“WE’RE A TOUGH BUNCH OF SURVIVORS”
APA Chairman Delivers Message of Optimism
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STRUCTURAL PANEL MARKETS STRENGTHENING
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EWTA’S INFO FAIR
Celebrating 20 Years of the Supplier Showcase
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Engineered Wood Technology Association
7011 South 19th Street
Tacoma, WA 98466
Phone: 253-620-7237
ewt@apawood.org
www.engineeredwood.org

Managing Director
Terry Kerwood
Communications Director/Editor
Sheila Cain
Member Services Director
Melinda Lilley
Art Director
Mike Martin
Editorial Consultant
Jack Merry
Editorial Assistant
Kim Sivertsen

About the Cover:
EWTA’s Info Fair supplier exhibition celebrates its 20th installment this year. See story page 34.
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A Trade Show Like No Other

As someone who has worked in the construction industry for a number of years, I’ve been to my share of trade shows. Most are held in cavernous ballrooms and feature row upon row of exhibitors that are usually only loosely associated with the industry. I’ve spent many hours wandering such shows, focusing more on the trinkets and miniature candy bars on the booths’ tables than the information offered within.

I expected more of the same last fall when I attended my very first EWTA Info Fair at the APA Annual Meeting at Amelia Island, Fla., but I soon realized that Info Fair was more than just another industry trade show. First of all, it wasn’t nearly as large as trade shows I’ve experienced in the past. Turns out, this is intentional.

“This is one case where bigger isn’t necessarily better,” says Melinda Lilley, EWTA’s member services director and Info Fair coordinator. “At our show, it’s easy to make it to every booth and spend quality time with the exhibitors.”

Info Fair’s exhibitors seemed happy to be there - and happy to meet up with other exhibitors who have become more than just industry acquaintances over the years.

Paul Pfeifer, an EWTA Advisory Committee member, account manager with Ashland Performance Materials and exhibitor at Info Fair since 1997, likens the experience to a reunion of sorts.

“Info Fair is a once-a-year chance to catch up with some of these folks,” he says. “After 10 years of this, you get to know them really well.”

Charged with taking snapshots of the exhibitors at their booths, I found the task more difficult to fulfill than I had originally expected. Unlike most trade show exhibitors, these folks were out mingling. Trying to round up the crew from Willamette Valley Company was trickier than herding cats. The pair with HT Staffing was so busy talking with APA members that I had to come back with my camera three times before they were free. And I finally had to give up on photographing the full crew from WPS Industries - these guys were just too busy working the floor!

This year, Info Fair celebrates 20 years of information sharing, socializing and business-making. Read more about this popular event on page 34 (and, if you’re an EWTA member, don’t forget to sign up for this year’s Info Fair in Huntington Beach, Calif., Nov. 2-4).

This spring issue of the Engineered Wood Journal also features an in-depth look at formaldehyde and its uses in the engineered wood industry in a story written by Momentive’s Mark Gruenwald. We also hear from Forest Economic Advisors’ Greg Lewis in a piece that forecasts the North American structural panel market (news is good!).

On page 12, we compile the results of EWTA’s annual Business Outlook Survey. Check it out - it seems like things are looking up!

As always, please reach out to me with any questions, suggestions or story ideas. Engineered Wood Journal is a magazine for and about you. Make the most of it.

sheila.cain@apawood.org
Increased Housing Starts Help Spur Panel Production Rise

Housing starts increased nearly 30 percent in 2012, creating an increase in North American structural wood panel production of 6.5 percent - the most since 2008, according to year-end data released by APA.

Panel production totaled 27.8 billion square feet in 2012, compared to 26.07 BSF in 2011. OSB output rose 16 percent while plywood production climbed 7 percent.

Among other engineered wood products, I-joist production rose by 28 percent over 2011, LVL 19 percent and glulam 6 percent.

FPS and SWST Co-organize International Convention

The Forest Products Society and Society of Wood Science and Technology have joined forces to co-organize the 67th FPS International Convention and 56th SWST International Convention June 9-11, 2013 in Austin, Texas.

The convention is an opportunity for attendees to become exposed to the wide range of timely forest products issues facing the industry worldwide. The theme for FPS’s program is Forest Products in a Global Sustainable Economy, with particular emphasis on wood technology, forest products and the environment, and human dimensions and policy. The program, led by SWST, will focus on Technology Advancement and Marketing Practices in Biomass, specifically in natural fiber-based products and biofuels.

For more information on the conference and to register, visit the conference home page at http://www.forestprod.org/ic/about.php

AITC Transfers ANSI Standards to APA

The American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC), which dissolved late last year, has transferred three American National Standards from AITC to APA.


The first two standards have been published by APA and are available as a free downloads from the Publications Library on APA’s website at www.apawood.org. The last standard will be published by APA in March 2013.

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Forest Products EXPO Scheduled for June
The 32nd Forest Products Machinery and Equipment Exposition (EXPO 2013), sponsored by the Southern Forest Products Association, is scheduled for June 5-7 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Ga.

EXPO 2013 is a gathering of wood product manufacturing companies interested in showcasing their equipment, technologies and services.

“This show is truly an international event, attracting leading manufacturers from several foreign countries,” said exposition director Eric Gee in a press release. “These companies realize the value of EXPO 2013 in presenting their company as an innovator, reaching the industry’s top management and purchasing executives from throughout the U.S. and many foreign countries.”

For more information about EXPO 2013, visit www.SFPAexpo.com or contact Eric Gee at egee@sfpa.org.

APA Publications Library Offers Updated ANSI Standard
The 2012 update of the ANSI Standard for Performance-Rated Cross-Laminated Timber is now available.

The standard provides requirements and test methods for qualification and quality assurance for performance-rated cross-laminated timber, which is manufactured from solid-sawn lumber or structural composite lumber intended for use in construction applications. The standard includes seven stress classes covering major wood species in North America.


Interim Department Head Named at Virginia Tech
Robert L. Smith has been appointed interim head of the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials at Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment. He previously served as associate dean for engagement.

Smith will focus on continuing the department’s leadership profile nationally and internationally in teaching and research of the sustainable use of natural resources.

Smith holds a doctorate in forest products marketing from Virginia Tech, an MBA degree from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh and a bachelor’s degree in wood science from Michigan Tech. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of wood science, business management and forest products marketing.

Smith follows Barry Goodell, who stepped down as department head after serving for two years.
Rayonier Selling Wood Products Division to Interfor

Real estate and timberland management company Rayonier announced it is selling one of its four operating divisions, its wood products division, to Vancouver, B.C.-based International Forest Products Limited (Interfor).

Interfor has agreed to hire all 260 employees of Rayonier’s wood products division, that company said.

Interfor had previously focused its lumber and wood products business in the Northwest U.S. and in Canada. This purchase, Interfor noted in a press release, gives the company its first manufacturing presence in the U.S. Southeast.

