



CITW

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CITW TRIALS NEW NEWSLETTER

We hope that you enjoy this new format - It's more efficient. Member's comments are appreciated on this new name, format and content. We will make every effort to ensure that this continues to be an informative and interesting tool for your business.

CALIFORNIA – Romero Bill

The Treated Wood Council have been working to modify the Romero bill in the California Legislature, and have succeeded in getting major changes included, with more to come. The bill has come a long from its original form, which would have banned the manufacture or sale of any arsenically treated wood in California for any application as of January 1, 2003, and would have mandated that all arsenically

treated wood be disposed of as a hazardous waste. This could have had implications for Canada.

Senator Romero said in her remarks on the Senate floor that she was working on the disposal issue and other remaining issues with opponents of the bill. It is expected that the disposal section of the bill to be amended, with her agreement, in a way that will not require arsenically treated wood to be disposed of as a hazardous waste.

It is also expected that language will be added to the prohibitions section of the bill calling on Cal EPA to perform some sort of a scientific study on the adequacy of the bill's prohibitions. The Wood Council are continuing to work on these remaining issues.

SHOULD YOU GET INTO THE EXPORT BUSINESS??

On May 16, The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, announced federal support over the next 5 years for three initiatives designed to support the Canadian wood industry. First, the Canada Wood Export Program (CWEP) is a major undertaking to expand Canada's sales to countries such as China, Taiwan, Korea, and India. This is a \$29.7 million commitment which builds on the \$5.3 million Canada-China wood products initiative announced in March. NOTE: *The yearly shortage of wood products in China is around 70 million cubic meters.*

Second, The national forest research institutes, i.e. Forintek, FERIC and Paprican, will receive an additional \$30 million for R&D activities to strengthen the industry's

competitive position. Finally, the National Value-added Initiative for Wood Products will get \$15 million for fundamental and applied research to help secondary manufacturers improve their competitiveness, develop new products and applications, and move up the value-added chain. This initiative will be delivered by a Consortium consisting of the University of British Columbia, Laval University, the University of New Brunswick and Forintek.

Big builders moving to borate protection

The U.S. publication Business Wire reports that some of the largest homebuilders are moving away from soil pretreatments for termite control. A survey of 10 large homebuilders found that six out of the 10 are now using a spray treatment of a borate termiticide solution on exposed wood during construction

The survey found that divisions of Pulte, K.B. Home, D.R. Horton, Centex, M.D.C. Holdings and Beazer Homes are now using borates for termite pretreatments in many areas of the country.

Charles Watson, vice-president of purchasing for Beazer Homes in the Charleston, South Carolina area said, "We've been treating homes with borates for a year-and-a-half and we've had excellent results. By switching to the borate method we are saving about a day's work on each home we build. When you are

building 500 to 600 homes, the savings are significant."

The Environmental Protection Agency will prohibit the use of Dursban termiticide at the end of 2004. In 1999 the Department of Housing and Urban Development approved wood pre-treatment, opening the door for borate based Bora-Care [R], which is listed in the International Building Code [NER-6 17].

Last year approximately 400,000,000 gallons of soil termiticides were used around new home construction in the United States. If the present trend continues among the largest homebuilders, that number could be cut in half within a few years.

New fire retardant treated wood suited for exterior uses

Arch Wood Protection of Smyrna, GA and Chemco of Ferndale, WA have jointly launched FRX wood, a new brand of fire retardant treated wood for exterior uses such as balconies, stairs, covered walkways, and other exposed applications.

FRX lumber and plywood are pressure treated and qualify for a Class 1 flame spread rating when tested in accordance with ASTM E-84. As such, the product can substitute for

noncombustible materials. For information visit www.frxwood.com.

Pentachlorophenol and Creosote Challenged

In addition to the attacks on CCA, Penta and Creosote have both been challenged in the form of petitions to EPA from *Beyond Pesticides* calling for cancellation of the registrations for the preservatives.

While there are no legal provisions for EPA to consider such petitions; and both chemicals are under re-registration review, both the Penta Task Force and Creosote Council II have taken these challenges seriously and are working on detailed responses.

