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FLITCH AND PANEL DISPATCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - HPVA 2013 CONVENTION.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

2013 HPVA CONVENTION - Underline May 19-21, 2013 as the date and The Meritage Hotel, Napa, California as the place. In addition to the discussions and presentations on national and international issues, plans are underway for amenities that California has to offer: a golf tournament is planned for Sunday, May 19th. For non-golfers the May 19th wine tasting tour will consist of four small wineries, featuring world class products in scenic locations.

HPVA FLOORING STANDARD - The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 45-day public comment period for the **American National Standard for Engineered Wood Flooring ANSI/HPVA EF** closes September 10, 2012. Publication of the revised standard is expected in late 2012.

HPVA ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMBER SERVICE - With the installation and final stages of calibration completed, **HPVA** will offer a new testing service in 2 chambers capable of maintaining temperature and relative humidity (RH) under close tolerances. With inside horizontal footprints of 7 by 11 feet and volumes of over 500 cubic feet, the chambers are ideally suited for assessing changes in flooring, furniture, cabinets and other items at set temperature/RH conditions, or cycled at various temperature/RH conditions. Relative humidity ranges are from 20 to over 95% and temperature from 50 to 122 degrees F. The chambers were out-of-service and contributed by **Armstrong World Industries**, refurbished and reinstalled by **HPVA**.

BRADWAY RECEIVES ASTM AWARD - Dennis H. Bradway, corporate product and standards manager at **Mannington Mills Inc.** of Salem N. J. has received the ASTM International Award of Merit and title of Fellow from Committee F06 on Resilient Floor Coverings. The Award of Merit is ASTM's highest organizational recognition for individual contributions to ASTM standards activities. Mr. Bradway has been a member of ASTM International since 1983. He received a 25 Year Service Award from F06 in 2008. *ASTM, 8/14/12.*

CLARIFICATION - In the item, **States Industries ApplePly Made with Soy-Based Resins**, appearing in the July 2012 **FLITCH AND PANEL DISPATCH**, note the following: "ApplePly is made using imported phenolic bonded blanks, which are overlaid with face and back veneers using soy based resins. ApplePly is no-added-urea-formaldehyde, but is not made with all soy adhesives." *States Industries, 7/20/12.*

LACEY AND ILLEGAL LOGGING

GIBSON SETTLES LACEY VIOLATIONS - Gibson Guitar Corp. entered into an agreement with the US Justice Department to pay a \$300,000 penalty, and a service payment of \$50,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Lacey Act violations. As part of the settlement agreement the government will decline charging Gibson criminally in connection with Gibson's order of Madagascar ebony "fingerboard" blanks. In addition the company will implement a program designed to strength its compliance controls and procedures. Gibson will also withdraw its claims to the wood seized in the course of the investigation having an invoice value of \$261,844. Assistant Attorney General Moreno said that Gibson "recognizes its duty under the U. S. Lacey Act to guard against the acquisition of wood of illegal origin by verifying the circumstances of its harvest and export, which is good for American business and American Consumers." *Department of Justice, 8/6/12.*

HPVA DRAFTING PROCURING/SOURCING LEGAL TIMBER STANDARD - Within the next several weeks and in accordance with ANSI procedures, **HPVA** will be developing a canvass list of potentially materially affected and interested persons to review the draft standard. The tentative title of the standard is ANSI Standard for Due Diligence in Procuring and Sourcing Legal Timber. It is expected that the draft standard will be sent out for comment soon after the canvass list has been established and approved. The current draft consists of 14 pages with and an additional 10 pages of appendices.

AUSTRALIANS ON FRONT LINE OF DNA TIMBER TESTING - DNA tests are the latest weapon in the fight to stop illegal timber. Wood samples can pinpoint the species and origin to ensure shipments are legal. An Australian scientist, Andrew Lowe, refined the DNA extraction technique at the University of Adelaide. Lowe is one of the world's top plant geneticists, and is the chief scientific officer at Double helix. Kingfisher, Europe's largest home improvement retailer, has been using Double helix on an ad hoc basis, and an Australian company is considering DNA use. *Timberbiz.com. 8/21/12.*

NEWS NUGGETS

BUILDER CONFIDENCE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE IN AUGUST - Builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes improved for a fourth consecutive month in August with a two-point gain to 37 on the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI). This gain builds on a six-point increase in July and brings the index to its highest level since February of 2007. "This fourth consecutive increase in builder confidence provides further evidence of the gradual strengthening that's occurring in many housing markets," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "However, we are still at a very fragile stage of this process and builders continue to express frustration regarding the inventory of distressed properties, inaccurate appraisal values, and the difficulty of accessing credit for both building and buying homes." *NAHB, 8/15/12.*

RESOLUTE IN PLANTING ONE BILLION TREES - Resolute Forest Products celebrated the planting of one billion trees at its forestry operations in northern Ontario, Canada. This achievement is the result of collective efforts made over the past 30 years by the company, its employees, numerous contractors and suppliers, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. "Forests are among the world's only renewable resources. We are fortunate to be involved in an industry that is truly sustainable." *Timberbiz.com and Lesprom Network. 8/16/12.*

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.