

# The Strand Board

Nov 2007 - Issue 42

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

[2008 OSB World Symposium and Exhibition IV](#)

[Trade Show and Publications Update](#)

[Regulations Update](#)

[Miscellaneous Meetings & Events](#)

## **2008 OSB World Symposium and Exhibition IV and SBA AGM, April 28 – May 1, 2008**

Planning is progressing well for our Symposium next spring. We have already secured co-sponsorship of the event from BASF, Huntsman and TECO, and are actively pursuing other potential co-sponsors. We also have attracted several great speakers, and are following more potential speakers through personal contacts and ads in the Forest Products Journal and Specialty Wood Journal. You are more than welcome to submit a presentation abstract by visiting our web site, at [www.osbguide.com/events.html](http://www.osbguide.com/events.html).

As reported earlier, we have booked the Marriott Rivercenter hotel, and on the social side, we have made arrangements for two great off site dinners in very nice downtown San Antonio restaurants. Hotel reservations can be made for the SBA group rate of \$US 189.00 per night by calling 1-800-648-4462.

[Return to Top](#)

## **Trade Show and Publications Update**

- Staff participated in four shows in the last three months, the Canadian Wood Solutions Fairs in Montreal and Toronto, Expo-CIHAC in Mexico City and the Japan Home and Building Show in Tokyo. The two Canadian fairs are one-day regional shows with wood only exhibits aimed primarily at design professionals and met our expectations. The show in Mexico City is a national five-day show for the building industry attracting over 60,000 visitors. Interest in OSB is on the rise in Mexico, as attested by the high numbers of SBA literature distributed. The Japan Home Show with around 90,000 visitors continues to be a good draw for the SBA in a more established market. Overall around 5,000 pieces of literature were distributed at these four shows.
- This marks the end of the trade show season for the current year. However we are already planning some shows early in the new year, primarily in the US, in Orlando and Long Beach. Other shows in Canada and overseas are under consideration.
- A new compendium of publications CD is now available, replacing the first version produced in 2006. This CD is part of the material being distributed at the trade shows we participate in, and is offered as an alternative to the printed material or the downloadable PDF files on our web site.
- Staff is currently working on a Russian OSB manual. Project completion will likely be sometime in the new year.

[Return to Top](#)

## Regulations Update

- Environment Canada is still negotiating its clean air initiative with input from the Wood Products Industry Air Coalition. However since our last communiqué, we have learned that the federal government has softened its position vis-à-vis our industry regarding their proposed regulations. At time of writing we have been informed through reliable sources that regulating VOC emissions from various wood products facilities is now completely off the table. Only particulate matter from combustion sources, such as burners or boilers, would be regulated. This would not include dryer emissions. Environment Canada will conduct an industry survey next summer, partly funded by the Forest Products Association of Canada, to collect emissions data. Once this survey has been analyzed, regulatory negotiations will take place.
- The much talked about US EPA National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Plywood and Composite Wood Panels (aka the Plywood MACT) is now in effect. The October 1, 2007 deadline for full implementation was reached and mills now have to comply with the modified rule. As reported earlier, a D.C. Circuit Court overturned several aspects of the MACT rule, setting back years of hard work between AP&PA and EPA to develop balanced rules under the Clean Air Act. In particular, this means that mills were put in the untenable position of having to comply with the press and dryer limits one year ahead of the previously established deadline. However, AF&PA persuaded EPA to issue guidance encouraging states to grant one-year compliance extensions, and most states have responded favorably. AF&PA is continuing its efforts to explore with EPA various administrative options to restore portions of the original rule and to lessen the impact of the next round of regulations.
- Staff submitted a couple of code change proposals to the International Codes Congress, regarding the references in the International Residential Code to the Canadian standards on OSB, namely CSA O325 and O437. The clauses are those dealing with wall sheathing, roof sheathing and floor sheathing materials, as well as a separate clause dealing with approved fire-stopping material. The ICC will review these proposals at their next hearings in early 2008.

