



CITW

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Bill to Study Silver

U.S. Senator Larry Craig, Republican from Idaho, has introduced a bill – **The Wood Preservation Safety Act of 2002**. To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of the effectiveness of silver-based biocides as an alternative treatment to preserved wood. Congress finds that the Environmental Protection Agency, the chemical industry, and the home improvement industry have negotiated a voluntary agreement to phase out the use of arsenic-based preservatives in pressure treated wood by December 31, 2003; therefore, in order to maintain the wood treatment industry in the United States, a suitable, safe alternative must be produced; silver has great potential as a viable, safe, and cost-effective alternative as a wood preservative; silver has been used since ancient times

as a treatment to prevent the spread of bacteria; today, silver-based biocides are used in a wide range of applications; in 2001, silver was commercially produced in 12 States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington), and silver is a readily available material; and the properties of silver biocide need to be further studied to determine the effectiveness of its use as a wood preservative.

Call for Pro-Steel-Pole

Research (from the ASTM Standardization News)
American Iron and Steel Institute announces a call for papers that demonstrate the benefits of using steel utility Distribution poles. The papers should emphasize the cost, environmental, installation, reliability and maintenance advantages in using steel poles.

Construction Waste Management and the Building Industry

Construction waste management is becoming more important to the building industry. Sustainable/green building codes and ordinances that require the construction industry to meet certain recycling requirements are becoming more widespread. Moreover, reusing and recycling or managing materials can reduce construction costs and costly land filling fees.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, there exists a combined recovery potential in the U.S. of more than 100 million tons per year of wood and wood fibre materials from construction, renovation and demolition waste.

In a 2002 U.S. survey of sustainable/green building programs conducted by the University of Washington and funded by the [Canadian Wood Council](#) and the [APA The Engineered Wood Association](#), 50 of the 58 programs in place refer to construction waste as being an issue that needs to be addressed.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Building Rating System developed by the U.S. Green Building Council assigns credits for recycling at least 50% of the construction site waste. In California, cities and counties are required to reclaim wood resources whenever demolition or remodelling permits are issued.

The Canadian Construction Association's document "[A Best Practices Guide to Solid Waste Reduction](#)" talks about the source and potential of wood waste. "Construction, renovation, demolition (CRD) wood waste is generally made up of the following components: pallets, wood building materials and site excavation wood. Potential markets for recycled wood waste include feedstock for wood composite materials (e.g. panel board), building materials (e.g. shingles, roof felt), paper pulp, processes and raw fuels, animal bedding and litter, mulch, soil amendment, compost, landfill cover, road stabilization, park trails and firewood. Currently the largest market for

recycled wood waste is feedstock for the production of landfill or landscape cover. Reuse opportunities also exist for high quality materials such as beams, posts, trusses, and millwork. There are a number of CRD reuse/recycling facilities that accept wood for a fee."

As in all waste management programs, the most desirable option for wood waste management is reuse of structural members and architectural elements such as casings, banisters and mouldings. Advances in efficient recycling technologies are increasing the market potential for wood and wood fibre waste materials.

In addition to reducing landfilling costs, construction waste management promotes a positive image of the construction and wood industry as being environmentally and socially responsible. Construction waste materials such as pieces of lumber that are 1.8 meters (6 feet) or more in length can be donated to [Habitat for Humanity](#).

There are many markets for wood waste and considerable cost savings to be made by reducing the cost of landfilling fees. Wood waste processors are eager to obtain wood frame construction waste generated at residential and commercial construction sites.

For a 3Rs checklist for wood waste management click [here](#).

Calculating Board Feet – Thanks to the CWC Did you know?

Calculating board feet is as easy as 1-2-3 with the Canadian Wood Council's online board foot calculator. Simply enter the dimension and length of the lumber and hit calculate - it will calculate the board feet, cubic metres, square feet and square metres covered by wide face and cubic metres per thousand board feet. Click [here](#) to start using.

This can be very useful for those of you having difficulties in calculating your volumes for CITW.

Arsenic Treated Wood takes another hit

The European Commission has issued a report on its "Study on hazardous household waste with a main emphasis on hazardous chemicals," which includes the following statements in its Executive Summary:

"Household products most likely to contribute significantly to the input of ... priority hazardous household substances were ... identified as being the most problematic for the current waste management and disposal routes, namely paints, pesticides, arsenic treated wood and fluorescent lamps." And, "Arsenic is a major pollutant in solid

waste, a major portion of which is from pressure-treated wood with chromated copper arsenic [sic] (CAA) [sic]. Alternatives are readily available, far less toxic and strongly favoured by the European Commission seeking a ban of arsenic treated wood. Even is the ban is implemented, arsenic treated wood will remain a problem in MSW management, hence separate collection on the household level (very likely with other treated wood) is a recommended action to minimize improper disposal." The complete report is at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/householdwaste.htm>

