

Welcome

This quarter the bulletin has been delayed slightly due to my visit to the USA during September. I thought it would be valuable to wait until my return so I could report on new developments.

Cheers Glenn

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Wood Adhesives 2009

During September I travelled to the USA primarily to attend the Wood Adhesives 2009 conference. The conference theme is aimed at adhesives for the wood composites industry and related areas of interest.

The 2009 conference had a large focus on alternative adhesives and it was interesting to note the large number of presentations on protein based binders. All of these systems rely on a cross-linker. The most commercial at the moment is the Hercules system which uses an Epichlorohydrin based polymer cross-linker. There are also systems being commercialised with Formaldehyde cross-linkers as well as one proposed to use a polymeric isocyanate. Other companies are using a conventional approach to achieving low formaldehyde emissions.

Several advanced analytical techniques were also discussed including the use of X-ray tomography to view three-dimensional images of wood and the adhesive in a bond line. The use of nano-indentation was also highlighted as a technique to provide minute details of physical properties of materials. This data could also be mapped to provide data on surface properties and their variability across a surface.

I have provided a link to copies of the relevant presentations below:

[The CARB Rule: Driving Technology to Improve Public Health](#)

[Soy Containing High Quality CARB II Compliant PB and MDF](#)

[Protein Hybrid Adhesives: Adhesive Performance, Formulation Latitude, and Chemical Structure](#)

[Investigation of PF Adhesive Penetration in Wood by Micro X-ray Tomography](#)

[Characterization of pMDI Reacted Wood Part II: Nanoindentation](#)

If you would like to know more please [contact us](#). [.....top](#)

New Zealand Formaldehyde Exposure Limits

As mentioned in the article above the proposed changes to the WES are progressing slowly.

The latest development is a meeting to be held in Wellington (NZ) on the 25th of November 2009. The meeting will discuss submissions received earlier in the year regarding the proposed change to the WES from a ceiling of 1ppm to a Formaldehyde level of 0.3ppm (8 hour TWA) and a 0.6ppm (STEL).

At the moment there is no timetable for the drafting of the new WES but this will also be discussed at the meeting.

The proposed WES is in line with the recommendations made in Australia by NICNAS. However these recommendations were apposed by industry as being overly cautious and have never been implemented.

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And Another Thing.....

A company contacted a consultant regarding an impossible problem they were having with one of their multi-million dollar machines. They had tried everything and everyone else but to no avail.

In desperation, they called on the consultant who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The consultant reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine.

At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and proudly stated, "This is where your problem is." The part was promptly replaced and the machine worked perfectly again. The company received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The engineer responded briefly:

- One chalk mark: \$1
- Knowing where to put it: \$49,999

The account was paid in full.

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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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