

OFF THE WALL

SPRING 2010



An Industry Publication by the Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

Beekman Tower Topped Out

— story on page 19

**“Melting” Drywall
Keeps Rooms Cool**
—See page 6

AP Photo/Mark Lennihan

***WC&C's 13th Annual Dinner Dance
Photos Begin On Page 12***



CALENDAR

2010

MAY	12 (WED)	7:30 AM	OFFICE	BOARD MEETING
	13 (THURS)	8:00 AM TO 12 N	TERRACE IN THE PARK	SEMINAR - UNFUNDED LIABILITY
	18 (TUES)	6:00 PM	CARACALLA	MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JUNE	9 (WED)	7:30 AM	OFFICE	BOARD MEETING
	21 (MON)	6:30 AM	NO. HEMPSTEAD COUNTRY CLUB & THE VILLAGE CLUB OF SANDS POINT	GOLF OUTING
JULY	14 (WED)	7:30 AM	OFFICE	BOARD MEETING
AUG	11 (WED)	7:30 AM	OFFICE	BOARD MEETING
	17 (TUES)	6:00 PM TO 10 PM	WESTBURY MANOR	BARBECUE

OFF THE WALL

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From the Executive Director Joseph Olivieri

Failure Is Not An Option... Successful Improvising Is!

A significant 40th anniversary occurred while we were putting together this issue of Off The Wall. On April 13, 1970, two days after launch, NASA's Apollo 13 suffered a critical failure of both its oxygen tanks, causing its mission of a moon landing to be aborted and endangering the lives of the three-man crew. The now widely quoted radio transmission, "...Houston, we've had a problem" was broadcast and the world waited anxiously for word of how the astronauts would return safely to earth from 220 miles in space. They did return, though, landing safely in the Pacific Ocean four days later, on April 17. But only after a hard-nosed strategy that demanded extreme life-saving measures both on the ground and from the astronauts themselves. The astronauts' survival was a great feat of engineering but an even greater testament to the human ability to improvise. Everyone knows the story. A movie was made of it in 1995 from which another famous quote came; "Failure is not an option."

It may seem a stretch to draw an analogy from our country's space program and apply it to the dilemma our management-union relationship now faces in today's economy. But I think a lesson applies. As union contractors, we certainly have had a problem. And it will only be through a tough, work-

able strategy that we will find a way for our companies and their workers to survive.

We absolutely have a potential disaster looming. The ability of contractors and unions to survive 2010 can only be described as a crisis situation. Commercial rents dropped an average of 40 percent from their highs in 2007, and the Trophy Class "A" buildings fell 50-60 percent. The New York Times reported in January 2010 that more than 180 major buildings, totaling \$12.5 billion in value, are foreclosing or are delinquent in rent payments.

Statistics show union work hours have dropped an additional 20 percent over the first quarter of this year. To combat this unions and their signatory contractors must take extreme actions to enable their loyal contractors to survive in this economic downturn.

We need to allow our signatory contractors to utilize market recovery rates, in all markets vs. nonunion, that will enable our union members and contractors to provide enough work projects to meet their financial obligations. Our union members need work to provide for their families. If we do not create opportunities, they will be forced to work for our nonunion competitors. Nonunion construction represents failure and that is not an option.

Management and labor must realize

that the nonunion sector will continue to grow if we do not level the playing field. To do this we need to freeze all increases over the next year. We must lower our wage and benefit package by 20 to 30 percent in the private sector for residential and commercial projects, and management and labor need to work together and coordinate the review of fringe benefit packages and make necessary changes to insure the pension and welfare funds remain solvent, redirecting contributions from annuity – vacations funds.

These are tough measures. But look beyond the construction industry. The survivors are those who are making the hard choices and taking less. For union contractors to survive, developers and GCs need to know that they are **NOT** going to take a beating if they employ union contractors. They already know they can depend on the quality and safety of a union built project. They need to know also that they can come in with competitive costs. If the price of real estate has devalued, then the price of union construction must reflect this devaluation.

We have to do these things. It isn't going to be easy but survive we must. Failure is not an option...successful improvising is!

As I'm writing this message, I'm preparing to attend the AWCI 2010 Conference in Denver. I'm looking forward to meeting with contractors from all over the United States and discussing with them strategies for building business and gaining profits even in this continuing recession. We are all faced with the need for that level playing field which will allow for balanced competition between the union and nonunion sectors. I hope to gain meaningful insights, which we can apply to our situation here in New York.

I'm also looking forward to our WC&C Annual Golf Outing, which will be held this year on Monday, June 21st at the North Hempstead Country Club. See you there.

— Joe Olivieri



*From the
PRESIDENT
Michael Weber*

Are We Under Attack?

Whether it is Mother Nature's relentless attack on our planet i.e. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or the recent wave of tornados hammering the bread basket of America, the government pursuit of good versus evil, escalating material costs in a depressed economy, the continued downward pressure on our market share or rising labor costs in an extremely competitive market place, things just don't seem to be the same anymore. Competition is so fierce, that taking a project just to cover overhead seems to be a thing of the past. New EPA lead regulations and pre-qualification criteria is enough paperwork to choke an elephant or two. As I have stated in the past, the company which can adapt to this changing business environment will have the best chance to hold on for a better day. If not, you will be looking for another line of work. Does hot dog vendor sound enticing? No retainage is held at the time of service rendered and payment is due immediately.

I would like to congratulate the winner of the Eastern District Drywall Olympics Perry Giambuzzi from the Philadelphia area. Competitors from the New York City District Council of Carpenters, Leroy Luke and Tom Calvaruso from the New York State Empire District Council, gave it their all in the recent run off down in Philadelphia and should be commended for their competitive spirit. Good luck to Perry Giambuzzi in the upcoming National Olympics that is to take place the first week of May at the 2010 International Interior/Exterior Systems Leadership Conference in Las Vegas.

In closing, pay attention to detail, utilize technology to increase performance and manage your cash flow wisely. We are not out of the woods yet and business as usual is a recipe for disaster. On a final note I would like to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2010 Thomas Nastasi, Jr. Memorial Scholarships. If you are interested in an application please contact Gerry at the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York Inc. at (516) 478-5600. — **Mike Weber**

Ronsco "Ryan's Walk" Team Aims To Raise \$100,000 For Walk Now For Autism Speaks

This Year's Walk is Sunday, June 13th

Ronsco, Inc. has announced their participation at this year's Walk Now for Autism Speaks through their "Ryan's Walk" team on Sunday, June 13th, starting and ending at the South Street Seaport in Manhattan.