[Return to Top](#)

## Miscellaneous Meetings & Events

- From time to time we receive the PowerPoint slides of presentations made at various meetings and to university students by Al Schuler, economist at the USDA Forest Service. For a limited time only, Al has posted these presentations on an FTP web site for anyone wishing to review them. These presentations, in particular the VPI-Phil-Araman and VT-Bob-Smith hyperlinks, contain interesting statistics and economic data about globalization, the wood industry and the structural panel and engineered wood products markets. For those interested in viewing these slides, please go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/princeton/tmp/>. Thank you, Al for agreeing to share this information with us.
- **The Forest Products Society announces the publications of a new book.** Pressure-treated wood poles and wood cross arms form the backbone of the electrical and telecommunications system that delivers electricity, phone, cable, and Internet to our homes and workplaces. After the devastating effects of the recent hurricane seasons, utility poles have come under close scrutiny. The papers in these proceedings are from the 2007 Southeastern Utility Pole Conference. Session topics included:
  - Catastrophic Events: Are We Ready?

- Use It or Lose It: Proper Use of Pole Materials, and
- Supplementing the System: Getting the Most Out of What You Have.

Papers from the main sessions and abstracts from the technical forum are included. *8-1/2 by 11 soft cover, 240 pages, \$40 for FPS Members, \$50 nonmembers (plus delivery charge).* **You can purchase these proceedings online at [www.forestprod.org/mycart](http://www.forestprod.org/mycart) or phone 608-231-1361, ext. 202.**

- Staff participated in several CSA Standards committee meetings, namely the Standards Steering Committee on Forest Products, the Technical Committee on Wood Based Panels and the Technical Committee on Engineering Design in Wood. The technical committee on Wood Based Panels made a resolution to update part 2 of CSA O437 on the Evaluation of Binders in OSB and Waferboard. This is necessary due to some shortcomings in the current version. Although not used much by the industry, CSA O437.2 is still a reference code document used by the Canadian Construction Materials Centre for the evaluation of new binders and adhesives. A task group, headed by the SBA will soon start its review work. **However volunteers are still needed to sit on this task group, in particular representatives from the chemical companies. Please contact us if you are interested in this standard review work.**
- Staff participated in a one day steering committee meeting in London, Ontario at the University of Western Ontario, to review the work plan of a new two year research project on the development of advanced design procedures for the Canadian wood design standard. The primary objective is to develop systems design factors, through testing and modeling, due to wind loads. Partners in this project are the University of New Brunswick, University of British Columbia and University of Western Ontario. The team had an opportunity to visit UWO's state of the art research facility for wind load testing on structures, as well as their moisture and mold in walls test hut.
- In September, staff participated in two separate committee meetings dealing with codes and standards and market access issues in Japan, namely the tripartite Japan/USA/Canada BEC and JAS meetings in Quebec City. On the JAS front, a revision of the Structural Panel standard will be complete by next year. No major modifications are being proposed. On the BEC front, of note was a joint US/ Japan project on the seismic performance of a six-storey wood frame building, on large twin shake tables. A trip report providing further details of these meetings is available on simple request.
- In October, staff also participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Canada Japan Housing Committee. These meetings are bi-lateral with representation from both Japan and Canada. Both sides gave presentations on a myriad of subjects related to housing. Topics included housing quality, the Japanese Building Standards Law, forestry issues, green building, acoustics, fire issues, housing trends, mortgages, Canada's objective-based codes, Canadian government housing information sources, the mountain pine beetle, sustainability, and housing research. More information on individual papers is available from the SBA offices.
- In early November, staff participated on the University of New Brunswick Wood Science and Technology Centre Advisory Board. Most of the equipment for composites research including the production and testing equipment has been purchased and relocated to a larger lab facility on campus. The equipment should be operational and available for composites research early in the new year. As a reminder, SBA members get a discount on research conducted at this facility, due to financial contributions made by the SBA. Another point worthy of note is that the WS&TC is looking to become a center of excellence in bio-energy, particularly in the area of wood pellets research.
- Staff also participated in numerous meetings and conference calls related to Canadian Wood Council activities during the past three months.

[Return to Top](#)