



## BREAKING NEWS

### Key ITC Hearing On Chinese Imports Set For Sep 19

The U.S. International Trade Commission is moving into the **final phase of its investigation of imports of hardwood plywood from China**, with a hearing scheduled for September 19. Then, within 45 days, the ITC will make a final determination to continue collecting duties from importers of Chinese hardwood plywood, or to return the duties collected to date.



For more information, contact Fred Ruggles at [fred.ruggles@usitc.gov](mailto:fred.ruggles@usitc.gov) or (202) 205-3187. To participate in the hearing, send a written request to the ITC Secretary by September 16. The hearing starts at 9:30 a.m. on September 19 at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building at 500 E St. SW, Washington, D.C.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS



**HPVA's New Team** Announced at the May, 2013 HPVA meeting in Napa, California:

- Andy Weiner of States Industries LLC was elected Vice Chairman of the HPVA Board
- Rocky Boucher of Columbia Forest Products was re-elected V.P. of the Canadian Manufacturers Division
- Bob Grant of Shaw Industries was re-elected V.P. of the Flooring Manufacturers Division
- Dave Mullen of Ashland Inc. was elected V.P. of the Supplier Division
- Dr. Brian Beakler of Armstrong World Industries was elected Director at Large

Congratulations to all!

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### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**Cash Deposit Requirements For Chinese Imports** Imports of hardwood plywood from China are subject to a continuing "cash deposit" requirement for entry into the U.S. The countervailing duty (CVD) portion became effective March 14, but will be temporarily suspended in mid-July. The CVD cash deposit requirement will be reinstated if a CVD order is issued at the conclusion of the unfair trade investigation. The antidumping portion became effective May 3, and remains in effect. There are additional uncertainties around timing, as actual duties are subject to an annual review process. More information is available at [www.hardwoodplywoodfairtrade.org](http://www.hardwoodplywoodfairtrade.org).



**Timber Certification = Higher EU Sales For Indonesia** First quarter sales of Indonesian timber products to the European Union rose 114%. Indonesia's Ministry of Trade attributed the sharp increase in sales to certification: the Wood Legality Verification System (SVLK), drafted by Indonesian forestry stakeholders, became effective in March.

The EU Timber Regulation works to prevent timber and wood products from crossing their borders. SVLK was specifically designed to ensure the compliance of Indonesian wood products. Imports of Indonesian furniture to the U.S. also increased in the first quarter.

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### HOUSING TRENDS



**Improving US Housing Markets On The Rise** 263 metro areas across the U.S. have improved for at least six months, up 5 from last month, according to the National Association of Home Builders/First American Improving Markets Index. While this is encouraging (**70% of all US metro areas are improving**), note that 29 new markets were added to the list and 24 fell off. Per Rick Judson, NAHB Chairman and home builder: "While that's a good sign that the housing recovery is on solid footing, we know that various challenges are slowing its progress – including continuing issues with credit availability for builders and buyers, as well as appraisals that aren't keeping up with the rising cost of construction."

### North America's Tallest Wood Building

Vancouver-based Michael Green Architecture will build North America's tallest wood structure: **The Wood Innovation and Design Centre**. Stretching to 90 feet tall, the building will house the University of Northern British Columbia's new masters of engineering program in tall wood design. At a mere six stories - but equivalent to nine - the structure will showcase not only the latest wood building techniques, but also the natural beauty and diversity of wood. *Image courtesy of MGA.*



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