

e-bulletin

December 2007

Welcome to the final bulletin for this year. Time flies when you're having fun. In this edition we provide an update on the current position with the Californian formaldehyde regulations as well as a section on the carbon trading scheme in Australia.

Finally Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Cheers Glenn

CARB Formaldehyde regulations

The Californian Air Resources Board (CARB) are slowly progressing their formaldehyde emission regulations. There was a meeting held in November with a number of third party certification bodies to discuss the operation of the scheme. As yet there is no clarity on the "Rules" of the scheme. CARB are currently developing these and will have them available for applicant certifying bodies by January 2008.

It is not clear what the demand for this certification on manufacturers in this region will be but it is clear that there have already been some enquiries in Asia for certification. The difficulty is due to the chain of custody requirements of the scheme. If a panel product enters California it will need certification no matter what form it enters in. So for example a piece of furniture made in Asia will have to have emission certification for the panel it is made from. Also of concern is that the emissions will have to relate to the USA methods. Currently there are no test facilities available in Australia for this method.

If you wish to know more on this subject please give me a call.

Carbon Trading

In the last edition of the e-bulletin I outlined the points made by the timber industry to the Government about emission trading scheme concerns. I recently attended an information session held by the Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet about the proposed scheme and I would like to bring the following points to your attention despite the fact that the scheme will not commence until 2011.

Firstly the scheme doesn't want to discourage industry from investing in projects that will produce benefits in emission reductions now. The plan is to therefore allow projects that qualify and can demonstrate that they reduce Greenhouse gas emissions or energy consumption

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to apply for abatement credits that can be used when the trading scheme commences in 2011. If a company is planning this type of project they should consider what they can gain by applying for credits.

Secondly under the scheme there will be a need to report emissions. This requirement will be managed by a national emissions reporting scheme. The requirement to report emissions commences for large emitter in 2008/2009. Therefore these organisations need to be thinking about their reporting requirements soon. There is a need to give this reporting more than a cursory glance because it will form the basis for any greenhouse debt in the future trading scheme.

Finally it is imperative that the composites industry establishes a clear understanding of how they will be affected by any scheme. Manufacturers that are high energy users may apply for compensation under the scheme which will allow them to compete against imports etc. If the timber composites industry feels it will be adversely affected under the scheme they need to be lobbying government as soon as possible. [top](#)

Finally one to end the year.....

At Christmas time there are many traditions that we follow. Here is the explanation behind one of them.

It was Christmas Eve, and Santa was really busy making his list and checking it twice, when there came a knock at the door. His wife comes in. "Honey, where do you want me to put your boots and gloves?" Well, Santa is very busy and so he's slightly annoyed by this trivial question, so he snaps at her, "Put them by the front door, and stop bothering me. I'm trying to get some work done."

He starts back to work, but a few minutes later an elf barges in. "Santa, we got all the toys wrapped, what should we do with them?" Santa snaps, "Stick 'em in the sleigh! Can't you see I'm trying to get ready? I don't want any more interruptions!"

But sure enough, as soon as he starts back to work, there is another interruption. An angel, standing at the door, says, "Santa, I have your Christmas tree. Where would you like me to put it?"

And this is where we get the tradition of placing an angel on top of the Christmas tree. [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.
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