

The Strand Board

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Trade Show Update

In October the SBA participated in two Wood Solutions Fairs, the first in Chicago, the second in Toronto. Over 1,200 pieces of literature, CD's and videos were distributed to engineers, students, contractors or architects, who view these shows as excellent venues for their continued education.

With the help from our friends at COMACO, the SBA also distributed around 2,000 pieces of literature during Expo-CIHAC, a large annual construction show in Mexico City, held from October 17th to 21st. In addition, COMACO staff gratefully accepted to distribute more of our literature at a workshop they organized locally for engineers, as well as at a smaller trade show in Veracruz, Mexico.

More recently, staff participated in the Japan Home and Building Show held in Tokyo from Nov 15th to 18th. Close to 1,300 pieces of literature were distributed. This show was once again an opportunity to showcase Canadian wood products and OSB in the Canada Wood pavilion, which amongst other visitors got the moral support from the Premier of the province of BC during his trip to Japan.

This month we are participating in the Miami Wood Solutions Fair, and have registered for Bau, a bi-annual construction show to be held in Munich, Germany in January 2007. Once again, we would like to thank our government sponsors for their financial support of these activities.

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CSA Standards Update

- On November 17th and 18th, staff participated in the CSA Technical Committee on Engineering Design in Wood meetings, held in Montreal, QC. The committee was reviewing several code change proposals, including one proposed by the SBA to harmonize some of the Canadian OSB design values with those published in the US. A new edition of this standard, CSA O86 will likely be published in 2009. Noteworthy during the deliberations was an urgent need to fix a potential shortcoming in the 2005 National Building Code of Canada requiring wood diaphragms to be designed according to a method called capacity design used for concrete diaphragms. It is well known that wood diaphragms can dissipate more energy before failing, and the current language would require a substantial increase in the design loads for wood based

diaphragms. The committee will make a recommendation to the National Codes Centre and to all the provinces that are currently in the process of adopting the new code.

- SBA staff has also maintained its on-going involvement in the drafting of the new CSA O325 standard for Construction Sheathing. As a result of industry consultations, we are currently favouring a middle ground solution regarding the thickness swell issue that has kept the committee divided for nearly a year. Although not the optimum solution, we have proposed together with other committee members, including APA a small specimen thickness swell test based on the old CSA O437 standard, namely a method that can be readily adopted by the mill for quality control purposes. Although this alternative is not in the current draft, but rather the cumbersome and untried 14-day one-sided wetting test of full size panels, we will have an opportunity to submit our position at time of balloting. Hopefully this will at last result in a new standard that has been in the making for over three years.

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Environment Canada Posts Notice of Intent to Regulate Air Emissions

- On October 21, the Canadian Federal Government posted in the Canada Gazette its intention to develop and implement regulations and other measures to reduce air emissions, in a new proposed Canada's Clean Air Act. The government intends to propose emission reduction regulations from the key industrial sectors, including forest products. According to the notice, all the key industrial sectors contribute about half of Canada's air pollutants and GHG emissions. The government also claims that Canada is lagging behind OECD countries, including the U.S., in its efforts to reduce air emissions to fight global warming.
- The Ministers of Health and of the Environment will lead detailed consultations with all stakeholders beginning in the Fall of 2006. Such a meeting took place in mid-November in Vancouver for the Wood Products Industry. The outcome of this meeting will be reported in a subsequent newsletter.
- For further information, a discussion paper entitled "Improving the health of Canadians and their environment through an integrated, nationally consistent approach to reducing industrial air emissions" is available from the SBA office.
- These regulations will only become law once they are approved by Parliament. At time of writing we were aware neither of an implementation timeframe, nor of the likelihood of approval of this new, contested bill.

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SBA Joins Healthy Indoor Partnership

The SBA recently joined the Healthy Indoor Partnership as an individual, professional member. The Healthy Indoors Partnership (HIP) is a not-for-profit organization that catalyzes action on Canadian indoor environmental issues through multi-stakeholder collaboration (see <http://www.healthyindoors.com>). Throughout the year they offer on-line workshops, or *webinars*, as one of the member benefits. The most recent one dealt with an overview of the new Health Canada residential exposure guideline for formaldehyde (for further information, see http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/air/formaldehyde_e.pdf).

In the New Year, HIP will be organizing a round table on low emission building products, which they hope will result in a technical guide with recommendations about various building products. SBA has been invited to participate in this round table.

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Miscellaneous Meetings & Events

- In early October, SBA participated in the Japanese Building Experts Committee and Japanese Agricultural Standards Technical Committee (BEC/JASTC) in Nagoya, Japan. The only newsworthy items to report relative to OSB are that the JAS Structural Panel Standard is currently being reviewed, and that it was discovered that Certiwood (formerly known as the Canadian Plywood Association), using a Canada Wood office representative in Japan, filed comments with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) asking that thickness swell standards for OSB not be relaxed in that standard. The SBA has registered a complaint with the Canada Wood office and Canadian government representatives concerning this inappropriate use of Canadian tax dollars to attack the OSB industry's interests in Japan.
- The University of Tennessee will be conducting the “Advanced Statistical Seminars for Wood Composite Manufacture” on December 5th- 8th, 2006 in Knoxville, TN. For additional information, contact Tim Young at 865-946-1119 (e-mail tmyoung1@utk.edu) or visit their web page www.spcforwood.com.
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute will be holding their short course on “Wood Adhesion Problem Solving: The Urea Formaldehyde Dimension” in Blacksburg, VA from December 6th – 7th. For program details, visit their web site, www.wbc.vt.edu
- Starting this fall, students in the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech have the option to minor in packaging science. The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products is offering this minor to students who are interested in the development and production of packaging materials. Students will develop a dynamic understanding of engineering, technology, design, business, and the environment as it relates to packaging and promotion of products. To learn more about the undergraduate packaging science program or the Center for Unit Load Design, contact Bonnie Maccubbin at (540) 231-5370 or bjmac@vt.edu. More information can also be found at www.unitload.vt.edu.
- Louisiana State University announces a position vacancy for a Value-Added Wood Products Extension Associate in their LSU Agricultural Center. For details about this vacancy, contact Dr. Richard Vlosky, Search Committee Chair at rvlosky@agcenter.lsu.edu or visit their web site, www.rnr.lsu.edu/lfpdc

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SBA Literature Update

During the past two months, staff has been coordinating the reprint of several SBA technical and educational brochures, namely

- TM425G, German OSB in Wood Frame Construction manual
- TM428S, Spanish OSB in Wood Frame Construction manual
- EL803, Manufactured Housing brochure
- EL803G, German Manufactured Housing brochure
- EL804S, Spanish Industrial Construction brochure
- TB118J, Japanese OSB and the Environment technical bulletin

These projects will all be completed by year-end, at which time we will also upload the newer electronic versions of this literature onto our web site. Some of these brochures are distributed at the international trade shows reported above in Mexico, Japan or Germany.

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