The acquisition will bring Interfor’s annual capacity to more than 2 billion board feet.

In Memoriam

Michael D. St. John, 66, APA Board of Trustees member and vice president and director of Pacific Woodtech (Burlington, Wash.), died suddenly Nov. 29, 2012 in Seattle. He was also chairman of the APA Marketing Advisory Committee and had served on the APA EWS I-joist/SCL Management Committee. Mr. St. John was instrumental in expanding APA’s membership and programs to include I-joists and laminated veneer lumber.

Robert “Bob” Ripley, 94, former Director of Product Acceptance (now Quality Services) at APA, died Oct. 9, 2012. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and served in the South Pacific. He joined the staff of the Douglas Fir Plywood Association in 1938 and, except for his military service, devoted his entire career to the association. He retired in 1978.

Ken Andreason, 78, retired senior APA engineer, died Oct. 21, 2012, in Tacoma. He joined the APA staff in 1979 and retired in 1997. He provided technical expertise on the design of nonresidential roof systems and for many years represented APA in meetings with the Structural Roof Erectors Association. After retiring from APA, he continued to work as an engineering consultant.
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What a difference a year makes. The Engineered Wood Technology Association's 2012 Business Outlook Survey shows nearly twice as many members are optimistic about the state of their businesses than they were last year. Three times as many members expect their companies' employment levels to rise in 2013, and no respondents said their business or employment levels would worsen in the coming year.

Perhaps news of a 30 percent housing start increase in 2012 - the most since 2008 - is the cause of the optimism. Whatever the reason, EWTA members seem to be looking forward to 2013 with increased enthusiasm.

The web-based survey, sent to all EWTA members last year, poses five questions relating to wood-product businesses' employment levels and overall business health. Fifty-three percent of respondents were in the equipment/tooling category, 29 percent were in the materials/supplies category and 18 percent were in the services/consulting category. Most of the survey respondents - 82 percent - were from the U.S., while 12 percent were from Canada and six percent were offshore.

Most responding members (71 percent) indicated that their companies' wood-related business improved in 2012. Only 39 percent of respondents felt this way about business in 2011. Only six percent said business worsened in 2012, compared with 18 percent in 2011. Nearly half of the respondents (43 percent) felt business stayed the same in 2012 compared to the previous year. This year's results indicate only 24 percent felt things remained static in 2012.

An overwhelming majority (88 percent) felt business would improve in 2013. Fifty-four percent were as optimistic about 2012 in last year's survey. None of the respondents in the latest survey thought business would get worse, compared with 14 percent surveyed last year.

The most recent survey showed that 41 percent of respondents felt wood-related employment levels increased during 2012, compared with about half that number (21 percent) in the previous survey. The coming year looks even better: 65 percent of survey respondents indicated an increase in employment levels in 2013.

Overall industry optimism showed the most dramatic increase over the previous year. A whopping 88 percent said...
they were “more optimistic” about business in the coming year than they were the year before. Last year’s survey showed only 46 percent of respondents felt the same way. No respondents this year were “less optimistic” than the previous year. Last year, 18 percent were less optimistic.

Survey takers were asked to rank a number of factors as “very important,” “important” or “unimportant” for industry recovery. This year, all but one respondent rated the state of the U.S. housing market as “very important.” Fifty-eight percent of respondents cited economic uncertainty as a “very important” factor, and 44 percent indicated government economic policy was “very important” for recovery.

Labor issues seem to be a relatively less important issue, with more than half (53 percent) indicating they are “unimportant.” International exchange rates/trade policies and transportation costs also drew little concern, with only 18 percent and 24 percent indicating they were “very important,” respectively.

Survey takers were asked what they have done to adapt to the marketplace during 2012. Several noted that they have diversified their businesses, formulated new products and improved practices; indicating that despite their increased optimism, EWTA members are not content to relax just yet.

Said one member: “We have begun tracking trends and keeping close tabs on all key players in the industry to predict where the industry is headed. We have also begun to partner with key industry players so we can be on the forefront of changes.”

Sheila Cain (sheila.cain@apawood.org) is communications director of the Engineered Wood Technology Association and editor of its Engineered Wood Journal.
While the economy hasn't been kind to the wood products industry, the resiliency of APA and its members has pulled the association through the worst - and will continue to do so as the economy recovers.

This was the theme of APA Board of Trustees Chairman Mary Jo Nyblad's speech at APA's annual meeting at Amelia Island, Fla., last November. Addressing APA and EWTA members, she focused on the strength of the APA membership as a driving factor towards future industry success.

“I have been associated with this great organization...in good times and in bad,” said Nyblad, whose two-year term ends in November, “and I cannot recall a period when we have had greater unity, consensus and a shared sense of mission. “This collective focus will serve us well as we climb out of the market drum to pursue new opportunities in a recovering economy.”

APA was fortunately in a strong position going into the recession, Nyblad said, and in many ways is stronger coming out of it. She identified three specific strengths that put APA in an enviable position going forward: membership, focus, and APAs strength as the voice for the industry.

Strength #1: A Growing Membership
APA has gained 13 new member mills in the past year, bringing membership to 154 facilities in the U.S., Canada and South America. In the U.S and Canada, APA now represents 86 percent of structural wood panel production, 80 percent of glulam production, 70 percent of I-joist, and 72 percent of laminated veneer lumber. These are all-time highs, Nyblad noted.

Nyblad credited APA leadership along with APA and Engineered Wood Technology Association members for sticking together during difficult times. That cohesiveness has meant more dues income as production volumes increase, which allows APA to provide services - such as certification, product promotion, mill safety promotion and regulatory challenge responsiveness - that benefit the entire industry.

APA's strong membership is also allowing the association to rebuild its staff, hold the line on dues, and even adopt a dues discount program for larger mills, Nyblad said.

Strength #2: A Focus on the Mission
Despite APA’s diverse geography, its mix of companies large and small, and the wide range of products manufactured by its members, the association has stayed true to APAs mission to develop and maintain markets through product promotion, quality assurance, and technical and educational support.

“We have maintained remarkable mutual understanding and agreement about our mission and the best ways to achieve it,” said Nyblad.

Even when the board of trustees was faced with staff and program cuts at the height of the market meltdown, it remained true to APAs basic mission.

It’s this interconnected, three-pronged focus on promotion, quality and education - rare in associations and effectively only exhibited in the wood products industry within APA - that is responsible for APAs successful market development efforts, Nyblad said.
APA’s member advisory and product committees, made up of member company representatives across a wide range of disciplines, have provided grassroots support, counsel and expertise during the downturn; effectively making sure APA remains a truly member-driven organization. They “get down and dirty in the quality, technical, promotional, educational and financial trenches of our association” to provide an invaluable service to the entire membership, Nyblad said.

