

The Strand Board

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OSB World Symposium Update

Planning of next year's OSB World Symposium III in Miami Beach is now well underway, with less than 180 days left to D-Day. Several confirmed speakers and potential speakers were added to the roster, and we are continuing to contact other potential speakers. As well, with the invaluable assistance of Michael Adams of Huntsman, who canvassed our associate members for support, we were able to garner several co-sponsorships for the event. As a result, a new, revised advertisement was produced for publication in an upcoming edition of the Forest Product Journal and Specialty Wood Journal. See the attached for a quick pre-publication peek. Valspar Corporation joined us as co-sponsor as well, unfortunately due to tight printing deadlines we were not able to add their company logo to the advertisement. We apologize to Valspar for this inconvenience.

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International Codes Council Rejects Costly Energy Code Change Proposal

As a result of a well-organized lobbying effort by the National Association of Home Builders and other industry groups, the ICC rejected a proposal to the International Energy Conservation Code that would have mandated higher insulation requirements for walls in houses and small buildings. According to the NAHB the new requirements would have provided little savings to consumers in reduced energy costs, changed established construction practices and unfairly benefited the fiberglass insulation industry. It had been estimated that the proposed increased insulation requirements would have cost consumers from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per new home constructed for an average annual energy cost savings of only \$15. The SBA was in support of the status quo.

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ISO and CSA Committee Meetings Update

In October, staff traveled to Hamburg, Germany to participate in the annual ISO TC 89, Technical Committee on Wood Based Panels meeting. Canada and the US are participating countries on this committee, with delegates

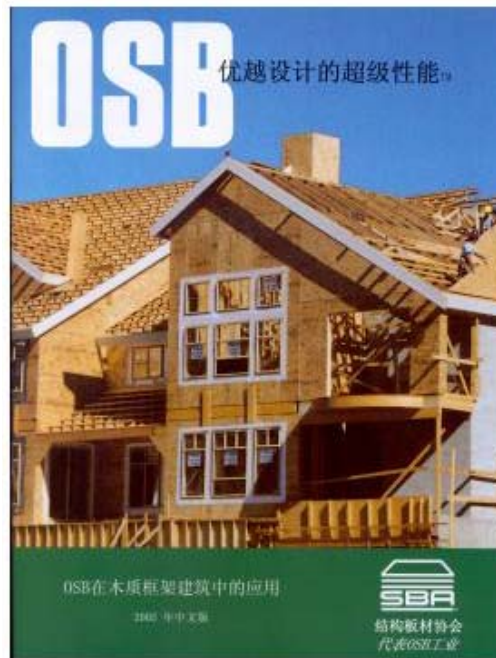
from 15 other countries attending as well. Progress on several proposed ISO standards was made during the three day meetings, namely on formaldehyde emissions testing; particleboard and fibreboard classifications and specifications; screw holding capacity; a draft OSB specifications standard. A new wet bending test method was adopted as ISO 20585. The meeting was also the occasion to bid farewell to the outgoing chairman Prof. Detlef Noack of Germany, who was stepping down after more than 40 years involvement in ISO activities. Delegates enjoyed a mill tour of the Swiss Krono Group OSB mill near Hamburg, where the company presented a new house building technique consisting of load bearing walls, roofs, and floors made up of a patented laminated OSB system.

Recently staff also participated in the CSA O86 Technical Committee on Engineering Design in Wood in Vancouver, BC. It was the fiftieth meeting of the committee, which was celebrated by CSA and the close to 40 committee members in attendance. Amongst the topics of discussion was the fate of the CSA O452 Design Rated OSB standard, which is up for reaffirmation or withdrawal. A letter to that effect was sent by SBA to all Canadian OSB producers to get their feedback on the appropriate plan of action. This particular item will be discussed further during the next meeting of the CSA TC on Wood Based Panels in January 2006.

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SBA Publication Wins Award

SBA's recently published Chinese manual for OSB in Wood Frame Construction (2005) won the 2005 Best of Category award (in the "Booklet" Category) in a national competition organized by Kwik Kopy Design and Print Centres across Canada. The award was presented to Gregg Embrey and staff of Valleywood Kwik Kopy Print and Design Centre. Gregg and Lorna have been helping the SBA with our printing needs for the past two years. Copies of this and other SBA manuals are available for distribution upon request.



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Trade Show Participation Update

Staff participated in two trade shows in the past two months: In mid October staff travelled to Mexico City to participate in Expo-Cihac, the largest housing and construction show in Latin America. Over 2,000 pieces of Spanish language literature were distributed primarily to construction professionals, students and public servants during the five-day show, attended by over 65,000 guests. This activity was funded for the most part by the Canada Wood export development program and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

More recently, the SBA exhibited at the Ottawa Wood Solutions Fair, organized by the Canadian Wood Council, where over 500 design professionals participated in the one day event consisting of technical seminars and wood products and services exhibits.

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SBA Participates in CJHC Meetings in Japan

SBA participated in the recent annual bipartite Canada/Japan Housing Committee meetings in Japan. The stated objective of these meetings is to exchange information about housing related issues between the two countries. The SBA objective was also to maintain the long-standing excellent relations with Japanese building regulatory officials to promote the use of OSB. Meetings were held in Tokyo, from November 14 to 16. Topics presented that may be of interest to members include: Japanese housing policy reform, trends in Japan's housing market; Japanese housing quality assurance; a damage report from the mid-Niigata Prefecture earthquake; tall wood-frame walls; post and beam fire issues; sound insulation in wood-frame (2x4) multi-unit residential buildings; Japanese forests; and Japanese housing warranty system. A trip report has been attached for your perusal. Hard copies of the full presentations are also available on request from the SBA office. This activity was also funded for the most part by the Canada Wood export development program and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

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Proposed BC Formaldehyde Regulation Update

In our last newsletter we informed you that the Province of British Columbia was proposing a very stringent workplace exposure limit for formaldehyde based on the recommended ACGIH ceiling limit of 0.3 ppm. The SBA has sent a letter to WorkSafe BC (a.k.a. The Workman's Compensation Board) in opposition to this new regulation. Other industry associations, under the leadership of the Composite Panel Association have also submitted letters of concern. Separate comments were submitted by the US based Formaldehyde Council about the health risks associated with workplace exposure to formaldehyde. The file is now in the hands of the executives of the WorkSafe BC, who have indicated they willingness to engage in a dialogue with industry, and possibly the labour unions on this issue. Further meetings are planned in the New Year.

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