

# *The Strand Board*

*Aug 2006 - Issue 36*

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

[OSB World Symposium Proceedings](#)

[Membership Update](#)

[CSA Standards Update](#)

[Regulatory Update](#)

[Staff participates in American Wood Council Technical Meetings](#)

[Miscellaneous Upcoming Events](#)

[SBA Publications Update](#)

## **OSB World Symposium Proceedings**

The symposium proceedings CD's were distributed in early July, however participants who did not yet request their free copy can still get in contact with the SBA office. Additionally, for those readers who didn't participate in the Symposium a copy of the CD can be purchased at a nominal cost of \$ 200.00 each, including shipping and handling. Please call the SBA for further details.

[Return to Top](#)

## **Membership Update**

At its meeting in Miami Beach the Board of Directors reviewed and subsequently approved an application for Membership from Laminating Technologies, Inc., of Tarboro, North Carolina. Herbert Day will be the primary contact person. LTI offers consulting services to the low pressure and high pressure laminate industries, with expanded service to the OSB industry. Welcome on board, Herb.

[Return to Top](#)

## **CSA Standards Update**

In July CSA announced the re-affirmation of CSA O86, Engineering Design in Wood for a five-year period. The members of the Technical Committee have been asked to submit comments to a Technical Poll for the next edition of CSA O86, due in 2008. Part of the poll is the deletion of clauses and tables dealing with CSA O452, Design Rated OSB, which was recently withdrawn as a CSA standard due to its lack of use.

Furthermore, no new progress was made since our last newsletter with regards to the revised draft CSA O325, Construction Sheathing. The only outstanding technical issue about a performance requirement for thickness swell for Single Floor products has stalled the work of the committee. SBA and the Canadian OSB industry are not in support of this mandatory requirement.

[Return to Top](#)

## Regulatory Update

- The Province of Ontario has introduced a new 2006 Ontario Building Code, based entirely on the reformatted model National Building Code of Canada. This code is written in objective-based format to provide innovation and flexibility in design and construction, while at the same time containing the proven “prescriptive” requirements known as “acceptable solutions” that serve as benchmarks for evaluation. Many changes were made from the previous edition of the code, including: significant increases in the energy efficiency requirements for buildings; increased accessibility requirements; updating and simplifying the requirements for small buildings and houses; and more flexible design and construction of small care homes. To allow for a smooth transition, the code will come into force on Dec 31, 2006.
- In the area of wood dust, and again in Ontario, the Minister of Labour has proposed much lower worker exposure levels and a new method of measurement based on inhalable dust. A coalition composed of several wood products associations has met with the Ministry on two occasions and is proposing a more economically and technically acceptable and legally enforceable standard based on total dust, but with lower than existing levels, similar to those in effect in British Columbia.

[Return to Top](#)

## Staff Participates in American Wood Council Technical Meetings

In mid-July, staff traveled to Leesburg, Virginia to participate in the technical committee meetings of the American Wood Council. Some newsworthy codes and standards developments were reviewed as follows:

- In the area of building codes, the 2006 international codes have been released earlier this year, although in many instances earlier versions (2003 and even 2000) are still the referenced, legal documents. Work has already started for the 2009 editions, with hearings scheduled in September in Orlando, Florida.
- The AWC is developing a consensus standard on Preserved Wood Foundations.
- AWC signed an agreement to have their Guides to Wood Construction in High Wind Areas distributed by the International Codes Council. The first of these guides, based on the code approved Wood Frame Construction Manual, will soon be available for the Gulf Coast and Louisiana, areas that were heavily affected by hurricanes last year. Other guides will follow for other high wind areas. Upon completion the guides will be posted on AWC’s web site [www.awc.org](http://www.awc.org).
- On the Fire Protection side, AWC published firefighter awareness guides about the use of wood and wood products in construction and has hired a well respected fire chief to be the wood industry’s liaison to the US fire service. AWC is also working together with the Wood Promotion Council to counter a masonry alliance campaign promoting the superior fire performance of brick and block buildings. Several fire research projects were also reviewed including the interchangeability of fingerjointed lumber studs with solid sawn studs, adhesive qualification for I-Joists and a Canadian project on fire performance of housing.

[Return to Top](#)

## Miscellaneous Upcoming Events

- International Woodworking Machinery and Furniture Supply Fair, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> , World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Come visit us in Booth B434 located between Hall A and the entrance to Hall B.
- The American Forest and Paper Association will be organizing a workshop on the Plywood MACT and Boiler MACT, on September 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> in Portland, OR. SBA members qualify for the discounted

registration fees. For additional information, contact Glynn Rountree at AF&PA, by phone 202-463-2762 or e-mail, [Glynn\\_Rountree@afandpa](mailto:Glynn_Rountree@afandpa).

- Virginia Polytechnic Institute will be organizing their annual Wood Products Marketing Workshop, on October 25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>, in Blacksburg, VA. For additional information, contact Bob Smith, at 540-231-7107, or visit their web page [www.conted.vt.edu/forestpm](http://www.conted.vt.edu/forestpm)

[Return to Top](#)

## **SBA Publications Update**

Two foreign language editions of the ever popular manual of OSB in Wood Frame Construction, namely Spanish and Korean, were thoroughly revised and updated and subsequently uploaded onto the SBA web site for our international visitors. These manuals can now be downloaded in electronic format from their respective language web page.

We are also in the process of updating several technical bulletins with new information. The web site pages where these can be downloaded will also be made more user friendly with access to more downloadable publications in PDF format. This will optimize the process of supplying our reader enquiries for publications by eliminating in most cases the need to mail these publications out to the readers.

[Return to Top](#)