**Strength #3: The Voice of the Industry**

APA’s third strength, Nyblad said, is its reputation as the voice of the structural panel and engineered wood products industry. That voice has continued to strengthen as membership has grown and APA has proven itself as a natural leader in industry-wide efforts to safeguard and build market demand for wood products.

This strength of voice has many practical benefits, Nyblad said; chief among them, APA’s enhanced ability to attract and earmark outside funding for programs that advance the industry. Examples of such efforts include international market access and development, green building promotion and carbon footprint mitigation, wall sheathing performance research, nonresidential construction market research, and energy efficient wood wall system promotion and education.

APA has served as an industry organizing hub for dealing with such regulatory challenges as the weights and measures issue in California and other states, formaldehyde and other product emissions regulations, and energy conservation provisions under the International Energy Conservation Code that threaten wood systems’ share of the residential wall market.

This latter ongoing challenge has resulted in the creation of the Coalition for Fair Energy Codes, an effort headed by APA’s Field Services Director Tom Kositzky that is working to advance the fair and impartial treatment of all building products in the International Energy Conservation Code.

A strong and growing membership, a focus on APA’s mission and a continued role as the voice of the wood products industry are what will carry APA through the downturn and onward, said Nyblad. “There finally seems to be light at the end of the recession tunnel,” she said, “and your association is primed for better times. Now that we have survived, let’s turn our attention and efforts to rebuilding, to strengthening our association, to growing our markets, and to regaining levels of prosperity for which we have worked so hard.”

Sheila Cain (sheila.cain@apawood.org) is communications director of the Engineered Wood Technology Association and editor of its Engineered Wood Journal.
The rebounding U.S. housing market is great news for North American wood products producers, including producers of OSB and softwood plywood. After five years with only brief upturns, notably an early-2010 run-up, North American structural panel producers saw significant and sustained improvement in 2012.

Improved housing starts, the prospects of further increases in construction activity in 2013-14, and product inventory levels that had been driven down to extremely low levels all contributed to the run-up in prices, which kept trending higher through the end of last year. The continued rebound in U.S. construction markets, improvement in other end-use markets, and a conservative restart/ramp-up of capacity will mean healthy structural panel markets over the next five years.

We expect North American OSB and softwood plywood demand will see healthy increases into the second half of the decade. This will be particularly true for OSB, which will be buoyed by double-digit growth in housing starts, the product’s most important end-use market. We forecast U.S. conventional housing starts to total about 0.950 million units in 2013 and 1.25 million units in 2014 as very low new home inventories, substantial pent-up demand for housing, and strong demographics all contribute to healthy near- and medium-term improvement.

As of the first quarter of 2013, we estimate that 25 percent of the North American OSB capacity base and 13 percent of the plywood capacity base remains idled due to the persistent imbalance between supply and demand, even with year-over-year improvement in U.S. consumption. As markets improve, capacity will come back on line, but our base forecast assumes a relatively conservative ramp-up of existing/idled capacity and new mills. In 2013, we expect about 1.1 BSF of OSB capacity to start up/restart, primarily in the southern U.S. Similarly, we assume a 700 MMSF increase in “effective” North American plywood capacity.

Much of the recent strength has stemmed from the extremely low inventory levels that pervaded the markets through much of last year and entering 2013. Facing a cyclical rebound in demand, buyers stepped up purchase volumes, though many were constrained by a reluctance to build significant inven-

North American Structural Panel Demand
BSF, 3/8-inch Basis

North American structural panel demand is predicted to increase in 2014.
For fear of a market downturn and by a lack of credit. Nevertheless, increases in effective capacity in 2012 were limited. Many operating facilities ran close to full capacity, especially late in the year, but idled mills remained down. Production was being consumed immediately, and volumes in the distribution channel remained very lean.

As capacity increases and production ramps up, we expect inventory levels will improve, easing the pressure on buyers looking to secure panels for the upcoming construction season. For both OSB and plywood, production costs will trend higher as increased production puts upward pressure on wood costs and an improving economy supports higher resin, energy, labor, and other manufacturing costs. A U.S./Canadian exchange around parity continues to hurt the Canadian competitive position. For OSB, it means a flat cost curve (FOB mill), in contrast to the early 2000s, when a very strong U.S. dollar kept local-currency Canadian costs significantly below U.S. costs.

For plywood, the exchange rate has meant average western Canadian plywood costs around the same as that in the western U.S. This shift has contributed to a reversal in net trade flows between the U.S. and Canada. During the housing boom, with the U.S. dollar very strong, annual net U.S. imports from Canada of softwood plywood peaked at about 425 MMSF in 2004-06. As U.S. domestic consumption plummeted and the USD/CAD exchange rate moved toward parity, Canadian plywood shipments to the U.S. dropped precipitously and U.S. shipments to Canada jumped. The result was a net Canadian import of almost 200 MMSF per year in 2010-12.

We do not expect offshore imports will significantly affect North American markets, particularly as domestic markets strengthen. Recent boosts to offshore exports (increased volumes to Asia in particular) will not persist and North American producers will not make significant inroads into the Chinese market during the cyclical upswing. This may prove too pessimistic, but with much of the lumber currently used in China going into industrial end uses and concrete forming, we anticipate much of the panel volumes consumed in these end uses will be plywood, of which China is a significant producer. On the whole, rising demand in relation to capacity will result in healthy profitability for North American producers, setting the stage for additional capacity investment later in the decade. In the case of OSB, we expect net increases in capacity. For plywood, our demand outlook does not warrant significant increases in net capacity, but we would expect considerable investment in existing facilities to upgrade production and increase value-added production.

Greg Lewis is vice president of wood panels for Forest Economic Advisors LLC (www.getfea.com). He can be reached at glewis@getfea.com or 978-496-6335.

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The Engineered Wood Technology Association (EWTA), the related nonprofit supplier organization of APA - The Engineered Wood Association, serves as a networking and information transfer vehicle between North America’s engineered wood product manufacturers and their product, equipment and service providers.

This membership directory, updated for 2013, includes company descriptions and contact information for all EWTA members. It’s just one of many tools designed to help members connect with each other and the industry.

**Membership Benefits**

- Direct business-to-business links with your customers in the engineered wood products industry through such vehicles and events as Info Fair, an annual supplier show held in conjunction with the APA annual meeting; industry forums and seminars; APA annual meeting roundtables and workshops; company news and advertising in the *Engineered Wood Journal*; and dissemination of your company news and technology innovations via the EWTA website and Connections e-newsletter.
- Free access to the APA monthly housing starts and quarterly production reports, and discounts on other APA publications and reports.
- Discounts on APA events and *Engineered Wood Journal* advertising.
- Free company listing and profile in the annual meeting issue of the *Engineered Wood Journal* for EWTA Info Fair exhibitors.
- Member products and services directory.
- Annual meeting and other event sponsorship opportunities.
- Supplier award program participation.
- Opportunities to exchange information with other EWTA members, APA members and APA staff via an EWTA advisory and subcommittee structure.
- Access to APA’s staff of quality, technical, market research, market communications, field services and other expert professionals.
- Opportunities to support, participate in and receive the results of important industry technical and market research projects.
- Access to APA laboratory and research resources in support of APA member-driven project and service requests.