U.S. Groups Want End to Lumber Duties

VANCOUVER - Two leading U.S. industry organizations have filed a brief urging a NAFTA panel to reject the 27% duties on Canadian lumber exported to the United States. The duties were imposed in May, following a ruling by a U.S. International Trade Commission panel that said exports of Canadian lumber threatened to injure the U.S. lumber industry. However the U.S. National Association of Home Builders and National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association say the duties are unfair. The softwood produced by Canadian firms, they say, is different from the U.S. southern yellow pine and

largely does not compete in the market. "Each type of lumber has distinct properties, functions and applications that can make it a poor substitute for other species," said the two groups. Both are also members of American Consumers for Affordable Homes, a Washington, D.C.-based lobby group that has mounted a campaign opposing the lumber duties. According to Susan Petniunas, a spokeswoman for the group, the duties could add as much as US\$1,000 to the cost of a new home in the United States. Negotiations between the United States and Canada aimed at ending the trade dispute collapsed at the end of March and have yet to resume. Earlier this week, Herb Dhaliwal, the Natural Resources Minister, said he believes there is a good chance the two sides will resolve the issue over the next five months. The duties have already caused much hardship in British Columbia, where thousands of lumber jobs have been lost. U.S. lumber producers argue their Canadian rivals benefit from government subsidies, allowing them to sell at unfairly low prices. Many observers on this side of the border say the duties are aimed at cutting the flow of lumber into the U.S. market as a way to raise prices. Instead, many

Canadian producers have opted to increase their output in the hope the U.S. will be forced to remove or reduce the duties.

National Post
John Greenwood:
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VANCOUVER CITW holds successful Fall Committee Meetings

The committees noted the progress made in updating the CITW web site, the changes proposed for the new brochures taking into account the transition to the new preservatives. The "Sooke Basin Creosote Evaluation Study" CD has been completed; and, the CITW Board presented its position on the Best Practices Guide for consumer Safety Information, as well as endorsing the completion of the new TRD's for the new preservatives by Environment Canada.

New BC Forest & Range Practices Act protects the environment and cuts red tape

The BC Lumber Trade Council believes the Government of British Columbia's new results-based Forest & Range Practices Act will protect the environment while at the same time reduce red tape.

“The bottom line is a BC forest industry with more flexibility but with far greater responsibility,” said John Allan, President of the BC Lumber Trade Council. “A competitive advantage of BC’s forest industry is its high environmental performance and by maintaining environmental standards and reducing red tape, we will be able to build on that strength.”

Allan noted, however, that the new act will have no bearing on the ongoing Canada-US softwood lumber dispute. “This is about how the land-base can be managed more effectively,” Allan said. “The value of the new act is its focus on specific outcomes rather than on bureaucratic process and volumes of highly prescriptive rules and regulations,” Allan said. Allan noted that British Columbia has become a world leader in protecting forests. BC is one of the few jurisdictions to exceed the United Nations goal of 12 percent of its landmass in parkland.

The British Columbia Lumber Trade Council is the

voice for BC companies involved in the \$10 billion Canada-United States trade in softwood lumber. The Council supports and seeks free trade in softwood lumber with the United States.

Consumer Spending Edges Up

Consumer spending in retail stores edged up 0.2 per cent to \$25.7 billion in August, after a 0.2 per cent decline in July, says Statistics Canada. Sales by retailers for the first eight months of 2002 were 6.1 per cent above those reported in the same period of 2001. Drug stores posted the largest sales increase - 0.6 per cent - in August, accompanied by smaller gains of 0.3 per cent in each of the food, automotive, and other retail sectors. Retail sales remained unchanged in the furniture and clothing sectors but declined 0.9 per cent in the general merchandise sector.

Sales At Large Retailers Up

Sales for large retailers were up 6.1 per cent in June from June 2001, says Statistics Canada. Sales for the first half of 2002 were up 6.6 per

cent higher than in the same period of 2001. Hardware and lawn and garden products posted the strongest year-over-year sales increase in June. Within this commodity group, sales of lawn and garden products were especially strong, up 18.7 per cent, after unseasonably cool weather impacted sales in May. Hardware and home renovation products were up only slightly, 2.6 per cent, in June, pulled down by declining sales of products such as plumbing, heating and cooling equipment, and paint and wallpaper.

NOTES

Construct Canada/ Homebuilder & Renovator Expo: South Building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre: Wed. Dec.4 and Thurs. Dec.5 -10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri. Dec.6 -9a.m. to 1p.m.

Wood Solutions Fair: Congress Centre Ottawa, Ontario, Tuesday, December 10, 2002.

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