

e-bulletin

December 2006

Welcome to the final edition of our e-bulletin for 2006. In this issue we detail the latest on the NICNAS review of Formaldehyde. We also provide details on 5 Star research at the University of Tasmania and some rules of thumb for achieving 5Star from an FWPRDC report.

Finally thanks to those of you that support this business through what has been a difficult year for the industry. We look forward to being involved with you again next year.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Cheers Glenn

NICNAS PEC Review of Formaldehyde

The NICNAS PEC report reviewing Formaldehyde has now been published. Those of you wishing to obtain a copy can download a copy from:

http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/PEC28/PEC_28_Full_Report_PDF.pdf

or you can request a hard copy from NICNAS.

If you don't fancy wading through the 300+ pages I have summarised the major impacts for industry as follows:

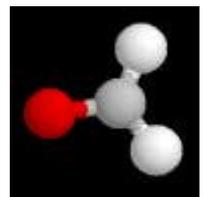
Major recommendations:

- Change TWA from 1.0ppm to 0.3ppm & STEL from 2ppm to 0.6ppm.
- Classified as a Category 2 carcinogen- upgraded from a category 3
- Set an indoor air guidance value of 80ppb.
- Develop standards for mobile homes/caravan so that indoor air quality is maintained.
- Use of low emitting panels in mobile homes/caravans.
- DEH to gather data on indoor air formaldehyde values.

Tech Partners have been involved in an advocacy role for the industry over the past 18 months on this matter. If you wish to know more about the report or require assistance in understanding the impacts or need to develop plans for compliance please contact us.

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Test Cells at UTAS

The university of Tasmania has been working on a project to evaluate the thermal efficiency of timber floors and timber construction in general.

The project consists of two major components.

1. Test Cells
2. Full Scale Houses

The test cells are small single rooms that are designed to evaluate on a smaller scale the thermal performance of various construction methods. The project aims to in part verify theoretical models of dwelling performance.

Details can be found at <http://oak.arch.utas.edu.au/TestCells>
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5 Star Rule of Thumb Report

Another 5 Star research initiative has seen the publication of "Rule of Thumb for obtaining 5 Star rating for timber floored dwellings" by FWPRDC. This report evaluates a number of techniques for improving the thermal efficiency of timber floored dwellings.

The report evaluates the effectiveness of the techniques by increase in star rating using AccuRate and cost. The report concludes that in general the most effective methods are:

- Reducing the net conditioned floor area to window ratio to <25%
- Increasing the roof space insulation to R4
- Increasing the wall insulation to R2
- In cool climates adding floor insulation, although in warmer climates this technique is ineffective.

A full copy of the report can be obtained from:

<http://www.fwprdc.org.au/content/pdfs/new%20pdfs/Rules%20of%20Thumb%20for%20Timber-floored%20Dwellings%20WEBFORMAT.pdf>

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And Finally

Ten signs you're not getting a Christmas bonus

- Co-workers refer to you as "the ghost of unemployment future"
- The last time you saw your boss was when he testified against you at the embezzlement trial
- On your door, you find a lovely wreath of pink slips
- What you call "my new office," everybody else calls "the supply closet"
- Boss's Christmas card says, "Don't let the door hit your ass on the way out"
- You keep getting memos reminding you that employees are



required to wear pants

- When your boss came over for dinner, he was crushed under an avalanche of stolen office supplies
- Whenever you ask for a raise, a guy shows up at your house and breaks your jaw.
- In your most recent performance evaluation, the word "crap" appeared 78 times.
- You're the captain of the English cricket team. (My apologies to the Nth Americans I have been told you should insert "you're the quarterback for the New York Jets")

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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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