

NEWS RELEASE

February 20, 2002

## **Structural Board Association and TECO Launch Cooperative Agreement**

Members of the Toronto-based Structural Board Association (SBA) and the Madison, Wisconsin-based TECO Corporation have entered into a Cooperative Agreement that will result in an increase in member benefits currently provided by the SBA.

The SBA represents manufacturers of oriented strand board (OSB), a wood structural panel that is used in more than three-quarters of all new home construction in North America. TECO is an independent third party testing and certification agency for structural and non-structural panels, including oriented strand board used in residential and commercial construction.

"It's a perfect fit for us to team up with an organization certifying our members' products" says SBA President Mark Angelini. "The Cooperation Agreement is a win-win-win situation, with the biggest beneficiaries being our members." Ron Musolino, TECO Vice President of Sales and Marketing, added "The Agreement will enable us to work more closely with the SBA in support of our clients' needs and provide them some economies as well." SBA members receive special discounts for oriented strand board that is certified by TECO.

As part of SBA's expanded services, members will have access to market research information including statistics and trend data on key industry segments such as forestry, manufacturing, housing and construction. In addition, members have access to OSB technical research while providing input into future research projects. The SBA has a worldwide OSB research database that allows members to access the latest research on wood composites and contact the research team.

The Cooperative Agreement also provides benefits through SBA's membership with numerous industry organizations, including the American Forest and Paper Association, European Panel Federation and the Canadian Wood Council. Cooperation members are also represented on technical committees held by the American Society for Testing and Materials, American Wood Council, International Standards Association and the Canadian Standards Association.

Other benefits include field services where field staff promote OSB through visits and presentations to the design, building and construction community, as well as to building products distributors. Field staff will also assist members by participating in product complaint investigations, reporting on the findings and recommending resolution.

Members will also have their products and services promoted at North American and international trade shows where the SBA and TECO exhibit.

"We estimate that the potential benefits in increased opportunities and cost savings for SBA members will range from the tens to the hundreds of thousands of dollars," says Angelini.

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**For additional information about SBA or the TECO Cooperative Agreement, contact the Structural Board Association at (416) 730-9090, fax (416) 730-9013 or e-mail [info@osbguide.com](mailto:info@osbguide.com). The SBA Web site ([www.osbguide.com](http://www.osbguide.com)) is another excellent resource.**