

CITW Facts by Fax

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CITW FALL MEETING

CITW's Fall Committee meetings will be held at the Toronto Airport Hilton on Monday, September 18, 2000. The Environmental, Promotion & Education, and Technical Committees will be meeting as will the Pole Committee, marking the first time this committee will be meeting since being awarded the status of full standing committee. All members are encouraged to attend the meetings and to participate in the Timber Specialties Golf Scramble the following day.

ONTARIO CONSIDERING ADOPTING COST-RECOVERY CHARGES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

A cost-recovery charge for hazardous waste management is now being considered by the Ontario's Ministry of Environment. The proposal, which is currently in the preliminary phase, would apply to generators of liquid industrial and hazardous wastes, and cover on-site and off-site disposal of hazardous waste, out-of-province generators and all levels of government.

The ministry is hoping to recoup \$17 million to recover the amount it spends to provide services such as generator registration, manifests, policy and guideline development, clean up and spills response, infrastructure and communications.

Charges would include \$300 per site for annual registration for all generators, and \$10 per manifest. An additional charge of \$10 per tonne for hazardous waste destined for disposal will be charged to all medium and large generators. The tonnage charge, however will not be applied to liquid industrial waste, transfer stations or hazardous waste destined for

recycling. Small generators, which are considered to be those registering in less than four waste classes and generating less than two tonnes of waste annually and using less than six manifests annually, also will be exempted.

The provincial government is also contemplating requiring all generators to register with the ministry on an annual basis. At present, there is a one-time registration. The ministry is also considering compelling generators to provide at the time of the annual registration information regarding the type of hazardous waste produced, the amount that is produced and moved off-site, and the type and quantity remaining on-site.

ONTARIO IMPOSING NEW REPORTING AND MONITORING REGULATIONS

The Ontario provincial government intends to impose more extensive mandatory monitoring and reporting regulations on industries and municipalities beginning January 2001.

The draft regulations as well as the preliminary list of substances are expected to be posted on the province's Environmental Registry by the end of the summer, and will be followed by a 60-day public consultation.

It is anticipated that requirements for large industrial emitters, who will also have to implement Continuous Emission Monitoring (CEM), will be phased in by next January. Smaller industries will have until January 2002.

It is expected that the list will set out proposed reporting thresholds for 357 substances, with about 118 using the same threshold as the NPRI. Thresholds

for substances will likely vary, from 0.0001 kg per year for dioxins and furans to thousands of tonnes for products such as ammonia, carbon dioxide and methane.

Under the proposed plan, reports will have to be audited after the year 2005-2006, and records will have to be maintained for a period of seven years. Also, all organizations that have to report will be compelled to pay a user fee to Ontario's Ministry of Environment (MOE) when filing mandatory reports. The reporting will be done in electronic format, and the MOE intends to make the data available to the public.

END-COATED AND INCISED CCA-TREATED DECK BOARDS PASS THE TEST

Both end-coated and incised CCA-treated deck boards easily stand the test against time, remaining in excellent condition after being exposed above-ground for nine years, concludes a study conducted by Forintek Canada Corporation on behalf of the CITW.

The study was designed to examine concerns that much of the above-ground residential treated lumber produced in Canada was not being treated to meet standards published by the CSA 080 Technical Committee on Wood Preservation. The data obtained through this study is being submitted to the American Wood Preservers Association T2 Committee for consideration of an above ground decking standard.

The study examined 11 wood species, untreated and treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA-C), in Ottawa and Vancouver. The study was conducted by Paul Morris, who is Forintek's group leader (durability and protection), wood

preservation technologist J.K. Ingram, as well as consultants E.E. Doyle and K. Motani.

The study revealed that incising increased the amount of cupping in western hemlock, lodgepole pine, alpine fir, eastern spruce and balsam fir in Vancouver. In Ottawa, it yielded the same results with western and eastern spruce, lodgepole pine and jack pine. The field test also showed that ratings of the degree of checking after nine years of exposure were similar in Ottawa and Vancouver.

