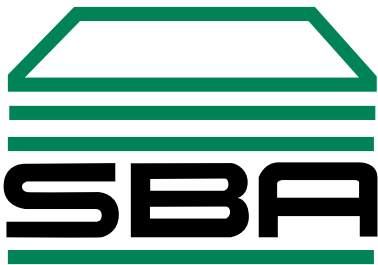
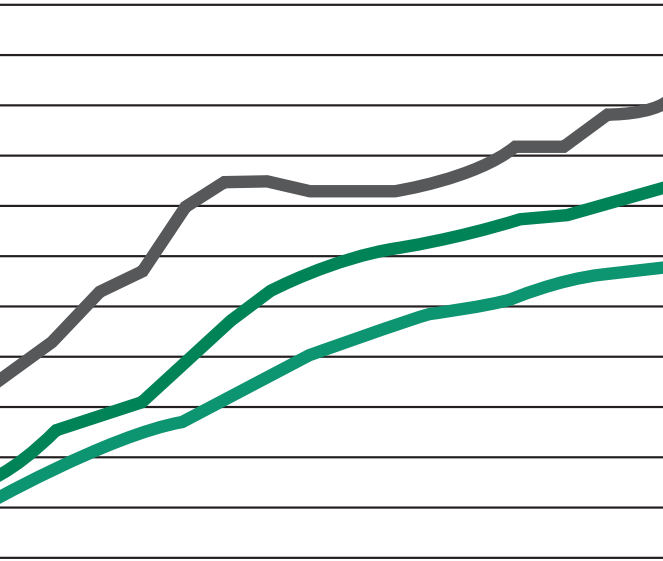


Growing with OSB



Structural
Board
Association

Representing the OSB Industry

Our mission

The Structural Board Association represents oriented strand board producers who are committed to the continuous enhancement of product quality and overall services as defined by our customers. SBA members are dedicated to end-user recognition of OSB as the preferred structural wood panel. SBA's focus is to enhance the performance of the industry and expand its membership to represent world-wide OSB capacity.

Our history

The association was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Waferboard Association (CWA) representing five companies and six mills. The CWA's mandate was to coordinate research, to establish a distinct identity for waferboard as a commodity building panel, to promote acceptance in building codes and to develop technical information in support of market end uses.

In 1978 and 1979, CWA coordinated the development of the first North American standards for waferboard, CAN/CSA-0188.2 and ANSI A208.1 2MW. In 1980, the U.S. Model Codes and the National Building Code of Canada specified separate waferboard end uses.

In 1982 the Association changed its name to The Waferboard Association (TWA) and represented nine companies and eleven mills in North America.

In 1985, TWA sponsored National Evaluation Report NER322 which recognized Performance Rated OSB and waferboard panels for structural use in the U.S.

In 1988, TWA developed a mission statement and a strategic action plan which included upgrading Association staff, and a focus on OSB.

In 1990, the Association became the Structural Board Association. The Association's name, logo and theme are registered in Canada and the U.S.

During the nineties, the SBA embarked on a continuing R&D program with its numerous research partners and sponsored new, tougher standards for OSB panel manufacture.

In 2001, the SBA celebrated its 25th anniversary.

S

trategic Activities

Key Objectives

The aim of the Association is to be the leading force in the OSB industry and its market growth, achieving this goal through a strong active membership base of OSB producers and others interested in the well being of the industry.

SBA programs are based on four cornerstones:

- Continuous improvement in product quality
- Commitment to environment compliance
- Commitment of safe working environments and safe work practices
- Providing responsible product stewardship

Research Programs

SBA undertakes and supports short and long term technical and research programs which will enhance OSB quality, improve product manufacture and provide technical support for market expansion programs.

Building Codes

SBA continues to promote the recognition of OSB as a structural-use wood panel product in world-wide building codes and standards.

Research Alliances

SBA encourages the formation of OSB-focused research and development alliances within the research community.