"Ryan's Walk" has participated in the walk for the last three years and has been the most successful team in the last two. In 2009 the walk received a great boost from the construction industry. With the support of numerous construction industry organizations including The Association of Wall-Ceiling and Carpentry Industries, New York District Council of Carpenters, Empire State Carpenters, the Building Trades Employers' Association, Sub-contractors Trade Association, New York Mets, B.R. Fries, Cauldwell Wingate, JLS Industries, Skanska USA Building, The Martin Group, Par Wall Finishing, Local 926, Local 608, Local 157, Local 45, Local 20, Ace Drop Cloth, City Lumber, Feldman Lumber, Kamco Supply, Marjam Supply, Clark Western, Marine/Ware, Super Stud, Baker Triangle, Drywall & Acoustics of N.E., Metropolitan Drywall, Midtown Contracting, National Interiors, Pabco, TOPS, TJ Wies, Western Wall & Ceilings Association, Woodworks, DEK Promotions, Estate Motors, Evolution Markets, Brookwood Companies, Foodtown, AWCI, Concrete Industry, Mechanical Trades Contractors Association and many more industry and family and friends. "Ryan's Walk" raised over \$100,000 for the 2009 event and is fundraising now for 2010.

In 2009, "Ryan's Walk" became the first team in New York to reach a \$100,000 goal. Lee Zaretsky, President of Ronsco, plans to raise over \$100,000 in 2010 as well. Zaretsky first became involved with Walk Now for Autism Speaks for personal reasons and has since recruited the support of his company, members of the construc-

New York City District Council Of Carpenters Helps Carpenters Earn College Degrees

By Jonathan Balthaser/The NY Daily News

Alex Johnson doesn't crumble working under often brutal conditions, erecting walls, joining girders and welding steel as a carpenter.

But his first day of college terrified him.

"I was scared as hell," said the 33-year-old Bronx resident. "I didn't think I could do it."

Johnson enrolled last September in a special two-year-old program organized through the New York City District Council of Carpenters that helps members earn associate's and bachelor's degrees.

Students take classes in Tribeca at the State University of New York's Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies, a program that focuses on educating trade workers.



Student carpenters in class at the Labor Technical College. These classes can count toward credit for associate and bachelors degrees.

Carpenters always have been able to attend the school. But now apprenticeship classes taken at the Council of Carpenters Labor Technical College count for as much as 32 college credits, so most students matriculate with half of their degree already completed.

"The incentive of the 32 credits was huge," said Johnson, a carpenter for the past 11 years. "In my eyes, it would be stupid for me not to do it. If I'm giving it to you on a silver platter and you don't take it, that's dumb."

Mike Merrill, the dean of the Van Arsdale Center, said it was high time that technical colleges received college accreditation.

"Wage earners are disadvantaged in that their apprenticeship programs don't usually count for college credit," said Merrill. "Dancers and painters, for instance, their work is recognized. I don't see the difference, except in ideology."

The carpenters union is getting each of its apprenticeship programs evaluated for college credit by the National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction, a state-run group that accredits educational programs conducted by noncollegiate organizations.

The millwrighting, cabinetmaking, and building and construction carpentry programs have been approved. College credit will soon be considered for dockbuilders, piledrivers, and timbermen.

The carpenters union is making a concentrated push to educate more of its members.

"The union movement needs college-educated leaders at all levels, including the rank-and-file. It cannot effectively represent or be advocates for the interest of working people and their families without confident, articulate, well-educated leaders who know who they are, what they believe in, and what they have to do to secure their fair share," union promotional material states.

So far, 30 students have enrolled in the program, and the first is set to graduate with a bachelor's degree in June.

At the Van Arsdale campus, carpenters take a range of general education courses, including several that focus specifically on the history of the labor movement.

"You go to college not to leave the union, but to lead it," Merrill said.

Like all other college students, one of the greatest burdens for carpenters is financial.

Classes at SUNY cost \$207 per credit, so tuition will set back students at least \$6,600. The carpenters union currently does not offer scholarships.

Johnson made it through his first day of school, and now says the associate's degree he's pursuing is just the first step of his college education. After he graduates, he is interested in construction management or becoming a union organizer.

"When I'm done, I'm going to continue to go to school," he said. "I'm going to go all the way. Maybe Ph.D. Go for it. Why the hell not?"

"My biggest mistake was putting a limit on myself." •

tion industry, friends and family members to create a team of over 100.

Walk Now for Autism Speaks is the largest grassroots walk program in the United States and is the signature fundraising and awareness effort for Autism Speaks. Events take place across the United States, as well as in Canada and the United Kingdom. Driven by the families and friends of those affected by autism, Walk Now for Autism Speaks aims to generate funds for autism research as well as raise awareness for this complex disorder.

Zaretsky is looking forward to the 2010 event and is calling for new sponsorships from the construction industry. To be held on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at the South Street Seaport, those interested in sponsoring the event can contact Lee directly at lz@ronscoinc.com or visit Ryan's Walk website

www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/nyc/ryanswalk for more information or to make a donation. •

WC&C members are often involved in activities or achieve goals which bring credit to themselves, their companies and their workers. We would like to let other members know of your exploits by publishing them in our "In The NEWS" segment in each issue of Off The Wall.

We invite you to send us your news. It can be as simple as a few lines or it can be a complete press release. We do reserve the right to edit as necessary. If there is a photo available in conjunction with the item, please include that too.

Please email your material to dgumbrecht@aol.com.

“Melting” Drywall Keeps Rooms Cool

Developers think these phase-change materials could reduce the need for air-conditioning

By Katherine Bourzac
MIT Technology Review

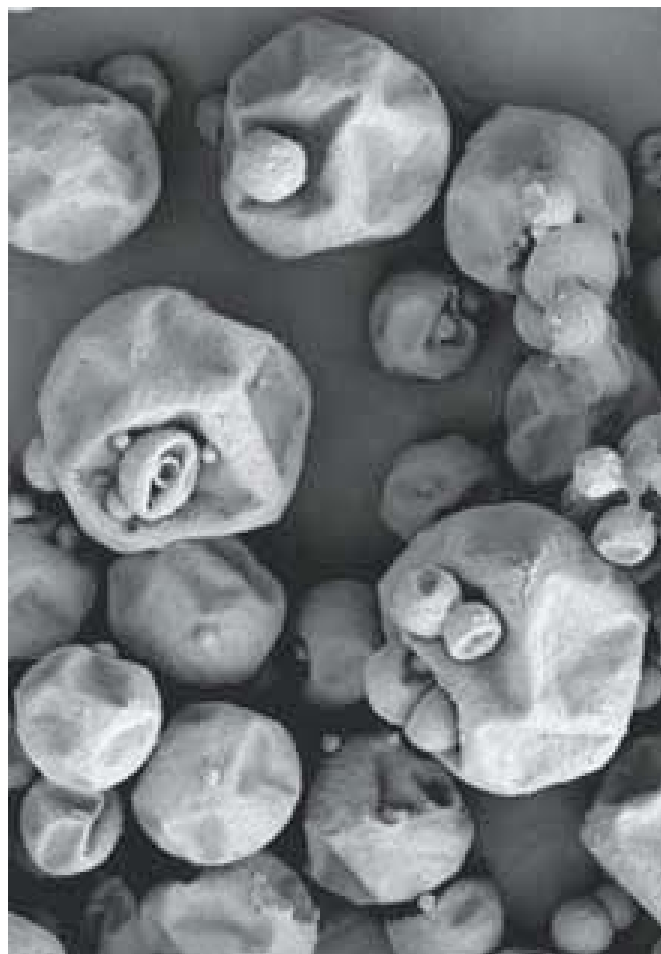
Building materials that absorb heat during the day and release it at night, eliminating the need for air-conditioning in some climates, will soon be on the market in the United States. The North Carolina company National Gypsum is testing drywall sheets--the plaster panels that make up the walls in most new buildings--containing capsules that absorb heat to passively cool a building. The capsules, made by chemical giant BASF, can be incorporated into a range of construction materials and are already found in some products in Europe.

