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Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2006 3:25 PM
To: evgreen@ep.org
Subject: FW: Market Report & News Items from EBPA - February '06



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Market Reports & News Item

Market Intelligence & Information from Building Materials
 Markets Around the World

February Issue

Dear EBPA Member,

Please find below links to a compilation of recently released market reports and publications related to world export markets for construction and building materials. Summaries of each of the items listed are included below for quick reference.

- ✂ [IMI - Japan Housing Starts in Japan \(December 2005\)](#)
- ✂ [IMI - Building Materials Import Statistics for Japan \(November 2005\)](#)
- ✂ [IMI - EU Directive on Construction Products \(February 2005\)](#)
- ✂ [IMI - Better Energy Performance of Buildings in the EU as of 2006 \(December 2005\)](#)
- ✂ [China Update- January 2006](#)
- ✂ [International Wood News - Jan '06](#)

Japan

IMI - Japan Housing Starts in Japan (December 2005)

(US Foreign Commercial Service - Osaka-Kobe Consulate)

SUMMARY: The Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) announced Japan's total housing starts for December 2005 at a level of 97,932 units, a 0.9% decrease compared to December 2004. Year on year starts of single-family and multi-family dwellings decreased 1.1% to 38,602 units and 3.0% to 51,458 units, respectively, while row houses increased 16.5% to 7,872 units. Year on year 2x4 housing starts increased by 18.3% to 9,118 units, while prefabricated housing starts decreased by 0.2% to 14,522 units. Seasonally adjusted housing starts on an annual basis decreased 10.3% to 1,169,568 units in December 2005, as compared to December 2005.

IMI - Building Materials Import Statistics for Japan (November 2005)

(US Foreign Commercial Service - Osaka-Kobe Consulate)

SUMMARY: Total imports of building products to Japan for the eleven-month period from January to November 2005 decreased 0.2% to 1,168.5 billion yen (about US\$10.07 billion at 116 yen/US\$), compared to 1,170.6 billion yen (about US\$10.84 billion at 108 yen/US\$) for the same

period in 2004. Imports from the United States decreased 14.3% to 96.5 billion yen (US\$832.3 million) from January to November 2005, compared to 112.6 billion yen (US\$1,042.9 million) in the same period in 2004.

European Union

IMI - EU Directive on Construction Products (February 2005)

(US Foreign Commercial Service - US Mission to the European Union)

SUMMARY: With the adoption of the Construction Products Directive (CPD) in 1988, the Commission laid the groundwork for a "single market" for construction products in the European Union (EU). Entry into force of the CPD, which covers a wide range of products from log home kits to thermal insulation, was not immediate because the EU regulator still needed to determine the relevant conformity assessment procedures, as only then could the European standards organizations start to develop the required standards. The process has since gained momentum, so that today there are over 227 construction product standards that have already been adopted, and about the same amount are in the pipeline. Unlike other "New Approach" Directives, for this industry, the use of harmonized standards is the only route to CE marking because the standards specify exact performance criteria, test methods, and conformity assessment to apply the required mark.

IMI - Better Energy Performance of Buildings in the EU as of 2006 (December 2005)

(US Foreign Commercial Service - US Mission to the European Union)

SUMMARY: The European Commission has ambitiously set itself a target of a 20 percent energy savings by 2020 within the European Union (EU). According to EU reports, 40 percent of energy is consumed in buildings. To address these concerns, the EU adopted new legislation on energy performance of buildings that will enter into force on January 4, 2006. The directive (law) 2002/91/EC provides for the application of minimum standards of energy efficiency to buildings in every country in the EU and the creation of a certificate to inform buyers or tenants of the energy performance of buildings. EU member states have the right to impose additional national requirements, including choosing their own energy performance certificate for the building. Even though the majority of EU member states may not have the framework for implementation of the energy performance directive in place by January 2006, U.S. manufacturers of construction products are advised to evaluate the energy performance of their construction products in line with EU energy saving requirements. In the U.S., a comparable assessment and certification system known as Residential Energy Services Network (www.resnet.org) exists but there is no equivalency with EU requirements.

China

China Update- January 2006

(Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP - Shanghai, China)

SUMMARY: An overview of recent happenings in the Chinese legal environment that may have an impact on US business. From the table of contents --

1. MOFCOM Updates Regulations on Export-Processing Zones
2. MOFCOM Delegates More Approval Authority for FICES to Local Authorities
3. Antimonopoly Law and Its Effect on Mergers
4. New Regulations on Bonded Logistics Parks and Export-Supervised Warehouses
5. China Approves Rules for Manufacturing of Generic Drugs Under Compulsory Licensing
OFCOM Introduces New Freight-Forwarding Regulations

Contact Amy Sommers, National Partner, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey at (86) 21-6103-6308 or e-mail asommers@ssd.com for questions regarding the update or for China legal advice.

World

International Wood News - Jan '06

(American Forest & Paper Association - Wood Products International)

SUMMARY: A wood products industry newsletter containing newsbriefs on happenings in strategic wood export markets around the world. Contents in this issue include -

1. U.S. to Provide China with Sanitary/Phytosanitary Policy Training
2. Pinewood Nematode May Threaten Korean Imports of Pine and Larix Species
3. Japan Closer to Implementing a Public Procurement Scheme for Forest Products
4. U.S. Wood Industry to Attend Indiawood Expo in Bangalore
5. And more....

Upcoming Japan Events

- ✂ 2006 Directory of Housing & Building Materials (March Publication)
- ✂ [US Housing Industry & Building Products Newspaper \(March Publication\)](#)
- ✂ Architecture & Construction Materials Show (March 7 - 10, Tokyo - Japan)
- ✂ 2006 West Japan Total Living Show (March 17 - 20, Kitakyushu - Japan)
- ✂ [2006 Spring Building Materials Sales Mission to Japan](#) (May 15 -- 19, Hiroasaki, Akita, Yamagata, Omiya, Maebashi)

Contact Larry Kvidera, EBPA Program Manager, at (253) 396-0131, or e-mail kvidera@ep.org for more information.

Upcoming China Events

- ✂ Building Beijing 2006 Trade Fair (February 28-March 3, Beijing, China)
- ✂ [US Housing Industry & Building Products Newspaper](#) (May Publication)
- ✂ China Business Development Mission (April 10-14, Shanghai, China)
- ✂ [US Pavilion- Shanghai International Construction & Building Materials Trade Fair](#) (May 23-27, Shanghai, China)
- ✂ [China Directory of US Building Products and Service Providers](#) (July Publication)
- ✂ China Seminar Series and Sales Mission (September 18-22 (TBC), Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu, China)

Contact Rose Braden, US-China Build Program Manager, at (503) 248-0406, or e-mail rbraden@uschinabuild.org for more information.



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