



**HARDWOOD PLYWOOD AND
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US COMMISSION ACTION ON HARDWOOD PLYWOOD

US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION ISSUES UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATION

The Commission's preliminary investigation of hardwood and decorative plywood indicated that there is reason to believe that US manufacturers are suffering material injury or are threatened with material injury due to hardwood and decorative plywood imports which have been alleged to have been sold in the US market at dumped prices and are unfairly subsidized by the Chinese government. The investigation will proceed to the US Department of Commerce, which will conduct a detailed investigation of pricing practices by manufacturers and exporters of the product in China. The petition filed in late September by the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood (CFTHP) represents 80% of US production of hardwood and decorative plywood. *CFTHP, November 9, 2012*

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING STANDARD APPROVED - The American National Standard for Engineered Wood Flooring, designated as **ANSI/HPVA EF 2012**, was approved by ANSI October 25, 2012. In addition to **HPVA**, the accredited standards developer, EF 2012 has also been adopted by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA). The published 2012 standard will be available Dec. 1st.

FORD RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD - Allyn C. Ford, President and CEO of **Roseburg Forest Products**, has been named the 2012 winner of APA's Bronson J. Lewis Award. The award recognizes individuals for their leadership and outstanding contribution to the engineered wood products industry. *Panel World, November 2012.*

2012 SUPPLIER AWARDS WINNERS - **Ventek, Inc.** and **Momentive Specialty Chemicals** were announced as winners of the Engineered Wood Technology Association (EWTA) Supplier of the Year Award. The Supplier Awards Program is conducted annually by EWTA.

GUITAR PROJECT - **Veneer Tech (Moehring Group)** and **Franklin Adhesives & Polymers** participated in the Morris Community High School's Advanced Manufacturing Program by providing veneer and adhesives to students of the school located in Morris, Ill. Taylor Guitars were built as the Program's project to acquaint students with the wood industry.

HOUSING

NEW-HOME SALES RISE IN SEPTEMBER- Sales of newly built, single-family homes rose 5.7% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 389,000 units in September, the fastest sales pace recorded since April of 2010. "New-home sales this year have consistently and significantly out-paced their year-ago levels as favorable interest rates, rising prices and improved consumer confidence have driven demand higher," noted National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Chief Economist David Crowe, "the number of completed new homes for sale is now at an all-time low and the month's supply is at its tightest since October 2005." *NAHB, October 24, 2012.*

REMODELING INDEX UP - The Remodeling Market Index (RMI) climbed to 50 in the third quarter of 2012, up from 45 in the previous quarter. This is the highest level since the third quarter of 2005, tracking the positive trends seen in the rest of the housing sector. NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe stated, "Although remodeling projects over \$25,000 are now showing some signs of strength, they are still lagging behind smaller properly alterations and maintenance and repair jobs." *NAHB, October 25, 2012.*

CONFIDENCE IN 55+ HOUSING IMPROVES - Builder confidence in the 55+ housing market for single-family homes showed significant improvement in the third quarter of 2012 compared to the same period a year ago. The index more than tripled year over year from a level of 12 to 36, which is the highest third-quarter reading since the inception of the index in 2008. *NAHB, November 8, 2012.*

CANADIAN HOUSING OUTLOOK - Canadian housing starts in 2012 have been driven by sustained strength in multiple starts, while single starts have stabilized. Full year starts are projected at 213,700 for 2012, and at 193,600 for 2013. Sales of existing homes have moderated so far in 2012 with full year resales projected to total 457,400. The projection for 2013 is for resales to rise modestly to 461,500 units. These forecasts reflect information available as of October 17, 2012. *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.*

NEWS NUGGETS

EU TIMBER REGULATIONS COMING - The European Union's Timber Regulations comes into force on March 3, 2013 for importers, manufacturers and distributors. The rule will prohibit placing illegally harvested timber or timber products in the European Economic Area (EEA) market. All Operators will have to carry out a Due Diligence risk assessment on the wood or wood product they intend to sell to the EEA market and demonstrate that the product or products they are providing are not illegal. The new law will include penalties such as fines, stock being seized, and their right to trade as a business suspended. Any Operator placing wood based panels on the market will have to be sure about the legality of what they buy. This could make some products such as **mixed tropical hardwood plywood** very complex to verify as low risk. *Builders' Merchants News, November 5, 2012.*

CONGO LINE OF ILLEGAL TIMBER - Officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo are colluding with foreign logging firms to support illegal logging, harming local communities, and risking the destruction of the forest according to a recent report. Derelict ports in Congo's riverside capital Kinshasa are piled high with logs ready to be shipped out to China and Europe as part of the timber trade. Much of the timber has been harvested using permits signed by the ministry of environment in direct contravention of Congolese law, advocacy group Global Witness said in the report. *timberbiz.com, October 30, 2012.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.