The annual cost of EWTA membership is just $1,200. New members may join anytime during the year at a pro-rated amount. For more information about the benefits of membership or for a membership application, contact Terry Kerwood, Managing Director, terry.kerwood@apawood.org or 253-620-7237, or visit the EWTA website at www.engineeredwood.org.
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Calculated Structured Designs Inc.

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Phone: 403-236-5275
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www.csdsoftware.com

Canadian Forest Industries / Canadian Wood Products

Canadian Forest Industries / Canadian Wood Products publishes 6 times a year with two separate and dedicated sections – one for forestry and one for wood products processing – we bring you the entire forest industry in one publication. With award-winning editorial, we cover the woods to the finished product. Our new woodbusiness.ca forestry portal brings together timely news, product releases, video and more when you want and need the information. Two full-time dedicated editors and an editorial director means we have the expertise you can trust. We cover coast to coast bringing you the unique Canadian perspective.

Contact: Ross Anderson - National Sales Manager
Phone: 519-429-5188
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gregory.lonc@basf.com
www.basf.us

Contact: Dale Dolecheck - Operations Director - Forest Products
Phone: 720-974-2648
1400 West 122nd Avenue, Suite 200
Westminster, CO 80234
daledolecheck@caseyind.com
www.caseyind.com

Contact: Andy Clarke - Vice President of Sales
Phone: 541-343-3395
P.O. Box 2428
Eugene, OR 97402
andyj@clarkes-ind.com
www.clarkes-ind.com

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Phone: 541-343-3395
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andyj@clarkes-ind.com
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andyj@clarkes-ind.com
www.clarkes-ind.com

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Phone: 248-455-1458
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Phone: 509-855-3411
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Stone Mountain, GA 30087
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www.imalpal.com

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Phone: 318-255-6825
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Phone: 920-339-2787
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Paneltech Products
Paneltech Products is a young and growing, forward-thinking company comprised of people who have common values and share a common goal...providing environmentally responsible leadership in manufacturing the highest quality green products for industry. Our panel overlays are designed for high performance end uses and superior processability. They are designed to increase the value of the wood products they cover by increasing their durability, enhancing their appearance, and creating uniform surfaces to enhance the products end use.

Contact: Rich Donnell - Market Manager, Innovation & NPD Phone: 847-541-8794 888 Forest Edge Drive Vernon Hills, IL 60061 tara.glesner@paslode.com www.paslode.com

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Panel World’s international readership receives six issues per year, with emphasis on mill project startup articles. Product coverage includes softwood and hardwood plywood and veneer, oriented strand board, medium density fiberboard, particleboard and other composite boards and engineered wood products. Hatton-Brown publishes magazines for the Forest Products Industry, of which Panel World is one.

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Phone: 519-951-7700 x 101
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Phone: 704-522-0234
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Phone: 360-225-8267
P.O. Box 310
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University of Tennessee, Center for Renewable Carbon
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Contact: Timothy Young - Professor
Phone: 865-946-1119
2506 Jacob Drive
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www.ucsforwood.com

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Phone: 425-771-1190 x128
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Ventek, Inc.
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Phone: 541-346-5578
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Contact: Tony Vuksich - Vice President
Phone: 541-484-9621
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Eugene, OR 97402
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More than 150 years ago, a discovery made by Russian scientist Alexander Butlerov forever advanced the way we live and how we live. Butlerov’s discovery, followed by findings that formaldehyde can act as an antiseptic, propelled formaldehyde into the forefront of medicine. Continuing studies revealed more favorable properties, bringing the chemistry of formaldehyde into mainstream production. Today, formaldehyde is found in products ranging from building materials to pharmaceuticals.

With such a long history of use coupled with its omnipresence in our natural environment, most would believe that formaldehyde has stood the test of time because of its safety and efficacy. However, formaldehyde is one of those “building block” chemicals that continue to attract ongoing regulatory attention. More than 30 years of research has focused on characterizing the safety of formaldehyde. Today scientists have much greater knowledge of where and how both internal and inhaled formaldehyde are distributed at the molecular level. Yet most of this new knowledge has not been applied in assessments of formaldehyde risk by key regulatory authorities. It is imperative that high quality “Mode of Action” (MOA) data, such as recent molecular distribution studies, be brought into the risk assessment process. This article will provide an update on key aspects of that characterization and illustrate how effective product stewardship and risk management measures by government and industry have lowered risk to a level of insignificance.

**General Facts about Formaldehyde**

Formaldehyde is natural and widespread in nature. It can be found in every living system - from plants to animals to humans - all which actually produce formaldehyde as a normal part of metabolism. Formaldehyde occurs as a by-product of all combustion processes. It’s produced in the smoke from burning wood, combustion engine exhaust and cooking. Of the total atmospheric formaldehyde in the world, 70 to 90 percent comes from mobile sources (e.g., automobiles), power generation and combustion. Only a very small amount is the result of emissions from wood products. Formaldehyde does not accumulate in the environment or within plants and animals. It metabolizes quickly and breaks down readily in the body and in the atmosphere, making it “greener” than one might think. Formaldehyde is one of the most extensively studied chemicals in use today. Its health and safety properties have been researched in depth, and the evidence is reassuring that current standards and safeguards are protective and have resulted in plummeting exposure rates.

**The Manufacture, Properties and Use of Formaldehyde**

Formaldehyde is produced by passing vaporized methanol and air over a catalyst. The formaldehyde vapors are absorbed into water to produce aqueous solutions. All formaldehyde solutions contain some amount of methanol. Low methanol formaldehyde solutions typically contain between 0.2 percent and 1.5 percent methanol by weight due to the incomplete conversion of methanol.

Formaldehyde is a colorless gas with a distinct pungent odor that can be detected by most people at low levels, with the odor threshold typically ranging from...
manufactured with high-performance and other engineered wood products are the majority of structural wood panels (OSB), I-joists and glue laminated beams.

Engineered wood products are high-performance and sustainable building materials. They play the role of a germicide, insecticide, and fungicide in some cosmetics such as preservatives in personal hygiene products such as soaps, shampoos, deodorants, sunscreens, lotions and hygiene products such as soaps, shampoos, deodorants, sunscreens, lotions and mouthwashes.

Formaldehyde metabolizes quickly and breaks down readily in the body and in the atmosphere, making it “greener” than one might think.

Formaldehyde in Engineered Wood Applications

Engineered wood products are high-performance and sustainable building products such as oriented strand board (OSB), I-joists and glue laminated beams. The majority of structural wood panels and other engineered wood products are manufactured with high-performance adhesives based on formaldehyde chemistry. These adhesives are designed to have extremely low formaldehyde emissions. These emissions are similar, or lower than, the formaldehyde emissions from raw wood.