AC killers: These acrylic microcapsules are filled with a paraffin wax that can absorb heat from buildings.

Credit: Peter Schossig

The “phase-change” materials inside the BASF capsules keep a room cool in much the same way that ice cubes chill a drink: by absorbing heat as they melt. Each polymer capsule contains paraffin waxes that melt at around room temperature, enabling them to keep the temperature of a room constant throughout the day. The waxes work best in climates that cool down at night, allowing the materials inside the capsules to solidify and release the heat they’ve stored during the day.

In some southern European climates, for example, the materials absorb enough heat during the day to save 20 percent of the electricity needed for air-conditioning. In northern Europe, where nighttime



temperatures are cooler, a building incorporating the materials may not need an air conditioner at all, says Peter Schossig, an engineer at the Fraunhofer Institute in Munich, Germany, whose research group worked with BASF to develop the capsules.

The work is part of a push in the construction industry toward greener building materials that help maintain comfortable temperatures without using electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, buildings consume more than 70 percent of the electricity generated in America, and about 8 percent of that is used for air-conditioning in homes and offices. Widely used lightweight construction materials including wooden framing and drywall enable contractors to put up buildings rapidly, but they don’t store much heat, so temperatures inside fluctu-

ate throughout the day.

Phase-change materials offer a way to add thermal mass to lightweight building materials, says Leon Glicksman, professor of building technology and mechanical engineering at MIT. Since the 1950s, several companies have tried to develop passive cooling systems that take advantage of phase-change materials. But they had limited success because it’s difficult to incorporate these new materials into existing building substances.

BASF makes the microcapsules by rapidly beating melted wax into hot water. Since wax and water repel one another, the wax forms small droplets. When the researchers add acrylic precursors to the mix, the repulsion between wax and water drives them to coat the droplets’ surface. Finally, they add a catalyst to form an acrylic polymer shell around the wax. The resulting wet mixture can then be added to the powder that’s used to make drywall or dried out and incorporated into other construction materials, including concrete and plasters.

Chemical giant DuPont also makes encapsulated phase-change materials and has incorporated them into heat-absorbing panels that it markets in Europe. BASF’s strategy is a little different: the company sells the capsules to other companies to incorporate into a range of building materials, including ceiling panels, aerated concrete blocks, and drywall. Based on German electricity prices and climate conditions, a study conducted by BASF estimated that a family home made with plaster that incorporated 360 grams of the phase-change material (at a cost of \$4,883) would save enough electricity to recoup the cost within five years.

National Gypsum is working with the

National Renewable Energy Laboratory and California's Emerging Technologies Coordinating Council to field-test its heat-absorbing panels, which will be marketed under the name Thermal-core. The panels are made by mixing the BASF microcapsule-water solution with gypsum, the mineral used to make drywall. The paraffins used by BASF can be tailored to melt at different temperatures; those in National Gypsum's panels liquefy at 22.8°C (about 73°F). According to the company, the panels can store 22

British thermal units per square foot.

National Gypsum will take at least a year to test the panels' performance through all four seasons before bringing them to market. A spokesperson says the company may reformulate the panels to include more or less of the capsules, depending on how they perform in the climate of the western United States. Data from the field trials will also be used to model how much the panels help reduce energy consumption.

So far, the heat-absorbing cap-

sules have only been tested in passive systems. But they could also be used in active systems in warmer climates, says MIT's Glicksman. "In commercial buildings, you could run the air conditioner at night when electricity is cheaper and use the phase-change materials to maintain lower temperatures during the day," he says. Schossig says his research group and BASF are gathering data from experimental active systems. •

U.S. Directs \$36 Million Toward Net-Zero Building Research

By Tim McKeough
Architectural Record

Reflecting the rapidly growing interest in sustainable design and construction technologies, the U.S. Department of Energy has announced new funding to support research on net-zero energy buildings.

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$20.2 million in stimulus funds to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. The money will be used for research on net-zero energy buildings. The energy department also awarded \$15.9 million to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

In November, the agency awarded \$20.2 million to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which is managed by the University of Tennessee and the nonprofit corporation Battelle, and \$15.9 million to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, managed by the University of California. The money is part of \$104.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that the energy department is spending on a range of new

ORNL will use the money to expand its existing Building Technologies Research and Integration Center, which has equipment for testing sections of roof and wall systems for energy efficiency.

facilities at national laboratories.

ORNL will use the money to expand its existing Building Technologies Research and Integration Center, which has equipment for testing sections of roof and wall systems for energy efficiency. It also will build two three-story structures—one with a metal frame, the other made of reinforced concrete—for testing larger scale commercial building envelopes, which it hadn't done before. "We're going to be doing the same kind of work, but with different types of facades for commercial structures," says Jeff Christian, ORNL senior scientist.

Berkeley Lab plans to use the funds to construct a new facility to research net-zero energy build-

ings. While the lab currently tests building products, "with this new facility, we're scaling up to full building systems," explains Stephen Selkowitz, head of the Building Technologies Department in the lab's Environmental Energy Technologies Division. Plans are still being finalized, but the project is expected to consist of a series of structures, either standalone or within existing buildings on campus, for researching HVAC systems, facade systems, lighting and interiors, skylights, and building sensors and controls. The centerpiece will be a set of three 5,000-square-foot structures where these different systems can be tested together.

Both Christian and Selkowitz say that the labs are coordinating their efforts to prevent overlap and maximize results. And both expect that the new facilities will attract private sector research partners and other interested parties. "This is a facility that's ultimately designed to have impacts on practice and products," says Selkowitz. •



It's The Law

By Erwin Popkin

Erwin Popkin is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc. and maintains practice in Jericho, NY.

The United States Supreme Court has settled a long-standing split among lower courts on the definition of a corporation's "principal place of business" for purposes of diversity jurisdiction in federal court.