Controversial new Pest Control Products Act, 2002, introduced

Federal Minister of Health Anne McLellan introduced bill C53, if approved, the new act is intended to strengthen health and environmental protection. However, pesticide manufacturers have expressed concerns that many of the provisions of the new bill may be open to abuse – in particular, those which permit the use of so-called "precautionary principle" in the evaluation of the risks and benefits of pesticide

use. (Wood treaters need to remain alert to the developments along these lines, how many times have we heard our 'friends' in Environment and Health Canada speak about the perceptions of risks and benefits.)

The precautionary principle of the bill states: "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent health impact or environmental degradation".

Critics of the bill argue that the abandonment of "full scientific certainty" as the ultimate criterion for determining health or environmental impacts could move decision-making from the scientific to the political arena, or worse – the public perception arena.

The government contends that the bill will enable special health protection for infants and children. In addition, it will take into account pesticide exposure from all sources, including food and water, and consider the cumulative effects of pesticides that act in the same way.

According to the government, the bill

ensures that only pesticides that make a useful contribution to pest management are registered and would encourage the registration of only those lower-risk products.

This tabling of bill C53 was quickly followed by the tabling of another in Quebec phasing out pesticides throughout the province by 2005. As we can see there is another industry caught in the thick of it. As treaters we must remain vigilant to these laws, as they may affect the industry in some form or another.

It is intended to discuss this Bill and the possible effects it could have on our business at the upcoming CITW Environmental Committee meeting in October (See announcement below).

CITW'S Fall Meeting and the Canadian Wood Preservation Association Annual Conference:

Renaissance: Vancouver Hotel Harbourside - October 21/22/23rd 2002

The treated wood industry is currently charting a new course through turbulent waters. Many issues will need to be discussed and agreed during our semi-annual CITW committee meetings. The world is ruled

by those who participate- *be there or be square.*

This year's CWPA conference will provide the information you need to steer your company through the maelstrom. Presentations will focus on the impact of the regulatory changes around the use of CCA and the commercialisation of alternatives in Canada.

The CWPA meeting will kick off with a Keynote from Richard Aucoin of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. He will provide an overview of the re-evaluation process, registration of new preservatives and changes to the Pest Control Products Act. This will be followed by a Special Session on alternative preservatives.

CWPA Day two will focus on another topical issue, particularly in BC, concerning sap stain and its transmission by beetles such as the mountain pine beetle. Other papers outside these focus sessions will cover surface appearance and finishing, Life cycle analysis, non-destructive testing remedial treatment and utilisation of waste treated wood.

The CITW Committee meetings will be held consecutively with meetings of the Canadian Wood Preservers Association and the Canadian Standards Association O80 Technical

Committee in the third week of October 2002.

- CITW Committee meetings will be on Monday 21st
- CWPA will be on Tuesday and Wednesday 22nd and 23rd
- CSA O80 will be on Thursday 24th

This should allow attendees to maximize the value of their time at whatever combination of meetings they chose to attend. All three meetings will be at the attractively located Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside, featuring views across the inner harbour to the North Shore Mountains.

The room rate is a highly competitive CDN\$129 per night. Registration information will be sent out to members and interested parties during the summer.

NOTES

- New fact sheet on CCA was distributed by email for you to use in response to any inquiries from the public or the press
- CITW to commence a new information initiative aimed at the municipalities.
- Ottawa city implements a \$100K programme to seal treated wood playground equipments. Henry Walthert attended the city's environmental committee meeting. This result could have been much worst.
- CITW booth represents the industry at the Winnipeg Utility Pole Workshop 17-19 June.
- ABC's Primetime program on CCA-treated wood has been delayed indefinitely. However AWPI have been approached by People magazine on the Milams, plaintiffs from Mississippi.

They have asked for comments on the case and on the safety of CCA-treated wood. AWPI are preparing a response. The earliest this story will appear would be around July 20-21.

EVENTS

- CWC Semi-annual General meeting:
Sept 30–Oct 1, Ottawa ON
- Alberta Forest Products Association AGM:
Sept 26 – 28, Jasper AB
- Wood Solutions Fair:
10 Dec, Ottawa ON

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