

## e-bulletin

March 2006

### Welcome

Wow the year is rushing by. We are a little late with this update but travel commitments have been distracting during the last month. This time we have comments on the coming year, Formaldehyde, proposed CARB regulations. Hope you enjoy this edition.

Cheers Glenn

### 2007 What's in store?

2007 in Australia appears to be shaping up to be economically similar to 2006. The Reserve Bank are continuing to try and damp down economic growth by raising interest rates but any rise is likely to be minor. The economic outlook is positive, so on the domestic market we are likely to see good sales of panel products but at a slower rate than 2005/2006.

This year is also an election year so there is likely to be pressure on the Federal government on Forestry Policy. We have recently seen an initiative to set up a fund to protect forests from illegal logging in Asia. How this will affect the situation in Australia with imports and recognition of Forestry Stewardship codes remains to be seen.

The support policy for plantation forestry is also likely to come under scrutiny as debate rages over the effect of investment funding on smaller scale dairy and other farming. Several pulp mill projects are in various stages of planning.

Other policies that remain active are the 5star energy rating systems in the domestic housing market and the likely release in 2007/2008 of new Occupational Exposure Limits for Formaldehyde. [top....](#)

### Formaldehyde

As noted above there is likely to be a modification to the Occupational Exposure Limits for Formaldehyde in the coming year. Currently the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) are reviewing the recommendations from NICNAS.

The process is likely to take some time because the ASCC will need to prepare Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). This statement will need to be released for public comment. As a result it is unlikely that the revisions will not be in place until late 2007 or early 2008.

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NICNAS are currently preparing information bulletins for workers and occupiers of mobile homes and caravans. The bulletins will summarise the recommendations from the NICNAS report and also provide health and safety information. [top.....](#)

## CARB regulations

The California Air Resources Board are currently in the final stages of setting Formaldehyde emission regulations for wood panels and products made from wood panels that are sold in the State or California.

The regulations are based on emission levels similar to the Japanese F\*\*\* and F\*\*\*\* levels. If the proposal goes ahead all importers, manufacturers and sellers of these products will have to ensure that they have evidence of the products Formaldehyde emissions. Manufacturers will be required to participate in a third party product certification scheme that is approved by CARB. Current plans are to implement in two stages commencing in 2009.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/compwood07/compwood07.htm#anchor> or simply contact us... [top.....](#)

## Web-site

We are now on the web! After sweating over computers tech partners is now present on the web. The site is fairly basic at the moment and offers the opportunity to join our mailing list, contact us directly from the site and download newsletters. There are still some style changes to make but the basics are now there.

One area we will work on is a links page. In the past I have found this approach useful to find specific items of interest. If you have any web-sites that you find useful let us know and we will include them as a link from our site. Keep your eye out for that one.

In the meantime we look forward to you comments and suggestions at: <http://www.techpartners.com.au> [top.....](#)

## 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.  
[Contact us](#) on the net or by telephone 61 (0)3 53671677 or visit <http://www.techpartners.com.au>