Industry Membership

SBA expands industry membership by attracting producing and associate members who support the four cornerstones of quality, environment, safety and product stewardship.

Government Liaison

SBA actively strengthens linkages with governments and other associations by taking the lead on major issues which impact on OSB (e.g. trade, standards, environmental, tariffs, etc.). The SBA Environmental Committee works closely with industry organizations and governments on sustainable forest management and other environmental issues.

R

esearch Projects

In the nineties the Structural Board Association directed and coordinated a major market-driven research and development program to enhance the performance of the OSB product and industry. This program was carried out by an alliance of research organizations and a group of Canadian and U.S. universities.

Alliance for Engineered Wood Composites

This Alliance was formed in 1992, and reaffirmed in 1996 between the Structural Board Association, the Alberta Research Council and Forintek Canada Corp. for the purpose of coordinating research and efficiently utilizing the resources of personnel, equipment and available funds to maximize research efforts on engineered wood and composites in Canada. This consortium would clearly meet the needs of the OSB industry and thus ensure that new technology developed by the research program would be readily transferable to the industry.

The university program is delivered by SBA's Academic Members who are specializing in wood composite research. The Association solicits projects from the academic members and awards contracts for work on OSB which is specific to the needs identified by the SBA Technical Committee.

In addition to the identification and prioritizing of projects, the Technical Committee assists in developing the project plan, and the acquisition of outside funding. Industry mentors or liaison are provided for all projects, providing necessary assistance to the scientist in charge and for technology transfer on successful completion.

Since mid 2000, the SBA R&D program is being carried out independently without the former direct ties to the Forintek/ARC Consortium.

North American and world OSB capacity

Technological Successes Achieved by the SBA Research Program

- Optimization of Pressing Parameters
- Log Yard Management for OSB Mills
- Development of a High Performance OSB Panel
- Protection of OSB with Non-Leachable Borates
- Machine Stiffness Rating of OSB Panels
- Qualification of OSB Mill Air Quality
- Development of Engineering Properties for OSB
- Prediction of OSB Long Term Creep and Rupture
- Characteristics of VOCs from OSB Manufacture
- Performance of Glued Structural OSB Joints
- Seismic Performance of OSB Shear Walls
- Effects of Fines on OSB Properties
- Modeling of OSB Mat Forming and Pressing
- Impact of High Humidity on OSB Performance
- Optimization of Resin and Wax Blending

Ongoing Activities

- "Round Robin" testing of OSB physical properties
- Updating OSB standards
- Developing technical information to maintain and expand building code approvals

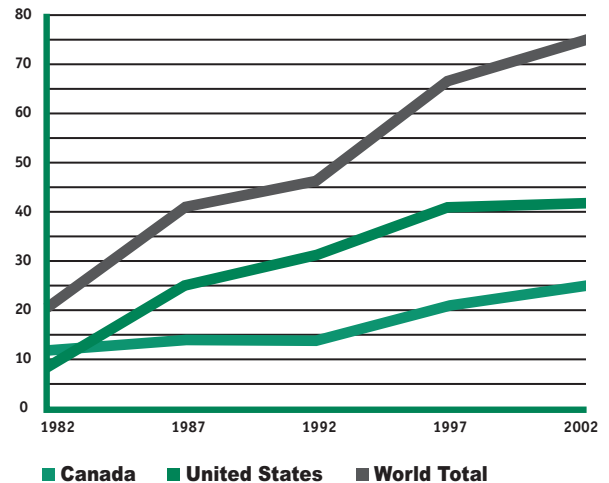


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Association

Representing the OSB Industry

Since the early 1980s, the North American OSB industry has experienced a period of tremendous growth. OSB is now used in many end user applications. As demand has grown, so has the industry's OSB production capacity and the number of OSB mills in North America and offshore.

Number of Mills



OSB Panel Production (in billion square feet - 3/8" basis)

