



**HARDWOOD PLYWOOD AND
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FLITCH AND PANEL DISPATCH

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

HPVA SPRING CONVENTION IS NEAR - REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 18, 2013 AND RECEIVE A \$100 REGISTRATION FEE DISCOUNT. Time is fast approaching, only three months out: underline **May 19 - 21, 2013** as the date for the **HPVA** Spring meeting at the **Meritage Resort and Spa, 875 Bordeaux Way, Napa, CA 94558**. Reservations: Phone: (866) 370 -NAPA.
Access <http://www.hpva.org/> for registration forms, to register online, and to obtain further details concerning this meeting.

NEW HPVA LABORATORY SERVICE - Installation is complete on the two **HPVA** Variable Environmental Chambers (VECs). Product performance can be gauged at a variety of environmental conditions: relative humidity (RH) from 18% to 96%, and temperature from 52°F to 120°F. A fully customized subfloor system can be constructed to accommodate a wood flooring manufacturers' specific specifications. Designed to demonstrate how wood products may perform in arid, temperate, and semi-tropical regions or in seasonal cycling, the VECs are specially suited to test kitchen and other cabinets, furniture, doors, as well as lumber and wood panel products.

RULES AND INVESTIGATIONS

CHINESE ANTIDUMPING INVESTIGATION POSTPONEMENT REQUEST - The Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood (CFTHP) has formally requested that the U. S. Department of Commerce extend the deadline for the preliminary determination in the antidumping investigation of hardwood and decorative plywood from China. With a postponement, the preliminary determination would be issued on or about May 13, 2013. In the extension request CFTHP, an association of U. S. manufacturers of hardwood and decorative plywood, indicated that there are "severe and consequential deficiencies" in the initial round of questionnaire responses submitted by Chinese producers. Jeff Levin, counsel for CFTHP, stated that "without this extension, the Commerce Department would be in a position of having to issue a preliminary determination based on the responses provided by the Chinese producers, taking the information at face value." *CFTHP, February. 5, 2013.*

BOILER MACT AND RESINATED WOODS - Extensive amendments to Part 241 of the boiler rule were signed December 20, 2012 providing provisions related to the boiler combustion of "Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials." Pertinent for wood panel manufacturers is the newly drafted Section 241.4 that lists "resinated wood" as among non-hazardous secondary materials that are not solid wastes when used as a fuel in a combustion unit. *Environmental Protection Agency.*

HOUSING AND BUSINESS

BUILDER CONFIDENCE IN 55+ MARKET IMPROVES - Continued improvement in the housing market for single-family homes in the 55+ segment was evident in the 4th quarter 2012 report. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) 55+ Housing Market Index (HMI) increased 10 points to a level of 28, the fifth consecutive quarter of year over year improvements. This does not, however, represent a robust market as an index number below 50 indicates that more builders view conditions as poor rather than good. Nevertheless, the numbers did show considerable improvement: present sales climbed 10 points to 27, expected sales for the next six months increased 12 points to 38, and traffic of prospective buyers rose 9 points to 24. *NAHB, February 7, 2013.*

HAS THE LUMBER SECTOR TURNED THE CORNER? - Canada's beleaguered forestry sector has been given a boost by the apparent recovery of the U. S. housing market and as exports to China has expanded. The bounce-back comes after the permanent closure of about 140 major sawmills in the U. S. and Canada representing about an 11% decline in capacity. Patricia Mohr, an economist at Scotiabank, believes that new sawmills will be built in British Columbia (BC). She says, "One of the big sources of worry for the industry is where they are going to find the labor, and what the wage rates are going to be." A reason for the concern is that after the BC sawmills closed, many skilled workers moved to the booming oil-and-gas-producing province of Alberta. *Karen Johnson, Wall Street Journal, January 29, 2013.*

NEWS NUGGETS

PROPOSITION 65 AND UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE - Since December of 2012, nearly a dozen home furnishing manufacturers selling products in California have been listed in prospective lawsuits related to Proposition 65 labeling of upholstered furniture allegedly containing the flame retardant chemical TDCPP. In October of 2012 the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) added tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP) to the Prop. 65 list "known to the State to cause cancer." A complication is that furniture must meet the requirements of California's TB 117 upholstery flammability standard. Furniture manufacturers had until October 28, 2013 to determine their responsibilities, if any, to provide labeling satisfactory to the state of California. *American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA) and The Furniture Executive, Sept/Oct 2012, Volume 29, No 9.*

ASIA PULP AND PAPER NO LONGER TO LOG VIRGIN FORESTS - Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) is the world's third largest pulp and paper company and sells products in 65 countries. The Indonesian firm recently announced, "APP has committed to stop logging in all natural forests." Conservationists are not convinced, as the firm has failed to carry out similar commitments before. World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Aditya Bayunanda said, "APP has several times committed to 100% stop natural forest clearance. They've got a timetable for 2004. They missed that. They've put it again for 2007. They missed that one again." *timberbiz.com, February 7, 2013.*

WOODEN IT BE TALL - The 10-story Forte building completed in Melbourne, Australia in 2012 bested the previous 9-story Murray Grove apartment building in London as the world's highest wood building. The **Canadian Wood Council** has asked McFarland Green Biggar and Equilibrium Consultants to create a methodology for constructing a timber skyscraper. The resultant 30-story concept building is nearly 100 meters tall and timber bears all the loads using cross-laminated timber, laminated stand lumber and laminated veneer lumber. *timberbiz.com, January 22, 2013.*