Phenolic formaldehyde adhesives have been the technology of choice for wood panel adhesives for the last 70 years. These resins are thermosetting; meaning that once cured, they cannot be softened by heating. They are extremely resistant to water and will not break down in the presence of moisture. The resins used in engineered wood manufacturing are designed to completely cure during the hot pressing operation. Once the resin is cured in the board production process, tests show the panel is virtually free of any residual phenol or formaldehyde.

Agencies’ Opinions on Formaldehyde

Formaldehyde is biodegradable and does not persist in the atmosphere. When released to water, formaldehyde biodegrades to low levels in a few days. Even so, disagreement regarding the potential connection between formaldehyde exposure and cancer risk persists.

Although the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified formaldehyde as “carcinogenic to humans,” these determinations have been criticized with respect to their methodology and conclusions. The decision by IARC (which was not unanimous), particularly concerning an association with leukemia, has been seriously questioned.

The preliminary determination regarding cancer risks reached by EPA in the June 2010 proposed Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment of formaldehyde has been criticized on numerous grounds by scientists from other government agencies. In particular, available data cannot explain how a chemical such as formaldehyde, which is naturally present in the body and which does not reach distant sites in the body following inhalation, would be capable of causing leukemia.

The EPA/IRIS assessment of formaldehyde was critically reviewed by a committee from the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NAS/NRC 2011), which found numerous flaws in the document. The NAS is the “gold standard” of science established in 1863 by President Lincoln to “investigate, examine, experiment and report upon any subject of science.” This review concluded that the EPA/IRIS assessment failed to support an association between formaldehyde exposure and leukemia or other health problems. In particular, the NAS/NRC committee rebuked the EPA’s assessment and methods in reaching its conclusions on formaldehyde.

Most significantly, the National Research Council found insufficient evidence and a biased approach to the EPAs claim that formaldehyde causes leukemia and cancer in the respiratory tract: “Conclusions appear to be based on a subjective view of the overall data, and the absence of a causal framework for these cancers is particularly problematic given the inconsistencies in the epidemiologic data, the weak animal data and lack of mechanistic data.”
It is expected that the entire document and draft conclusions will be extensively reviewed and modified, given the numerous criticisms and methodological issues concerning the EPA's formaldehyde IRIS assessment as identified in the NAS/NRC review. That said, it is not clear when the EPA expects to release another draft of their assessment for public comment and peer review, but it could occur as early as the end of 2013.

The National Toxicology Program (NTP 2011) has evaluated the carcinogenic potential of formaldehyde, and this evaluation contains many of the same methodological and interpretive flaws that plagued the earlier EPA/IRIS assessment of formaldehyde. Both review processes examined and analyzed the same scientific studies. Despite the fact that the NRC report on the criticism of the draft formaldehyde IRIS assessment was available before the finalization of the NTP review, it appears the NTP ignored the significant findings by the Academy. Industry representatives expressed their problems with this inconsistency openly in a public statement and writing to Congressional leaders that:

“By failing to sufficiently reflect the conclusions of the NAS, and by producing a contradictory report, the 12th RoC has created potential for public confusion and alarm.”

Without acknowledging the methodological and interpretive flaws, the 12th Report on Carcinogens (RoC) issued in 2011 listed formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen for NPC, sinonasal cancer and leukemia. Given the continuing controversy surrounding the data and the lack of solid scientific review processes upon which formaldehyde is classified as a human carcinogen (particularly for leukemia), a bi-partisan Congressional directive mandated another NAS Committee to review the scientific basis and rationale for the RoC listing. This review begins this month with a final report likely by the end of 2014.

**Risk Management and Product Stewardship**

Levels of formaldehyde in the workplace have declined over the past few decades due to improved manufacturing practices and advances in resin chemistry. Significant reductions have been made to emissions levels in the workplace, in ambient air and in indoor air. Exposure to formaldehyde in the workplace is subject to a number of established limits. For example, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) established the OSHA Formaldehyde Standard (29CFR 1900.1048) that sets limits on worker exposure at 0.75 ppm time weighted average for eight hours and 2 ppm within a 15-minute time frame.

Good stewardship, better manufacturing technologies and regulatory oversight have resulted in declining formaldehyde emissions in the indoor environment during past decades. A 2005 study of homes around the nation showed an average of 17 ppb, which is well under the World Health Organization indoor air guideline value of 100 ppb.

National and international regulations require that wood products have low formaldehyde emissions. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) Air Toxic...
Control Measure and the federal Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act of 2010 apply to interior use products, such as hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard and particleboard. Formaldehyde-based chemistries are providing viable solutions to these challenges.

Structural products used in the construction of a building’s frame have low formaldehyde levels and are therefore often exempt from emission requirements. Based on the extensive amount of data, there is widespread recognition that when the chemistry of formaldehyde is handled and used in accordance with government and industry regulations, standards and guidelines, formaldehyde is safe for its intended uses and consumers and workers are appropriately protected. The U.S. forests products industry supports and complies with these established standards.

**Formaldehyde: A Proven Track Record of Performance, Safety and Stewardship**

The formaldehyde industry has a long history of commitment to research and stewardship of its products based on objective, fact-based science. Formaldehyde and derivative resins and adhesives are used in a wide range of industrial applications. Formaldehyde is a versatile and valuable material with applications that enhance the quality of modern life.

Formaldehyde-based chemistries remain the technology of choice because of their proven performance, safety and cost-effective attributes. As responsible product stewards, North American manufacturers of formaldehyde-based adhesives and other chemical products are committed to continuous improvement, product enhancements and further formaldehyde research that support good public health policy and economic growth.

Mark A. Gruenwald, C.I.H., is corporate director, scientific affairs, for Momentive Specialty Chemicals Inc. He can be reached at mark.gruenwald@momentive.com or 614-225-3459.

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JOIN

EWTA membership provides invaluable connections, through a variety of networking vehicles, with your customers in the North American engineered wood products industry.

EXHIBIT

EWTA’s Info Fair supplier exhibition, held in conjunction with APA’s annual meeting, provides face-to-face connection with leading engineered wood products industry decision-makers.

ADVERTISE

EWTA’s Engineered Wood Journal provides a highly cost-effective method to deliver your advertising message to a target-rich readership of your customers.

The Engineered Wood Technology Association is the leading North American organization of suppliers to the engineered wood products industry. Find out more about how the EWTA can help you get connected and increase your sales.
When EWTA held its first Info Fair two decades ago, 19 exhibitors were in attendance. Members such as Raute, HB Fuller (now Adalis) and Coe (now USNR) distributed brochures and displayed their wares from bulky laptops and small TVs with VHS tape decks.

