

The Strand Board

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News for the OSB Industry - Published by the Structural Board Association.

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OSB World Symposium III Dates and Venue confirmed

We are pleased to confirm that our OSB World Symposium III will be held from May 15 to 18, 2006 at the Wyndham Miami Beach Hotel and Resort, in Miami Beach, Florida, USA. A very competitive single or double room rate of US\$ 132.00 has been negotiated for the event, including the waiving of their daily Resort Fee. The event will get underway on the evening of May 15 with registration and a reception hosted by the SBA, followed by the Symposium on May 16 and 17, and the AGM and Board of Directors meeting on the morning of May 18. For additional information about the hotel, visit www.wyndham.com/hotels/MIAMB/main.wnt. Delegates who are interested in participating may want to join the Wyndham ByRequest Program ahead of time. This program offers benefits such as free local calls, free 800 calls and internet access, free domestic (U.S.) long distance calls and faxes, free upgrades upon availability, late check outs (up to 2 pm), complimentary welcome snack and beverage, free daily newspaper, and many more.

A second call for papers will be issued shortly to a wider audience in order to attract topnotch speakers. Some speakers have already been confirmed. More details will follow when they become available.

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SBA Comments on US Green Building Council's Draft LEED Standard

During a second round of public review, the SBA submitted comments to some of the revised criteria of the draft LEED-NC Green Building Rating System for New Construction and Major Renovations (Version 2.2). Five criteria deserved the wood products industries' attention, as they continue to show a bias against wood products in the rating system. Comments developed by staff at the AF&PA were used as a template, as they clearly described the areas of concern and why we were objecting to the criteria as currently spelled out. These criteria were: Recycled Content; Regional Materials; Rapidly Renewable Materials; Certified Wood; and Low Emitting

Composite Wood Products. General comments were also submitted expressing concern with the proposed standard and voting procedure.

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SBA Updates Members Only Web Pages

The Members Only web pages on our osbguide.com web site have recently been revised with updated research and contact information from some of our research members. We have also posted the proceedings (speakers slides, participants list and some event pictures) from our Banff Spring meeting in the Resources page. Members are encouraged to visit those pages. Associate and Research Members lists and information have also been updated to reflect recent changes. If you currently don't have a login script please contact the SBA office to get your members password.

On a separate note, an article in the July issue of Wood Based Panels International magazine reported on our Banff Spring meeting, entitled "Food for thought for members".

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Forest Products Society Announces Wood Adhesives 2005 Symposium

The Wood Adhesives Symposium is designed to provide a comprehensive update of the science and technology of wood adhesives and bonded wood products. The symposium is organized by the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in cooperation with the Forest Products Society, Adhesion Society, International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, Japan Wood Research Society, Adhesive and Sealant Council, and Adhesives and Sealants Industry Magazine. It will be held November 2 to 4, in San Diego, California. For additional information, visit the FPS online, at www.forestprod.org/confadhesives05.html

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SBA Submits Rebuttal to The Oregonian Newspaper Regarding Building Defects

SBA wrote a letter to the Editor of The Oregonian (which was published on July 19) regarding an earlier article they wrote about how building defects spoil homeowners dreams and how new building materials might contribute to the failures experienced in new homes. OSB was targeted as being possibly part of the problems homeowners face. Anyone interested in reading the article and our rebuttal can contact the SBA.

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Industry News

As per a USDA/FS July 19 report by Al Schuler, *"The housing market is expected to remain strong through the rest of this year, improving slightly on last years 1.956 million units, reaching almost 2 million starts. But modest inflation and dollar problems will push mortgage rates upward through 2006 and this means the housing market will pull back in 2006. Single family will slow the most due to affordability problems with entry-level buyers. Higher mortgage rates will shift some prospective single-family buyers to the rental market."*

As per a recent story in Random Lengths' WoodWire, *"North American panel output rises in 2005 - Production of structural panels in the U.S. and Canada totaled 21.66 billion square feet (3/8-inch basis) through the first half of this year, up 2.0% compared to the same period last year, according to APA -- The Engineered Wood Association. Canada produced 6.97 billion feet of OSB and plywood through the first half of 2005, while the U.S. produced 14.69 billion feet."*

Random Lengths also reported that *"Wood panels gain wall sheathing market - Structural wood panels' share of the wall sheathing construction market rose to 69% in 2004, up from 67% a year earlier, according to data compiled for APA -- The Engineered Wood Association by the National Association of Home Builders Research Center. Market share has grown from 51% 10 years ago. "Builders recognize the value of structural wood panels and more are switching every day," said APA Vice President Dennis Hardman."*

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