The Court held a corporation has a single principal place of business for purposes of diversity jurisdiction and that place is defined as the state where the corporation's headquarters is located. (*Hertz Corp v. Friend*)

The ruling expanded upon and clarified the traditional notion of a business's "nerve center" as applied in tests used by the 7th Circuit and sporadically in other circuits. It reverses tests in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th Circuits that permitted courts to consider the extent of a corporation's business activity in a given state as determinative of citizenship in that state. Perhaps most important, it reversed the standard in the 9th Circuit under which a corporation had a principal place of business in any state where the corporation conducted "significantly larger" operations or where its operations "substantially predominate." Under that standard, a corporation could be considered a citizen of all 50 states - as long as it conducted significant operations in all 50 states.

By clarifying that a corporation can have only one principal place of business, the *Hertz* decision reduced the number of states in which a corporation is a citizen and therefore increased the likelihood that the corporation can obtain federal court jurisdiction for legal disputes.

Employers are required to ensure that their employees are authorized to work in the US by completing Form I-9 for all covered employees. In recent years, the Department of Homeland Security has turned its focus to I-9 compliance. Non-compliance with immigration laws and regulations can result in economic fines, as well as preclusion from government contracts and use of immigration programs, and even criminal penalties in extreme cases.

Last year, an I-9 form was released to be used for new-hires and re-verifications. In addition, Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") launched a new worksite enforcement strategy of auditing and investigating employers suspected of intentionally violating employment eligibility laws and regulations. Enforcement efforts have been stepped up this year. Notices of inspection to review hiring records were issued to 180 businesses in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee. This came with a formal announcement from ICE to increase I-9 compliance audits. In light of the increased focus on I-9 compliance, it is important that employers nationwide conduct I-9 audits to ensure that their hiring practices and recordkeeping are consistent with current immigration laws.

Employer may be eligible for tax break under HIRE Act. The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment

(HIRE) Act (HR 2847) a jobs bill President Barack Obama signed into law on March 18, 2010, provides tax breaks to employers that hire unemployed workers or individuals who were only working part-time in 2010. Under the HIRE Act, qualified employers could receive a payroll tax incentive and a general business tax credit.

The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") announced the release of a new mandatory supplement to the "EEO Is The Law" poster required to be displayed by private employers, state and local governments, educational institutions and labor organizations. The new supplement, which revises the September 2002 poster, is available for download.

The new version reflects current federal employment discrimination law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008. It also contains a new section about the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA") which is effective November 21, 2009, and an update to the EEOC contact information.

There are also revisions affecting employers holding federal contracts or subcontracts, supplementing the "EO Is The Law" poster promulgated by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs ("OFCCP") in August 2008. These revisions include a change to the Individuals with Disabilities section, a change to the Vietnam Era, Special Disabled Veterans section, a new section regarding Retaliation, and an update to the OFCCP contact information.

The US Senate passed legislation that would further extend the federal COBRA subsidy created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010 (HR 4213), which passed the Senate by a 62-36 vote, would extend the subsidy to individuals who were involuntarily terminated through December 31, 2010.

If your organization uses independent contractors, watch out: Starting in February, the IRS will begin intensive audits

of 6,000 randomly selected employers. One key target: identify employers that are improperly misclassifying employees as independent contractors.

These National Research Program (NRP) audits are the IRS' "most significant audit initiative in decades." The audits will generate the first IRS statistical snapshot of employment tax compliance since 1984.

In addition to independent contractor status, the audits - which will stretch across all industries and company sizes - will examine compliance in payroll taxes, fringe benefits and executive compensation. The audits will mainly focus on tax years 2007 and 2008 and include face-to-face interviews, plus a line-by-line review of the company's employment tax returns.

• • •

The US District Court for the Western District of New York ruled March 24 that it lacks jurisdiction over a pension fund's action to collect withdrawal liability payments under a settlement agreement

reached during arbitration.

In granting the motion to dismiss the case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, Chief Judge William M. Skretny rejected the argument of the Buffalo Carpenters' Pension Fund that a party to a settlement agreement reached before the completion of arbitration can bring an action in federal court to collect payments under the agreement because the payments remain withdrawal liability payments under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The court reasoned that the nature of the payments changes once a settlement is reached in place of an arbitrator's decision.

• • •

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration should update its standard on hand and portable powered tools to include nail guns used in residential construction and to develop materials to raise awareness of their dangers, a Duke University professor told the agency March 4 at an "OSHA Listens" meeting at the Department Labor.

The professor, with the university's

Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, said the recommendation was made in December 2009 by the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health.

The advisory committee also said the standard (29 CFR 1919.244) does not directly address what is known about nail guns and injuries. There are nearly 40,000 nail gun injuries treated in emergency departments each year, Lipscomb said at the listening session.

Of the two types of nail guns, the contact trigger nail gun causes twice as many injuries as does the sequential trigger gun, she said. The sequential trigger requires the nose piece to be depressed before the trigger is pulled to prevent inadvertent discharge of nails. The contact trigger allows the gun to discharge a nail anytime the nose piece and the trigger are both depressed. The user can hold the trigger down and rapidly bump-fire the gun.

In response to a question from OSHA Chief David Michaels, the professor said she would favor banning the use of contact trigger guns. •

Building Deconstruction Offers Reuse Or Recycling Options

By Phil Waier, PE, LEED AP/Reed Construction Data

A component of the "Green" movement is deconstruction. Rather than demolishing a structure and delivering the debris to landfill, deconstruction provides for the careful removal and reuse or recycling of building materials. The materials can be stored and reused on the existing site thus eliminating transportation charges. The alternative is to sell or donate the deconstructed materials.

Typical materials considered for deconstruction include the following:

- Interior doors and frames
- Structural framing
- Casework
- Brick masonry
- Plumbing fixtures
- Wood strip flooring
- Roof sheathing boards and metal roofing

The decision to deconstruct is based upon several factors; the first is a site assessment. This involves evaluating the materials based upon type, quality

level and condition, quality and installation method. Another aspect of site assessment is the adequacy of the site to store and clean/process the materials. The second consideration is the potential market for the materials if they are not being reused for the project. The current price for new materials must be compared to the potential sale price of the deconstructed material. That price is based upon the condition and quality of the deconstructed material. The presence of local salvage retailers and the ability to market and cost of transporting the materials is also a consideration. Safety is a key concern in the planning and executing of a deconstruction project.

Aside from the LEED incentives/credits for deconstruction there are a number of other reasons to deconstruct.

- Newer replacement materials may be scarce or of lesser quality. An example

is the structural timbers used in many old mill buildings. These timbers are frequently larger and longer than those commercially available today. Also their old growth strength is greater than wood from newer forests.

- Demolition disposal costs continue to escalate as solid waste landfills are closed and new landfills are plagued by permitting issues.

- Commodities such as steel, copper and aluminum are becoming more expensive and substantial energy can be saved by recycling.