While the technology has changed, the enthusiasm remains among Info Fair exhibitors as it prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary show this year. (The 2001 Info Fair was cancelled as a result of travel difficulties in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.) The benefits EWTA -and APA- members enjoy are just as relevant today as they were at the event’s inception.

Started in 1993, the EWTA Info Fair has been a vital component of APA’s annual meeting. With a set-up similar to a trade show, participants have booth space where they can display products and literature. The fair is open three evenings during the annual meeting’s run, each accompanied by a welcome reception.

Here’s where Info Fair’s resemblance to a typical trade show ends. While most trade shows are open to a wide range of guests, EWTA’s Info Fair welcomes EWTA and APA members and staff exclusively. Attendees visit exhibitors to reconnect with colleagues and—perhaps most importantly—forge business relationships that can result in long-term, lucrative partnerships.

“Info Fair is much more than a social gathering, although we’re proud that our members look forward to reconnecting with old friends every year,” said Terry Kerwood, managing director of EWTA. “Beyond that, it’s an excellent opportunity for members to make connections with some of the most influential people in the industry.”

It’s also very different from most trade shows, where exhibitors stand behind booths for hours at a time, said Melinda Lilley, EWTA’s member services director, who has coordinated every EWTA Info Fair since the first one in Tucson, Ariz.

“Our members get the most out of Info Fair by not only showcasing their products and services, but also by visiting the booths of their colleagues and visiting with APA members,” Lilley said. “Info Fair allows folks to get to know one another.”

“Focused time to socialize”

The Info Fair exhibition area is open during the APA Annual Meeting receptions to give both APA and EWTA members focused time to network and make connections. While the show hours may seem short, Info Fair organizers have learned from past experiences that synchronizing exhibition time with APAs meeting schedule is the way to go.

“At the first Info Fair, we kept the exhibits open during our committee meetings and the exhibition hall was like an empty bowling alley,” said Marilyn...
Thompson, who helped spearhead the first Info Fair and is currently APA’s marketing communications director.

“No one came to see our exhibits when other meetings were going on. Now, I think most people who have participated in Info Fair realize that quality time is better than quantity.”

Info Fair gives EWTA members an alternative audience, allowing them to connect with a different type of decision maker than they usually pursue.

“APA’s annual meeting is attended by high-level executives and decision makers with the association’s member companies,” said Thompson. “These are not always the individuals suppliers would see on a typical sales call. It’s proven to be a really good place for suppliers to establish visibility with executives from the manufacturers.”

The networking works both ways.

“I know that many of the (APA) manufacturing executives really appreciate the support and participation of the exhibitors,” Thompson said. “They are genuinely interested in visiting EWTA member booths and seeing what suppliers have to show.”

APA President Dennis Hardman agrees.

“EWTA and Info Fair, over the years, have become an integral and respected part of the APA Annual Meeting,” said Hardman. “I’ve seen a real sense of partnership build between APA members and EWTA members, demonstrated by a mutual understanding that future business success depends on the strength of that partnership.”

Staying Connected

EWTA Advisory Committee member and long-time Info Fair exhibitor Paul Pfeifer, account manager with Ohio-based Ashland Performance Materials, looks forward to Info Fair every year because it’s a chance for him to catch up with the folks he’s gotten to know over the years.

“It keeps everyone up to speed and in the game,” said Pfeifer. “We can all commiserate when times are bad and brag a little bit when the industry is doing well.”

Info Fair is also a good place to make meaningful business connections.
“It’s a once-a-year opportunity to catch up with a lot of the high-level management personnel and decision makers in companies we deal with and would like to deal with,” Pfeifer said.

Info Fair isn’t just a place for long-standing members to reconnect with colleagues. New member and first-time exhibitor Idemitsu Lubricants America found Info Fair to be a good place to introduce itself to the marketplace.

“We’ve been in the panel industry for six or seven years, but we have kind of a low name recognition in the market,” said Ryan Stanton, national accounts engineer for the Japan-based lubricant manufacturer’s Detroit sales office. “We were looking for a way to get our name out there and get a feel for what’s going on in the market.”

Stanton appreciated the show’s size. “It’s not a giant show, so when you’re meeting with people it’s a little more intimate,” he said. “You get to know people better and quicker than at a show with 5,000 vendors.”

To help new exhibitors make the most of their participation at Info Fair, EWTA teams them up with veteran exhibitors who help show them the ropes and introduce them to other EWTA and APA member company representatives.

While Info Fair attendance has grown since its debut in 1993 (last year, nearly 50 members exhibited), the general schedule has changed very little. EWTA members still participate in APA’s golf tournament, cripple coot shoot and tennis tournament, and they are honored by their peers at APA’s awards dinner for their participation in EWTA’s Supplier and Innovation awards program.

“It’s a formula that’s worked for 20 years,” said Lilley. “We have members that I know will be at every Info Fair, no matter what. They look forward to seeing and reconnecting with colleagues and associates - many of whom have become close friends over the years.”

Sheila Cain (sheila.cain@apawood.org) is communications director of the Engineered Wood Technology Association and editor of its Engineered Wood Journal.

Join Us!

Info Fair 2013 Scheduled for West Coast
Info Fair joins APA for its 2013 annual meeting Nov. 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach (Calif.) Resort and Spa. Registration opens April 1. The early bird registration deadline is Aug. 23.

Exhibit fees are $975 for an 8 ft x 8 ft booth. Annual meeting fees are a separate registration fee of about $500 for members.

Contact Melinda Lilley to register and learn more about sponsorship and exhibit opportunities: melinda.lilley@apawood.org.
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EWTA sponsors two awards programs every year to honor the hard work and ingenuity of its members. It’s easy to get involved, and the payoff is priceless. Winners are honored at the APA annual meeting each fall and featured in the fall issue of the Engineered Wood Journal. This year, EWTA is offering a new value-added tool: press release templates that winning companies can send out to newspapers, business publications and trade magazines throughout the industry.

Here’s a rundown of EWTA’s two awards programs and how to get involved.

**Innovation of the Year**
Eligible innovations recognize a new technology or product shown to provide a substantial bottom line benefit to APA members. Past winners have included USNR for its six-deck jet dryer - the largest jet dryer ever installed for the southern pine industry; and Momentive Specialty Chemicals for its high performance brand of liquid phenolic resin. EWTA members will receive submission forms via email in mid April. Any member who wants to enter the contest fills out the form and emails it back. Once received by EWTA, the entries are posted to the EWTA website and submitted by ballot to APA members, who select the winner.

**Supplier of the Year**
APA mill managers take the lead in this awards program. EWTA will send ballots in mid July to all APA member mill managers (see timeline in sidebar box), who decide which EWTA member firm best meets the quality, delivery and service criteria. Awards are given in each of EWTA’s three membership categories: equipment/tooling, materials/supplies and consulting/services.