The Forintek study concludes that incising the boards tends to increase cupping while decreasing checking. Cupping was greater in Vancouver than Ottawa, likely due to moisture content of the wood. It also revealed that all untreated decks -- with the exception of western red cedar and alpine fir -- would have required the replacement of individual boards. Untreated southern pine did not fare well in Ottawa and Vancouver nor did ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine in Ottawa as the entire decks would probably have to have been replaced by homeowners.

MAKING WORKPLACES SAFER

New updated occupational exposure limits for hazardous chemicals will take effect in Ontario on September 30, 2000. The tightened limits, which were conceived after consultations with industry and labour, marks the first time since 1986 that the province has significantly upgraded exposure limits. The CITW, through the Canadian Wood Council, actively participated in the consultations.

"Everyone wins in this situation," remarked Ontario Labour Minister Chris Stockwell. "Lower exposure limits will result in fewer occupational illnesses and lower compensation costs for employers in the future."

The revised standards now brings Ontario standards in line with those recommended by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, a non-profit professional association composed of industrial hygienists from government agencies and academic institutions that annually reviews new exposure limits. The federal government as well as most Canadian provinces and territories already use ACGIH limits.

At present more than 575 chemical agents are governed by regulations under

the Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act. The new limits will have a bearing on 202 hazardous chemicals, and two other substances (benzene and 1,3-butadiene) will be subjected to interim reductions while consultations take place. Wood dust, styrene, polyvinyl chloride dust, manganese, formaldehyde and carbon monoxide will also face reductions but only after consultations take place.

Besides investing \$2 million to enforce the new tightened exposure limits, the Ontario Ministry of Labour intends to work with Safe Workplace Associations to assist industry to identify novel and innovative methods to achieve lower exposures in a cost-effective manner.

U.S. EPA LIKELY TO TIGHTEN ARSENIC LIMITS IN DRINKING WATER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue an edict that will reduce the allowable limit of arsenic in drinking water from the current 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. In a 1999 report, the National Research Council strongly urged the EPA to tighten arsenic limits because of cancer and other health risks.

Approximately 34 million Americans in 6,900 communities drink tap water that pose unacceptable cancer risks because of arsenic naturally occurring in groundwater, estimated recently the environmental organization the Natural Resources Defence Council from data culled by the EPA.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA PUBLISHES TREATED WOOD GUIDELINES

Fisheries and Oceans Canada recently adopted new guidelines to protect fish and fish habitat from treated wood used in aquatic environments in the Pacific Region. Original drafts of the new guidelines were extremely restrictive to all types of treated wood products. Dr. Kenn Brooks and CITW's Executive Director Henry Walthert were extensively consulted resulting in a more acceptable document, however the CITW does not wholly endorse the new guidelines.

According to the new guidelines, any construction project involving the aquatic use of treated wood must now be submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The government department considers that treated wood could have

"adverse environmental effects". It also asserts that foreshore dock placement and the installation of piling can harmfully alter fish habitat. As a result, the government department must now be notified in advance of construction projects so that it can conduct an assessment. Projects will also be appraised in order to ascertain whether any mitigation and compensation should be determined according to the Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat. The assessment of these construction projects will include an evaluation of the suitability of construction materials.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

American Wood Preservers Association Technical Committee Meetings

Hilton Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah
September 17-22, 2000

Canadian Institute of Treated Wood Committee Meetings

Hilton Toronto Airport
Toronto, Ontario
September 18, 2000

Wood Solutions Fair

Radisson Suites Toronto Airport
Toronto, Ontario
September 26, 2000

Northeast Pole Conference

Binghamton, New York
October 17-18, 2000

American Wood Preservers Institute Fall Meeting

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
October 18-20, 2000

Canadian Wood Council

Fall Meeting
Calgary, Alberta
October 19-20, 2000

Canadian Wood Preservers Association Fall Meeting

Montreal, Quebec
October 23-24, 2000

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