

# CITW Facts by Fax

## Highlights

**Season's Greetings**

*With the holidays just around the corner, the CITW wishes peace and joy in your world, at Christmas and always. We wish you every success in the New Year.*

*Thank you to all our members for your continued support.  
Special thanks to the volunteers for your efforts and dedication in ensuring the success of our association.*

1. Tough new waste regulations introduced in Ontario
2. National Forest Pest Management Caucus
3. Building lifecycle analysis tool garnering worldwide attention
4. A new National Building Code in the works
5. Forestry industry has yet to embrace e-commerce

### TOUGH NEW WASTE REGULATIONS INTRODUCED IN ONTARIO

Tough new hazardous waste regulations that will take effect next spring were recently announced by Ontario Environment Minister Dan Newman.

The new regulations, which will be in force as of March 31, 2001, are expected to have an immediate impact because some wastes that were previously considered non-hazardous will now be deemed hazardous.

Under the new rules, a new leaching procedure to determine if wastes are hazardous will become compulsory. The Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP), widely regarded as being more advanced than the leaching test now used in Ontario, will test 88 contaminants. "Our requirements will be tougher than those in the U.S. with respect to the TCLP because we'll be testing for more contaminants," notes Newman. The U.S. procedure tests 40 contaminants.

Besides updating schedules of hazardous waste to include 129 new chemicals and industrial processes, the regulations will also be introducing a new "derived from" rule. The rule states that listed hazardous waste will maintain its classification until proven otherwise.

CITW is working with preservative suppliers to determine if treated wood products could be adversely affected. If necessary a response will be submitted.

### NATIONAL FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT CAUCUS

The meeting of the National Forest Pest Management Caucus held on November 23 at the Government Centre in Ottawa was productive, says CITW environmental coordinator Jocelyn Bougie.

A national body of pest management experts, the Caucus reported that it successfully managed two projects recently -- the review of the federal pesticides registration process and the development of economic benefit studies on forest pest management technology.

An independent body, the Caucus is represented by experts from the forest industry, provincial and federal governments, and special interest groups such as the CITW. The Caucus is counting on members of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministries to continue to support the involvement of government pest management experts in the Caucus.

### BUILDING LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS TOOL GARNERING WORLDWIDE ATTENTION

A building lifecycle analysis program initially developed by Forintek Canada is generating worldwide attention. A decision-support tool, the Athena™ program enables building designers to assess the environmental impact of buildings and building products.

The program is based on lifecycle assessment principles and practices, and it currently covers structural design elements of buildings from basic resource extraction

up to and including on site construction. It was developed by Ottawa-based Athena™ Sustainable Materials Institute, a not-for-profit organization that built on the work begun by Forintek Canada in 1991 with the support of Natural Resources Canada.

The heart of the Athena™ program and the Institute's research program lies with building material lifecycle inventory databases. As a result, Athena™ research teams follow common building materials from cradle to grave, calculate the environmental effects at each stage in the product's life cycle and build computer accessible databases to capture the full environmental story. This allows building designers to compare the relative environmental effects among alternative design solutions at the conceptual design stage.

Wood, according to the Athena™ program, is a wise environmental solution. Wood "tends to do very well in these types of comparisons," according to Institute president Wayne Trusty. "The more that tools like Athena™ are used, the more they will point to wood as a good environmental option."

The Athena™ program was well received during presentations held in Colorado, Michigan, Tennessee and most recently in Helsinki, Finland, added Trusty. "People from all over the world were at the Helsinki conference (and) Athena is seen as a leading instrument in building materials lifecycle analysis," says Trusty.

For more information about the Athena™ program, please contact Wayne Trusty at (613) 269-3795.

## A NEW NATIONAL BUILDING CODE IN THE WORKS

The National Building Code (NBC) is about to get a major facelift -- a massive undertaking expected to be completed by 2003. Following a growing worldwide trend, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) has decided to adopt "objective-based" codes.

The new codes, instead of only appointing prescriptive requirements, will state fundamental objectives in terms of the performance of the solution. Functional requirements would be derived from these fundamental objectives -- and products, materials, procedures and systems would have to meet and satisfy them. In turn, acceptable solutions or reference documents such as the current requirements of the Code would fall under fundamental requirements.

"We expect this will improve clarity within the Codes," says Bruce Clemmensen, chair of the CCBFC. "For every provision in the Codes, the idea is to have an intent statement and to link the provision to a high-level objective. So if someone proposes a different way of doing things, there is a support system for their judgement. This is intended to accommodate innovation in a reliable way."

That traditionally wasn't always the case. Innovative products had to demonstrate that it satisfied the requirements established by NBC -- something that was challenging at times because the original rationale behind a requirement wasn't necessarily evident. With objective-based codes, equivalency is more apparent because objectives and intent are more clearly stated.

Though the new Code is expected to have a minimal effect in the short term, over the long haul the impact is expected to be dramatic, particularly since the Code serves as a model for all of the provinces.

"We don't expect much impact on our standards in the short term because objectives will be written in as a layer above the existing codes," says John Maheu, program manager, Built Environmental Program at CSA International. "In the longer term, we expect technical committees will eventually need to evaluate each requirement in their standards to see whether or not it aligns with the stated objectives of the Code."

A task force composed of industry and government representatives is currently guiding the challenging task of converting codes to an objective-based format. More than 6,000 requirements of the codes are being analysed to determine its intent and its objectives.

## FORESTRY INDUSTRY HAS YET TO EMBRACE E-COMMERCE

Canada's forestry industry is beginning to pay a price for its reluctance to embrace new e-commerce technology, according to a recently published study.

Thanks to its stubborn reliance on the traditional business model (harvest, manufacture, sell and ship) the vast majority of the world's largest forest and paper companies are generating returns below the industry's accepted target of 10%, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers' 2000 Global Forest & Paper Industry Survey. The study is based on a detailed review of the 100 top forest companies' financial results for the fiscal year ending 1999.

Only 14 firms enjoyed returns on capital employed (ROCE) over 10% in 1999. The average was 5.4%, mainly because forest companies have failed to adopt new on-line technology. In fact, the forest industry trails other smoke-stack industries such chemicals and steel by almost a year in its usage of e-business.

"The winners in this industry will be the companies that can reduce costs and get closer to customers," says Craig Campbell, partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Global Forest & Paper Practice. "E-business is the key enabler to achieve both of these ends. Forest and paper companies need to do a better job at capitalizing on e-business, particularly as it relates to connecting with the customer."

Canadian forest companies, particularly British Columbia firms, have much work to do, adds Campbell. "None of the B.C. companies have done anything significant in terms of e-business," notes Campbell.

The conservative approach adopted by the forest industry seems to stem from a lack of understanding regarding the impact the digital economy and information technology systems can have, says the study.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Canadian Institute of Treated Wood

Annual General Meeting  
April 8-10, 2001  
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel  
Vancouver, BC

### Canadian Wood Council

Annual General Meeting  
April 25-26, 2001  
Kelowna, BC

### American Wood Preservers Association

Annual Meeting  
May 20-23, 2001  
Minneapolis, MN

### International Research Group

May 20-25, 2001  
Nara, Japan

### Forest Products Society

June 24-27, 2001  
Baltimore, MD

### Canadian Wood Council

Semi-annual General Meeting  
October 18-19, 2001  
Montreal, PQ

### American Wood Preservers Association

Fall Technical Meetings  
September 16-21, 2001  
Rapid City, SD

*Published by: CITW  
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