Like the Innovation of the Year award, the Supplier of the Year awards are chosen by APA members. Winners are identified by popular vote. All EWTA members are automatically included on the ballot, and winning companies are honored at the APA annual meeting and in the fall Engineered Wood Journal.

Sheila Cain (sheila.cain@apawood.org) is communications director of the Engineered Wood Technology Association and editor of its Engineered Wood Journal.
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Allyn Ford Presented With Bronson J. Lewis Award

Allyn C. Ford, president and CEO of Roseburg Forest Products, was named the 2012 winner of APA’s prestigious Bronson J. Lewis Award. The award, established to recognize individuals for their leadership and outstanding contribution to the engineered wood products industry, was presented to Ford during APA’s annual meeting general session last November in Amelia Island, Fla.

Ford has served as president and CEO of Roseburg Forest Products since 1997, assuming the role after the death of his father, founder Kenneth Ford. Before becoming president he served in various roles within the company, including forest resources, construction, manufacturing and labor relations. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale and a Masters of Business Administration from Stanford University.

In presenting the award to Allyn Ford and his wife, Cheryl Ramberg Ford, APA Chairman Mary Jo Nyblad noted that the Fords participate in and support numerous charitable and business organizations, including the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. She quoted OSU President Ed Ray who, in acknowledging a $5 million endowment for the dean’s position at OSU’s College of Forestry, said, “This visionary gift from Allyn and Cheryl Ford illustrates that in tough economic times smart people redouble efforts to preserve the path to excellence. Their investment assures that the college will have outstanding leadership for the next century and beyond.”

APA’s BJ Yeh Honored With ASTM Merit Award

APA Technical Services Director Borjen “BJ” Yeh, PhD., has been named a recipient of the 2013 ASTM International Award of Merit. Yeh is one of only 15 such recipients awarded this honor since it was established 64 years ago. The award is the highest award granted by the Society to an individual member for distinguished service and outstanding participation in ASTM International committee activities. Merit Award recipients also receive the honorary title of Fellow of ASTM International.

“We congratulate BJ on this outstanding achievement and join ASTM in recognizing the leadership and tremendous volume of work that he has brought to the ongoing mission of developing and maintaining sound international standards,” said APA President Dennis Hardman.

ASTM International is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards. Today, some 12,000 ASTM standards are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance safety, facilitate market access and trade and build consumer confidence.

Yeh has been with APA for 23 years, serving as director of the Technical Services Division since 2003. He is currently the chair of the ASTM D07.02 Subcommittee on Lumber and Engineered Wood Products and member of several technical committees and professional societies in the U.S. and Canada. He is the secretariat for ANSI/APA Standards Committees on Structural Insulated Panels, Engineered Wood Siding, Engineered Wood Rim Boards and Cross Laminated Timber. He was the recipient of the L.J. Markwardt Award from ASTM in 2006.

Member Meetings To Precede Symposium

The EWTA Spring Advisory Committee meeting will be held April 2 in conjunction with the APA- and Washington State University-hosted International Wood Composites Symposium in downtown Seattle April 3-4.

The symposium, featuring APA President Dennis Hardman as a keynote speaker, will include information on the latest developments in fiber, particle and strand composites; plywood, veneer and engineered wood products; and wood-polymer composite materials. It will be preceded by an APA Plywood Forum and reception on April 2 at 1 p.m. The EWTA meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. More information on the symposium can be found on the event’s website (www.woodsymposium.wsu.edu/).

All events will be held at the Red Lion.

APA Welcomes Five OSB Mills; One Glulam Facility

Five Weyerhaeuser Company OSB mills recently joined APA, effective Jan. 1. The mills are in Heaters (Sutton), W.V.; Simsboro (Arcadia), La.; Edson, Alberta; Elkin, N.C.; and Grayling, Michigan. The company’s Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan mill was already a member.
“The addition of these mills is a huge vote of confidence by Weyerhaeuser,” said APA President Dennis Hardman. “We look forward to bringing the full value of APA services to them and welcome their participation in our association activities and advisory committees.”

APA also recently welcomed Boise Cascade’s glulam manufacturing facility in Homedale, Idaho, into membership. The commitment from the former Filler King glulam plant brings Boise’s membership in APA to 100 percent.

“Boise Cascade’s full commitment to APA marks a major milestone for our representation of I-joist and structural composite lumber products,” Hardman commented. “We now represent more than 70 percent of and Canadian production of these products and 80 percent of glulam production, providing critical mass in all APA product categories for the first time in our history.”

Three Boise Cascade engineered wood products facilities joined APA in January of this year. They are located in Lena, La.; White City, Ore.; and St. Jacques, New Brunswick.

**APA, CFEC Submit Code Change Proposals**

APA recently submitted a total of 36 code change proposals to the International Residential Code (IRC) on behalf of the wood structural panel and engineered wood product industries.

Several APA change proposals are related to wood bracing walls that were developed through collaboration with a group of building officials and International Code Council staff. The proposed changes would clarify the code requirements for wall bracing or better position APA members’ products in the code. The proposals are currently under public review.

A vote by the International Residential Code Building Committee is expected after the Committee Action Hearings, which will be held April 21-30 in Dallas. The final approval of code change proposals will be determined at the Public Comment Hearings October 2-10, 2013 in Atlanta City, N.J.

In addition to the changes submitted by APA, the Coalition for Fair Energy Codes (CFEC) drafted and submitted 11 code change proposals to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Eight of the proposals were for residential and three for commercial/multifamily construction.

Established in 2011, CFEC is an unincorporated group of companies and associations that is advancing the fair and impartial treatment of all building products in the International Energy Conservation Code. CFEC is headed by the director of APA’s field services division, Tom Kositzky.

**APA, ICC ES Finalize Joint Reports Agreement**

APA and the International Code Council’s Evaluation Service (ICC ES) recently signed an agreement to offer joint ICC ES and APA reports for engineered wood products.

The goal is to provide manufacturers with an efficient way to apply for technical evaluations with each organization and receive a joint ICC ES evaluation report (ESR) and APA Product Report. ICC-ES and APA will designate a single point of contact for the applicant who will serve as the project manager. The assigned project manager will coordinate all arrangements and paperwork between ICC ES, APA and the applicant, simplifying and expediting the process for the applicant.

The agreement eliminates duplication of efforts between the ICC ES ESR and APA Product Reports, said APA Technical Services Director BJ Yeh.

The joint reports will serve as an alternative to the current product evaluation system being used by many engineered wood product manufacturers. Under that system, manufacturers’ products are evaluated separately by ICC ES and APA, and individual ICC ES ESR and APA Product Reports are issued.

**APA Names Three To Board of Trustees**

Three APA member company representatives were recently elected to the association’s Board of Trustees.

Cathy Slater, vice president, OSB Business, at Weyerhaeuser Company, has joined the board in a new position approved by APAs board.

