

## e-bulletin

December 2010

### Welcome

After a break in bringing you the e-bulletin I thought it was time to put finger to keyboard and give you an update on activities around our region.

With all the very best for Christmas & New Year

Glenn

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### NZ revised work place exposure standard.

Previously we have reported that the New Zealand Department of Labour (DoL) were in the process of revising the work place exposure standard for Formaldehyde. During the past 14 months we have been involved in a number of meetings with DoL and provided several submissions to them regarding the proposed TWA of 0.3ppm.

In the past few weeks DoL have announced their decision which is to maintain the Ceiling Value at 1ppm and to introduce a TWA (8hr) of 0.5ppm. This is in line with the position put forward by the Formaldehyde industry via FCANZ. However DoL have also stated that they believe the 12 hour TWA should be lowered to 0.33ppm. This is despite other authorities (NICNAS & OSHA) stating that the TWA for Formaldehyde does not need adjustment for extended work shifts. DoL appear to have disregarded the science involved in this issue.

At this point it is unclear whether ERMA in NZ will make the limit value an enforceable one or establish it as a recommended level. Watch this space for a new update.

The decision details can be found at:

[http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/publications/booklets/wes-dec-2010/wes\\_01.asp](http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/publications/booklets/wes-dec-2010/wes_01.asp).

If you would like to know more please contact us. ....top

### Further project activities for powder coating

We are delighted to report that a previous project we reported on; Powder coating of automotive plastics, received further funding to continue the commercialisation of this technology.

Previous work had focused on limited studies of a low risk

component under the hood of a vehicle. The aim was to demonstrate that the process was feasible.

Thanks to the Victorian EPA HazWaste fund the project is set to continue over the next two year to include a wider variety of substrates and applications with more stringent performance criteria such as exterior use.

Tech Partners Australia is proud to be associated with this project in a project support roles. We also welcome interested parties who may have suitable applications to contact us to discuss commercialisation opportunities.

For more details contact us.

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**And Another Thing.....**

## Little Known Christmas Fact

Not long ago and far away, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip...but there were problems everywhere.

Four of his elves were sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More Stress. Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the boards cracked and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys. So, frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of coffee and a shot of whiskey. When he went to the cupboard, he found the elves had hidden the liquor and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he dropped the coffee pot and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor.

He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw it was made from.

Just then the doorbell rang and Santa cussed on his way to the door. He opened the door and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said: "Where would you like to put this tree Santa?"

And that my friends, is how the little angel came to be on top of the Christmas tree.

### **About Us.**

Tech Partners Australia is an independent Technical Service provider to the composite wood panels industry. Glenn Ryan who has 25 years experience in industry runs the organization. His experience covers Quality Management, Technical Service and R&D Management.

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