A final consideration in deconstruction is schedule. The deconstruction process is more labor intensive than demolition, therefore time must be provided in the construction schedule to allow for the process.

In the final analysis the cost, time, and environmental considerations will be the determining factors. •

Is EFCA's Time Now?

By Jonathan Katz
Industry Week

With the Obama administration focused on the economy and health care reform, there's been little movement on the Employee Free Choice Act. Still, unions see the next three years as their window of opportunity.

The election of President Barack Obama was a victory for unions. And it was a victory that was made possible -- in no small part -- by the financial support and voter mobilization efforts of unions.

Union support of a Democratic candidate for president is nothing new, of course. Philip Dine, a Washington, D.C.-based journalist and author of "State of the Unions: How Labor Can Strengthen the Middle Class, Improve Our Economy, and Regain Political Influence," points out that the labor movement and Democrats have been allied philosophically since the era of FDR and the New Deal.

Still, the historic election of Obama gave rise to a new level of optimism and expectations among the labor movement, which viewed the confluence of a Democratic president, a Democratic congress and anti-Bush backlash as its window of opportunity for labor reform -- particularly passage of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).

"In October of 2008, if someone would've said to us, 'Look, you can get 58, 59 Democrats in the U.S. Senate who are on the record in one way or another supporting the Employee Free Choice Act, and [Barack] Obama -- who's a co-sponsor of the bill -- as president, and Joe Biden -- a co-sponsor of the bill -- as vice president,' we'll just do that deal now," says Tim Waters, director of rapid response for the United Steelworkers (USW), referring to union optimism toward the prospects of EFCA.

While the election of Obama ushered in what Dine describes as "arguably the most pro-labor administration since LBJ," other more pressing priorities

-- such as the economy and health care reform -- have pushed EFCA to the back burner.

"The attempt to get a health care bill sort of sucked all the oxygen out of the room," asserts David Zonderman, a labor history professor at North Carolina State University. "I don't think anyone would disagree -- whether you're in favor of or against [health care reform] -- that it has taken up a phenomenal amount of legislative time."

Even so, "we've still seen a number of big changes" in labor policy, asserts Reggie Belcher, a partner with the law firm of Turner, Padgett, Graham & Laney PA and co-chair of the labor subcommittee for DRI, a Chicago-based organization of defense lawyers.

There was a flurry of activity early on, starting with Obama's first piece of legislation as president: the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Signed into law on Jan. 29, 2009, the act reverses a 2007 Supreme Court decision by restarting the statute of limitations for unlawful pay discrimination claims each time an employee receives a discriminatory paycheck.

One day later, Obama issued three executive orders rescinding Bush administration orders on labor issues. One of those orders, titled "Notification of Employee Rights Under Federal Labor Laws," repeals a Bush order stating that government contracts and subcontracts must include a clause requiring govern-

ment contractors and subcontractors to post notices informing their employees that they have the right to refuse to join a union. The Obama order also requires government contractors to post notices informing employees of their right to organize under the National Labor Relations Act.

Says Belcher: "That was the starting point that things were going to be a lot different."

According to Belcher, another "radical departure from the Bush administration" is the "ramping up of funding and staffing" in the budgets for OSHA, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and other federal agencies responsible for employment and labor issues.

Even so, the most significant labor policy changes of the Obama administration might lie ahead, especially if EFCA sees the light of day. In the midst of a fragile economic recovery and a congressional election year, that's a big "if."

"If it is passed, I think the Obama administration could look back and say, 'Yes, we were able to move through the most significant change in American labor law probably since the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947,'" Zonderman says.

EFCA: Dead or Alive?

EFCA proposes three major changes to the National Labor Relations Act. EFCA would create a second method for workers to choose a union -- the now-infamous "card-check" provision -- and impose tougher penalties against employers that violate laws on union organizing and negotiating. It also would mandate binding interest arbitration if an employer and a union cannot reach an agreement on a first contract within 120 days of good-faith bargaining.

Originally introduced in 2003, EFCA passed in the House in March 2007 but died in the Senate later that year. Reintroduced in the House and Senate in March 2009, President Obama has promised to sign EFCA into law if given the chance. Even with the election of Republican Scott Brown foiling the Democrats'

filibuster-proof "supermajority" in the Senate, USW's Waters says the union movement is optimistic about EFCA's fortunes.

"It's fair to say that some people have been frustrated and discouraged, but these are all the ups and downs,"

...the most significant labor policy changes of the Obama administration might lie ahead, especially if EFCA sees the light of day.

Waters says. "We've been fighting for this thing going on eight years now. There are always hurdles. But nothing this worthwhile for workers was ever that easy."

It won't be easy. EFCA is a polarizing piece of legislation, and groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) vehemently oppose it because of the dramatic impact they believe it would have on the business community.

"As currently written, it would be devastating," says D. Albert Brannen, a partner with the Atlanta-based national labor and employment law firm Fisher & Phillips LLP. "Particularly in the South, where we have fewer unions, and employers therefore rarely talk about unions in the workplace."

Of any proposed or enacted labor policy on Obama's agenda, EFCA by far is the biggest concern for the National Association of Manufacturers, according to Keith Smith, NAM's director of employment and labor policy. Smith points to an economic analysis performed by LECG that concludes that the increase in union membership spurred by EFCA would result in the loss of 600,000 American jobs in the first year after its enactment.

"Our concerns with that particular bill are because of the economic consequences that come with it," Smith says. "We're not just looking at the card-check aspect of the legislation, but also the binding interest arbitration -- that's something that manufacturers have the largest concern with, because it opens the door for government control of wages, benefits

and work rules."

Opposition from the business community aside, the upcoming congressional races probably won't help EFCA's prospects.

"Typically in an election year, landmark legislation does not get passed, because the congressmen and women are more concerned about holding seats than they are necessarily about putting their reputations on the line over controversial legislation,"

DRI's Belcher says. "And EFCA is going to be controversial."

If the bill sees the light of day, it likely will be in a "watered-down form" that, for example, eliminates the card-check provision but shortens the current 42-day time period for secret-ballot elections to take place, Belcher predicts.

"That would be one way EFCA could be changed while still making union organizing easier," Belcher says. "And I think that is one of the goals of the Obama administration."

Smith emphasizes that NAM opposes even a watered-down version of EFCA.

"EFCA in any form would be a proven jobs killer," Smith asserts. "No element of that legislation would be able to restore our economic competitiveness."

Waters, who works closely with AFL-CIO in the unions' efforts to mobilize support for EFCA, acknowledges that the unions have a fight on their hands. Even if every Senate Democrat supports the bill, finding one Republican to support it likely will be a monumental challenge.

However, Waters insists EFCA isn't dead, adding that the unions likely will press lawmakers to vote on the bill before the November elections.

