies. The proceedings CD are currently in production and will be mailed out upon request in early to mid July, barring any unforeseen delays. Participants can already reply to this newsletter to order their copy.

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TECO Achieves Japan Recognition

TECO of Sun Prairie, WI, is the first certification agency in North America, and the fifth in the world, to become accredited as a Registered Overseas Certifying Body by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. TECO was officially registered on May 19, becoming the first ROCB recognized to certify both plywood and OSB under the new Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) law that became effective March 1. In March, representatives from MAFF audited TECO's corporate office and Eugene (Oregon) laboratory as part of TECO's ROCB application. TECO's JAS certification effort was led by Scott Drake, Operations Manager, and Steve Verhey, PhD, Quality Manager, with the assistance of TECO's Japanese representatives. The change in the JAS Law was the result of the Japanese Diet requiring a transition to a true international standard—ISO Guide 65—for its certification system. Certification agencies and their JAS-approved manufacturing clients must change to the new system in order to continue to certify and produce products for the Japanese construction market.

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Research Update

SBA staff was invited to the Forintek Technical Advisory Committee meetings and the Value to Wood Research Advisory Committee Meeting in Quebec City in mid June. In the area of Wood Composites, completed research worth noting were projects on ways to reduce stander knife wear leading to potential product improvements and

cost reductions; and a new project on the use of urea to control formaldehyde and VOC emissions from OSB mills. A new Value to Wood project is also looking at possible OSB solutions against decay and mold with the use of field applied coatings.

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Trade Show Participation Summary

This past Quarter, staff participated in the Vancouver and Edmonton Canadian Wood Solutions Fairs, as well as the AIA Convention and Exhibition in Los Angeles, in space put aside in the CWC booth. During the summer months SBA will exhibit for the first time at the International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, Georgia, under the Association Incentive Program. For additional information about the IWF, and how to register, please visit their website www.iwf2006.com

Besides the customary printed material such as manuals, brochures and technical bulletins, we are now also distributing a new SBA information CD containing both the OSB manufacture video as well as numerous SBA publications, in several languages. The CD will be used primarily to fill in on-line reader enquiries to the four corners of the globe.

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Staff Participates in Various Committee Meetings and Events

During the last quarter, staff participated in the following industry meetings

- EPF (European Panel Federation) annual meeting in Helsinki, Finland, where we made a presentation entitled "American OSB Markets, Issues and New Products." A newsworthy item coming from Europe is the fact that VOC emissions from wood products have become a big issue in Germany threatening the use of wood in interior applications. In addition, the promotion of the use of wood by various governments as a biomass energy source is threatening the wood supply to the wood-based panel industry.
- TECO Industry Advisory Committee Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. We toured the Forest Products Lab, where we witnessed a tornado projectile wall penetration test in wood-frame construction. These tests will lead to a better understanding of wall construction in tornado-prone areas, and eventually propose acceptable solutions.
- CWC (Canadian Wood Council) annual general meeting in Kelowna, BC. With respect to the CWC Board meeting, it can be mentioned that membership issues were hotly debated. In the end, the CWC membership turned down the blatantly unfair proposal that would have given APA- the Engineered Wood Association member benefits at a fraction of the fee paid by all other members.
- CSA (Canadian Standard Association) Annual Conference in Deerhurst, ON. Staff also participated in the Standard Steering Committee on Forest Products, which met in conjunction with the AGM. CSA is proposing to combine several steering committees in the build environment to streamline their standards development process. However the decision has been postponed until the Steering committee has had more time to consider the options put on the table. A follow up meeting is scheduled for early September.

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Miscellaneous Upcoming Events

- 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.
- Staff will participate in mid July in the American Wood Council technical committee meetings in Leesburg, Virginia, with emphasis on structural and fire issues as well as recent code developments relative to wood and wood-based products.
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute will be organizing their annual Wood Products Marketing Workshop, on October 25th - 26th, in Blacksburg, VA. For additional information, contact Bob Smith, at 540-231-7107, or visit their web page www.conted.vt.edu/forestpm

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CSA Standards Update

In April CSA announced the re-affirmation of CSA O437, OSB and Waferboard for a five-year period; and the withdrawal of CSA O452, Design-Rated OSB, for lack of use. Furthermore, progress is still being made with the revised draft CSA O325, Construction Sheathing. Fortunately, after two failed motions that kept the committee in a deadlock regarding the reinstatement of a mandatory requirement for thickness swell for Single Floor products, a task group is trying to develop a middle ground “Canadian” solution acceptable to the whole committee. A committee meeting required to move the draft to ballot is scheduled during the summer months.

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