



**HARDWOOD PLYWOOD AND  
VENEER ASSOCIATION**  
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## FLITCH AND PANEL DISPATCH

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### HARDWOOD PLYWOOD TRADE PETITION

**US MANUFACTURERS AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICE BY CHINA** - The Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood (CFTHP) filed a petition with the US Department of Commerce and the US International Trade Commission (ITC) September 27, 2012 asserting that imports from China are sold in the US at dumped prices and are subsidized by the government of China. CFTHP counsel, Jeff Levin, stated that without much attention to quality or environmental stewardship, Chinese products undercut products made in the US by 50 percent or more. According to CFTHP some Chinese plywood is made from logs and raw materials suspect to be from illegal sources. *cabinmakerfdm.com, September 28, 2012.*

### **ITC TIMELINE ON HARDWOOD PLYWOOD PETITION -**

CFTHP Petition Filed: 9/27/12

Return Questionnaires: 10/11/12

Conference/Hearings: 10/18/12

Post Conference Briefs: 10/23/12

Report to the Commission: 11/5/12

Proposed Vote: 11/9/12

Determination: 11/13/12

Views to Commerce: 11/19/12

If a determination were favorable to the US hardwood plywood industry, implementation of action would not likely occur before the second or third quarter of 2013.

**LAWMAKER AIDS INDUSTRY ON TRADE ISSUE** - Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) is organizing a bipartisan letter of support on the trade issue that will be sent to the Department of Commerce and the ITC. DeFazio provided testimony at the 10/18/12 hearing along with **HPVA** and the industry. **Columbia Forest Products, Commonwealth Plywood, Murphy Plywood, Roseburg Forest Products, States Industries, and Timber Products Company** led the petition. *Defazio.house.gov.*

**GROUP ORGANIZED TO FIGHT DUMPING PETITION** - The American Alliance for Hardwood Plywood (AAHP), formed in October, 2012 as a coalition of US based companies, opposes the petition. Greg Simon of Far East America, one of the organizers of AAHP, said "due to several factors including fiber sources and the manual manufacturing practice employed by the Chinese, this product has significantly thinner veneer than any hardwood plywood manufactured in the US. For those businesses that manufacture products requiring a thinner veneer, this is their only option." *finance.yahoo.com, 10/10/12.*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### **NEW HPVA MEMBER:**

### **FROM THE FOREST - WESTON, WI - ENGINEERED FLOORING MANUFACTURER**

**ARMSTRONG TO SELL CABINET BUSINESS** - **Armstrong World Industries, Inc.** has entered into an agreement to sell its cabinet business to a private equity firm, American Industrial Partners, for \$27 million. **Armstrong's** cabinet business is headquartered in The Colony, Texas with a manufacturing facility in Thompsettown, Pennsylvania. *Zacks.com, September 27, 2012.*

## HOUSING

**HOUSING SHOWS BIG GAINS IN SEPTEMBER** - Nationwide production and permitting of new homes rose sharply in September to their highest level since July of 2008 according to information released by HUD and the US Census Bureau. A 15% gain brought the pace of new housing construction to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 872,000 units, while an 11.6% gain brought permit issuance to 894,000 units. The "strong report corresponds with the significant gains we've seen in builder confidence over the past year, and confirms our view that a housing recovery is solidly underway in a growing number of markets," added NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "That said, we are now almost at the half-way mark in terms of what would be considered a normal amount of new-home construction in a healthy economy." *NAHB, October 17, 2012.*

**CANADIAN SEPTEMBER HOUSING STARTS** - Housing starts in Canada trended at 224,419 units annually in September, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The trend is a moving average of the monthly seasonally adjusted annual rates (SAAR) of housing starts. The standalone monthly SAAR was 220,215 units, slightly down from the revised August 225,328 units. Total all area starts were above thus posted for September 2011. *CMHC, October 9, 2012.*

## NEWS NUGGETS

**INTERPOL BLACK TRADE IN TIMBER REPORT** - The list of crimes involved in the trade of illegal timber is extensive. According to the "Green Carbon: Black Trade" report by INTERPOL, and the United Nations' Environment Program, illegal logging has been linked to a rise in cases of murder, corruption, fraud and theft. The report outlines how gangs across the world forge documents, pay bribes, and intimidate villagers. The areas that are of most concern in Southeast Asia are Myanmar, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, and Laos. There are some places in these countries where 50 to 70% of the timber is illegal. *timberbiz.com, October 2, 2012.*

**INDONESIA WANTS AUSTRALIA TO DROP TIMBER BILL** - Indonesia has amplified its call for Australia to drop attempts at imposing restrictions on timber imports. Denny Lesmana, First Secretary for Economic Affairs at Indonesia's embassy in Canberra, said he lamented Australia's refusal to postpone the landmark timber trade bill. Australia's Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill passed the lower house in August, and is being debated by the senate. *timberbiz.com, September, 18, 2012.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Canadian Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association 2012 Fall Meeting** - October 29-31, 2012  
Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau, Ottawa.

**HPVA 2013 CONVENTION-----MAY 19-21, 2013-----The Meritage Hotel,  
875 Bordeaux Way, Napa, California 94558. Access <http://www.hpva.org/> for details concerning this  
meeting as information becomes available.**