"We're very, very close," Waters says. "We're the closest to labor law reform that we've been in 40 or 50 years. We are right on the verge of this. There's just no way we're going to walk away now -- that is not going to happen." •

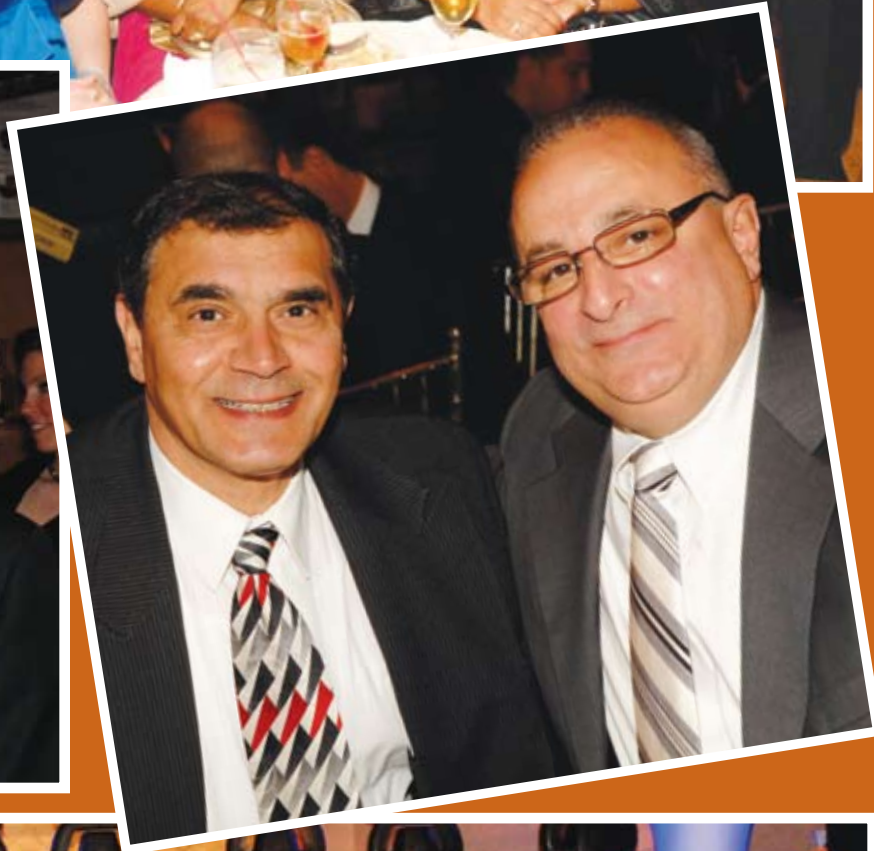
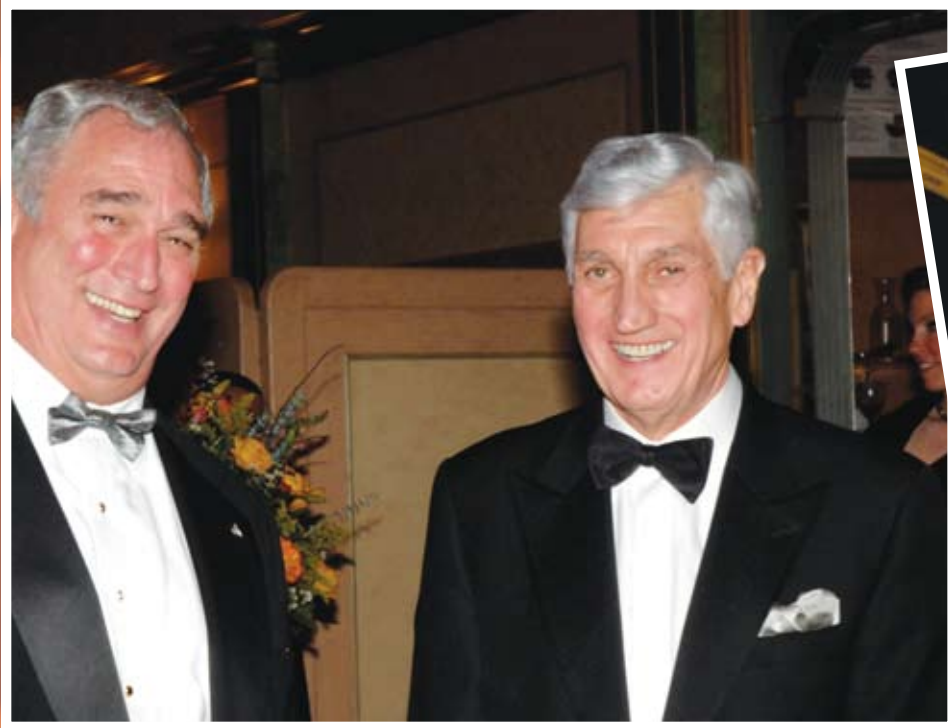
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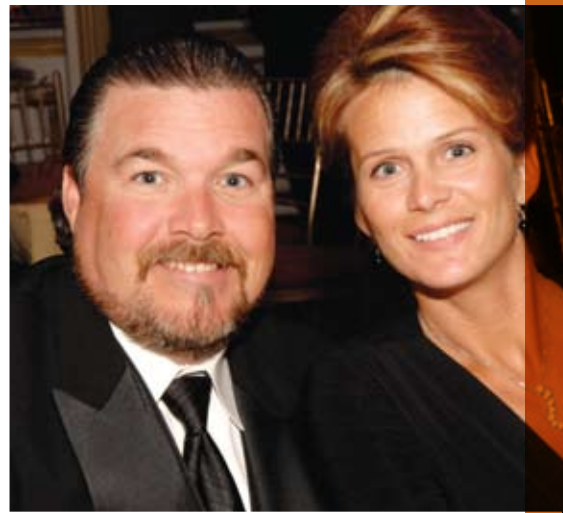
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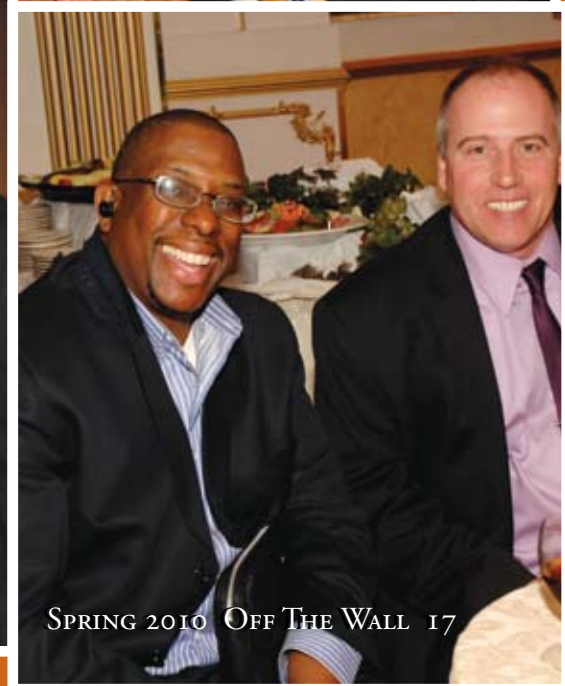












Forest City Celebrates Ceremonial Groundbreaking For Barclays Center At Atlantic Yards Project In Brooklyn

Forest City Enterprises, Inc. celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Barclays Center arena at the Atlantic Yards mixed-use project in Brooklyn on March 11.