Jim Baskerville, vice president OSB and Kraft Paper at Tolko Industries, assumes the board position previously held by Brad Thorlakson of Tolko.

Dave DeWitte, president, CEO of Pacific Woodtech Corp., has been elected to fill the board position previously held by Mike St. John of Pacific Woodtech.

**APA Testing Confirms Panels as Nailable Sheathing**

Recent full-scale wind tunnel tests have confirmed that the principle of engineering mechanics can be used to estimate the structural behavior of cladding connections when using wood structural panels as nailable sheathing.

The testing, funded by EWTA and the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, was conducted by APA at the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) Research Center in Chester County, S.C. In collaboration with the research center, a 30-ft by 40-ft single story building was constructed with a wall height of eight ft and subject to wind tunnel tests of various wind angles and speeds.

The study results are being used to support an APA code change proposal to the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC). If approved, the code change will help building designers and builders in using wood structural panels as nailable sheathing for resisting wind loads, especially when it is impractical to connect the cladding directly to framing.
MEGTEC Systems Acquires TurboSonic Technologies

MEGTEC Systems Inc. recently announced that it has acquired TurboSonic Technologies Inc. The acquisition will include all of TurboSonic’s current products, including wet electrostatic precipitator systems, semi-dry and wet scrubbers and evaporative gas cooling systems; as well as related parts and services.

Turbo Sonic will join the MEGTEC family as MEGTEC TurboSonic Technologies Inc., and operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of MEGTEC Systems and as a separate business unit within MEGTEC’s Environment, Climate and Energy group.

The transaction brings together two companies serving common end-markets, allowing for a broader range of product and service offerings to their expanded customer base, the companies said in a joint press release.

Dieffenbacher and Carmanah Sign Cooperation Agreement

Dieffenbacher and Carmanah Design and Manufacturing recently signed a cooperation agreement for the supply of disc and ring stranding systems to engineered wood customers outside North America.

The cooperation agreement will cover Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South America.

“We are extremely pleased with this agreement as it allows the companies to work closely together to offer customers an integrated and optimized solution for the woodroom requirements,” said Dieffenbacher and Carmanah representatives in a press release.

Announced OSB Restarts Signal Producer Optimism

A number of OSB mills have announced that they are restarting operations following improvements in the U.S. housing markets and increased customer demand.

Louisiana-Pacific plans to restart its Thomasville, Ala., mill in April, and Norbord recently announced it will bring its Jefferson, Texas, OSB mill back online by the middle of this year. Ainsworth’s mill in High Level, Alberta, is expected to restart in the fourth quarter of this year, and the first quarter of 2014 should see a reopening of Tolko Industries’ Athabasca mill in Slave Lake, Alberta. Arbec restarted its OSB mill in Miramichi, New Brunswick, last December.


Electronic Wood Systems Develops New Blow Detectors

Electronic Wood Systems recently introduced three blow detection systems based on ultrasonic inspection for the panelboard industry.

The three systems are Ply-Scan, which is designed for plywood inspection; Blow-Scan for use with particleboard, MDF and OSB production lines; and Ultra-Scan for application on panels and LVL up to six inches thick.

Data from all these systems can feed intelligent production management systems like Siempelkamp Prod-IQ, which generates transparency of the production process including quality prognosis, the company said.

EWTA Welcomes Four New Member Companies

Four new members have joined EWTA since last fall. They are:

• Scheuch Inc., a provider of technology for emission controls in the wood based panel industry. Scheuch’s services include the design and supply of dust collection systems and air pollution control systems for drier emissions such as biological scrubbers and wet electrostatic precipitators.

• Systems Contracting, part of The Systems Group, is a construction firm with experience in industrial, municipal and commercial construction markets. The firm is a self-performing, direct-hire contractor in all major disciplines.
IES manufactures a full line of SonicAire fans to eliminate the problems with combustible dust.

IMAI Inc. is a manufacturer and supplier of systems and equipment for the treatment and processing of particleboard, MDF, OSB, plywood and pressed wood-based products in general.

USNR Supplies RoyOMartin With Six-Deck Veneer Dryer
USNR recently supplied a six-deck veneer dryer for RoyOMartin’s Chopin, La., facility. This is the second six-deck dryer and fourth Coe dryer purchased by the company. It replaces the last of the European dryers furnished when the plant was built.

All four dryers are equipped with the energy-saving and exhaust-limiting Automatic Dryer Exhaust Control (ADEC) system. Since its first Coe dryer installation in 2007, this dryer feature has significantly lowered the plant’s energy and exhaust treatment cost.

Like its recently installed predecessor, this latest six-deck dryer was erected fully and then towed into place. Towing the fully-erected dryer into location reduces the outage time required when dismantling an existing dryer and erecting a new dryer on the old dryer foundation. USNR won EWTA’s 2012 Innovation Award for the innovative installation of its six-deck veneer dryer.

The combined capacity of both 6-deck dryers will be more than double the combined capacity of the earlier installed 18-section 4-deck (2007) and 20-section 4-deck (2009) dryers.

Plum Creek Timber Names New President
Plum Creek Timber Company recently announced that Tom Lindquist, executive vice president and chief operating officer, has been named president of the company.

Rick Holley, Plum Creek’s president and chief executive officer since 1994, will continue to serve as CEO.

Lindquist began his career at Plum Creek in 2001 as executive vice president overseeing the company’s real estate segment and later, its timberlands and manufacturing businesses. Lindquist has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer since 2007.

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### Upcoming Connections

#### 2013

**APRIL**
- 3-4 APA/Washington State University International Wood Composites Symposium, Seattle, Wash., www.woodsymposium.wsu.edu
- 17-19 International Wood Products Association Annual Convention, Vancouver, B.C., www.iwpawood.org

**MAY**
- 5-7 Composite Panel Association 2013 Spring Meeting, San Diego, Calif., www.compositepanel.org
- 6-10 LIGNA: World Fair for the Forestry and Wood Industries, Hannover, Germany, www.ligna.de
- 19-21 Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association Spring Conference, Napa, Calif., www.hpva.org

**JUNE**
- 4-7 Southern Forest Products Association Annual Meeting and Forest Products Machinery and Equipment Exposition, Atlanta, Ga., www.sfpalexpo.com
- 20-22 American Institute of Architects Annual Convention, Denver, Colo., www.aia.org

**SEPTEMBER**
- 24-27 Forest Products Laboratory, 18th International Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation of Wood Symposium, Madison, Wis., www.fpl.fs.fed.us
- 29-10/1 Composite Panel Association 2013 Fall Meeting, Baltimore, Md., www.compositepanel.org

**OCTOBER**
- 7-9 RISI North American Forest Products Conference, San Diego, Calif., www.risinfo.com/events

**NOVEMBER**
- 2-4 APA Annual Meeting/EWTA Info Fair, Huntington Beach, Calif., www.apawood.org/
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