

e-bulletin

October 2008

Welcome to this edition of the e-bulletin. My apologies for the slight delay but as you will see travel has been a big part of the last three months so getting thoughts down on paper has been difficult.

Cheers Glenn

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ATCA JIS Mark Certification Body

It was very pleasing to see that all the hard work has paid off for ATCA when they were approved as an Accredited Certification Body from METI in Japan.

ATCA formerly carried out JIS Mark certifications under the AWPB banner but with changes to the certification scheme they had to reapply and formal approval was achieved on the 31st of July 2008.

Under the scheme ATCA can issue JIS mark certifications for manufacturers and the work to date has focussed on certification to JIS A5905-Fibreboards and JIS A5908-Particleboard. The scope of the ATCA certification covers the organisations based in Commonwealth of Australia, Republic of Indonesia, India, Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand.

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ISO TC89 Meeting

The ISO standards committee TC89, covering Wood Panel products held their latest meeting in Saitama New Urban Centre (Tokyo) last month.

The various sub-committees met over 4 days to discuss specifications and further developments to the standards for Plywood, OSB, Fibreboard and Particleboard. Significant progress was made with most of the sub-committees getting close to finalising their various ISO standards.

An enjoyable part of the program for me was the chance to visit the FFPRI and review the Formaldehyde chamber testing process with their staff. Another added bonus was the visit to a housing construction site of Polus to view the application of composite panels

in Japan. There were two striking aspects to this visit, firstly the high rate of use of wood composites and secondly the use of New Zealand LVL in the post and beam framework. All materials were of a high standard with a very standardised approach to methods employed. [Top.....](#)

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) is Australia's answer to reducing carbon pollution by introducing a price on carbon by requiring large emitters of Greenhouse gases to remit permits annually equivalent to the level of emissions they have.

So who will be affected? The short answer is everyone! The aim of the scheme is to create price signals in the economy to make activities which produce Greenhouse gases more expensive and therefore reduce the activity. So everyone will feel the increase in prices. However not all manufacturers will be affected directly. The reason relates to simplicity and administration.

At this time the final rules for the CPRS have not been set but there are some clues of the preferred scheme structure outlined in the Federal Governments Green Paper. If a site emits more than 25kt or a corporation more than 125kt of primary CO₂-e/year they will be required to remit permits at the commencement of the scheme.

For the rest of use we will be affected indirectly. The impact will be seen primarily in increased energy prices and ultimately in the cost of all manufactured goods. The increases will obviously be related to the energy intensity of the product and how much of the internal cost increases the manufacturers can pass onto their customers.

We recommend a structured approach to the CPRS and can provide a management process for organisations to follow to deal with the impact on business.

The final structure of the scheme will be released in December 2008. It remains to be seen if the Government will continue to push for implementation in 2010 given the current economic climate.

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PACRIM Conference in Rotorua (NZ) in November

The 10th Pac-Rim Bio Composites conference will be held in November. Topics to be covered will include.

- Bio-resources (including characterization, supply, processing, environmental, economic, future challenges and opportunities of wood or non-wood fibres)
- Adhesives and bonding (current and new adhesives; adhesive mechanisms and characterization; future challenges and opportunities)
- Chemical modification and utilisation of fibrils and fibres

(fundamental and applied aspects)

- Processing technologies (including existing and new production technologies, process modelling, material interactions, production and demand trends)
- New analytical techniques
- Sustainable development and manufacture of bio-composites
- New composite products
- Economics, management and marketing
- VCO / Formaldehyde
- New / niche value products.

For more information see the conference web-site.

<http://www.biobased-composites.com/>

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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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