Bruce Ratner, chairman and chief

executive officer of Forest City Ratner Companies, the company's New York-based subsidiary, and other Forest City executives, were joined by New York Governor David Paterson, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Barclays PLC President Robert E. Diamond, Jr., NETS investor and cultural icon Shawn "JAY-Z" Carter, and many other community leaders and supporters at the event.

The Barclays Center is expected to host more than 200 events annually, including professional and collegiate sports, concerts, family shows, and NETS basketball. While construction has been ongoing since last fall, today's ceremony marks the next phase of construction of the arena, which is expected to open in 2012.

"When we announced Atlantic Yards in December 2003, we anticipated that this project would create buzz and excitement for the borough and the City, as well as needed jobs and affordable housing," said Ratner. "We did not at the time appreciate that Atlantic Yards would be such an important economic engine. The fact that we can start construction in this financial environment is testament to the lasting appeal of New York City. Atlantic Yards will for many years stand as a reminder that

we can build and create jobs and homes and dreams even during the most difficult of economic times."

Robert E. Diamond, Jr. the President of Barclays PLC, which holds the naming rights for the arena, said, "Barclays is proud to be part of the ongoing renaissance of Brooklyn. The Barclays Center will create new jobs, help bring professional sports back to Brooklyn, and provide a state-of-the-art arena that will host a range of events and serve as the future home of the NETS. Our goal is to have the Barclays Center become the cultural and sporting heart of this community."

Governor Paterson said, "Today we begin the next phase of construction on

the Barclays Center and celebrate a new phase for the community it will serve. The opportunities afforded through this state-of-the-art arena and the Atlantic Yards development mean new jobs, affordable housing, and ongoing economic growth. This is a boon for Brooklyn and for all New York and we welcome the progress to come."

"The Barclays Center at Atlantic Yards is the first piece of what will be one of the largest private investments and job generators in Brooklyn's history," said Mayor Bloomberg. "The world-class arena will bring the Nets to Brooklyn, and the entire project will bring with it more than 25,000 construction and permanent jobs, thousands of units of affordable housing, and tremendous economic activity. Now more than ever, we need investments that create jobs and help build for New York City's future, and Atlantic Yards is as significant an example of that as there is."

Borough President Marty Markowitz said, "What began for me as a dream of bringing a major league sports team back to Brooklyn for the first time since our beloved 'Brooklyn Bums' skipped town when I was just a boy, has culminated with this groundbreaking on something even I couldn't have envisioned—an Atlantic Yards complex that will bring the innovative Barclays Center, affordable housing, union jobs, and permanent employment opportunities to our nation's fourth largest city. Brooklyn deserves nothing less."

The Barclays Center, designed by the award-winning architectural firms Ellerbe Becket and SHoP Architects, will be one of the most intimate seating configurations ever designed into a modern multi-purpose arena, with unparalleled sightlines and first-class amenities. The first-class facility, to be located at Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues, will have 18,000 seats for basketball and up to 19,000 seats for concerts. The arena will have 104 luxury suites, including 15 Brownstone Suites (16 seats each), 68 Loft Suites (10 seats each), 11 Backstage Suites, six Studio Suites, and four Party Suites. The arena will also include 40 loge boxes, six clubs and restaurants, and the on-site practice facility at the Barclays Center.

For more information on the Barclays Center visit <http://www.barclayscenter.com/>.



The 18,000-seat world-class sports and entertainment arena is being developed by subsidiaries of Forest City, which plan to operate the arena in partnership with international investor Mikhail Prok-

Developers Jump On Program For Stalled Projects

Department of Buildings in talks with a dozen developers under new law that promises to expedite the process of re-instating necessary permits.

By Buck Ennis
Crain's New York Business

Just five months after the city put in place a new law making it easier for developers to quickly restart stalled

Bloomberg signed into law last fall, allows developers to speedily renew building permits at stalled sites up to four years after those permits have expired. (Normally the developers would have to start from scratch, re-applying for all the required permits—a process that can drag on for months.) In return, the developers must keep the job site secure and safe. The law was put in place in part to address the health and safety concerns of residents in neighborhoods where the number of stalled projects exploded after



construction projects, the Department of Buildings is in talks with a dozen firms.

The measure, which Mayor Michael

the bursting of the housing bubble.

The DOB's Web site lists more than 500 stalled building projects across the city. The list is updated weekly.

Under the new law, developers must apply to the DOB by submitting a safety monitoring plan that a department spokesman describes as "a little above and beyond what's normally required." In turn, the DOB's Stalled Sales Unit monitors the project to ensure that enhanced security features—locked gates, security guards, cameras—are in place.

"We look at all the properties and determine which sites are stalled, then take referrals for those needing an extension. If site has safety issues, we increase our monitoring efforts," the spokesman added.

Mitchell Korbey, a zoning lawyer and partner at the law firm Herrick Feinstein, said this new program will be a boon to both developers and neighborhoods.

"In light of the number of projects in city that are stalled because of economic conditions, this is a very important initiative," he said. "It recognizes there are scores of stalled projects throughout the city, and it's not good to keep these projects in limbo. The alternative is having dormant projects that the developers lose." •

Beekman Tower — Tallest Residential Building In NYC Topped Out

WC&C contractor handles drywall construction

Union workers raised a 10-ton bucket of concrete at the Beekman Tower marking another step toward completion of the superstructure on the newest addition to the Manhattan skyline. Forest City Ratner chairman and CEO Bruce Ratner, along with more than 200 guests — labor leaders, hundreds of union workers, government officials and civic leaders — signed the 6-foot x 7.6-foot x 7-foot bucket before it was hoisted 900-feet up in the air, then slowly lowered to the rooftop floor to pour the concrete-signifying the topping out of the 1.1-million-square-foot residential tower.

At 76 stories, the first residential highrise designed by world renowned architect Frank Gehry is poised to become

the tallest residential tower in New York City. Redefining the Manhattan skyline, the 867-foot tall facade is sheathed in a glimmering, silver hued, stainless steel curtain wall, reminiscent of the folds in a piece of elegantly draped fabric.

Construction of the Beekman tower is founded on an extremely successful collaboration with the Building and Construction Trades Council (BCTC) and the Building Trades Employers' Association (BTEA), which resulted in a mutually beneficial Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in May 2009. This PLA has resulted in construction jobs for union workers at a time when construction in New York has dramatically decreased.

Drywall construction on the project

has been provided by WC&C member Component Assembly Systems Inc.

Bruce Ratner, Chairman & CEO of Forest City Ratner said, "Forest City Ratner Companies is extremely proud of our long-standing relationship with union management and union workers which goes back to the very beginning of our company. The strength of our relationship insures that we obtain the highest quality workmanship available on each and every one of our projects. Given the severe downturn in the economy during the course of the past 18 months, it is even more gratifying to be here today as we reach this milestone in the development of the Beekman tower. The ongoing construction of Beekman has meant the creation of more than 2,500 much needed construction jobs. Today we celebrate the superior craftsmanship of the dedicated union men and women who have made this outstanding addition to the New York City skyline possible." •

New Method Tested To Sharpen Work Measure

*By Bruce Buckley
Engineering News Record*

Large contractors are putting a new standard for productivity measurement to the test in the hope of producing better project process controls. The new standard, which was adopted last fall as ASTM E2691, focuses on methods for continuously measuring productivity losses to allow for corrective actions during a project.

Perry Daneshgari, a management consultant based in Flint, Mich., who developed the standard in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), says the standard measures work performed compared to construction-put-in-place. Daneshgari says companies often are mistakenly “measuring production, not productivity.” “People

tend to do an economic measurement, looking at labor hours versus dollars," he says. They are "two sides of the same coin. Unless you measure against actual completion, you're not measuring productivity," says Daneshgari.

Many existing accounting measures, such as earned-value analysis, are "after the fact" reporting methods that don't offer information for improving productivity as a project unfolds.

Dubbed "Job Productivity Measurement," the method was born out of Daneshgari's work in the automotive industry in the 1990s. One of his studies at the time found that one U.S. automaker produced 73 vehicles per hour, while a Japanese competitor produced 55 per hour. Although the U.S. firm produced more vehicles, 32% had to be repaired for quality reasons before being shipped. The Japanese firm's vehicles needed almost no repairs and as a result their labor costs were nearly half those of the U.S. automaker's.

Daneshgari saw similar issues in construction—rework saps productivity—and he began adapting automotive process controls to building projects. To date, Job Productivity Measurement has been used largely by specialty firms, particularly electrical contractors. However, Turner Construction Co. currently is wrapping up a pilot project using the measure on an office-building project in Redmond, Wash. Other major contractors are investigating the method.

The use of lean construction, the manufacturing system that involves continuous measurement and improvement, is leading contractors to look at methods like Job Productivity Measurement, says Chris Heger, project superintendent with Turner.

"If you're going to go down the lean path, you need to be able to measure it," he says. "We're looking for a mathematical approach that provides data to back up some of the things planners have known for a long time."

Turner chose to test Job Productivity Measurement on the Redmond project after the owner asked for the schedule to be reduced from a year and a half to one year, Heger says. Crews met the revised schedule for the four-story, 393,897-gross-sq-ft Class-A office building, delivering it 356 days from the

issuance of the building permit to the certificate of occupancy.

In addition to mandating that the major systems and structures be designed using building information modeling, Turner worked with its subcontractors to create work breakdown structures, which were used during buyout. Heger says the breakdown structures provided ample transparency to promote coordination efforts, while also allowing subs to retain confidential accounting and business practices.

Schedules were broken into short intervals to help the team stay on top of issues and keep tighter control on processes, such as the movement of materials. Heger says the team took an "assembly-line approach" to the job, focusing on the most predictable aspects of the job and tightly scheduling them.

"Construction is a highly variable business, but sometimes we focus too much on the variability and not what's a constant," he says. "Weather, soil and the people are variables, but a lot of other aspects don't change. Those constants are what you want to focus your maximum effort on and make as effective as possible."

On the Redmond project, crews erected 2,310 pieces of steel in 91 hours over a 10-day period, and 95,000 sq ft of elevated deck was completed in 11 days. Average productivity was \$48,000 per man-month; it had been estimated at \$28,000. "That's what's most impressive to our VPs," says Heger.

The process also reduced costs. The electrical contractor came in 15% under the original budget, with no additional costs for schedule acceleration. No claims resulted, and contingency wasn't used.

Robert Chapman, a NIST economist, says that although Job Productivity Measurement has proven particularly effective for subcontractors, it can be a helpful tracking tool for general contractors as well.

"It's a generic process control mechanism that is particularly helpful in allowing a construction firm at the project level to look at how they are performing against what their predictions were when they bid the job," he says. "Because it's generic, the GC can use this standard on a job and have all the subcontractors adopt it. That way, you're tracking the subs and

the overall project better."

Simply put, Job Productivity Measurement compares the percent of allocated hours used vs. the project's percent of completion. If a 400-hour job is 50% complete but more than 200 hours have been used, the project is behind schedule. Every kind of work—including prefabrication, pre-assembly and commissioning—must be counted. It's not just turning wrenches.

Chapman predicts that this is the first of several productivity standards to be adopted in the coming years. Although the published Job Productivity Measurement standard is brief, he expects appendices to be added over time to illustrate the technique in greater detail.

The new standard strikes at looming concerns over lagging construction productivity. In July, the National Research Council released its "Advancing the Competitiveness and Efficiency of the U.S. Construction Industry" report, which called for widespread adoption of lean techniques, integrated teaming, and virtual design and construction to help improve productivity. The study also noted the need for improved metrics for benchmarking performance.

Last fall, members of the Construction Users Roundtable discussed plans to partner with NIST on productivity initiatives. Bob Volkman, senior consultant with CURT, says company-level and industrywide productivity benchmarking are critical concerns for owners.

"We see productivity measured at the project level, but what's non-existent is seeing how we are doing as owners against the industry," he adds. "That's the missing piece."

Some groups are attacking the issue, including the Construction Industry Institute with its "Benchmarking and Metrics Database" initiative.

Chapman says that Job Productivity Measurement in its current form is most effective at the task and project levels but has the potential to rise to an industrywide level over time, if sufficient data is collected and shared.

"Right now, I see JPM as an effective early warning system on projects," he adds. "There is the potential for more, but for now it's a step in the right direction." •

Studying Possibilities of High Wood Buildings

By Glenna Hanley
New Brunswick Business Journal (Canada)

Everywhere you see large condos, commercial, and industrial buildings going up, you see steel frame and concrete construction.

Last year in London, United Kingdom, a nine-story apartment building was constructed with wood framing.

In Miki City, Japan, a seven-story, wood-frame condo tower was built, largely to test its safety in an earthquake zone.

In April of last year British Columbia changed its building code, permitting residential construction up to six stories with wood framing. That exceeds the three-to-four story limit set by the National Building Code and the maximum height adhered to by the City of Fredericton.

There is a movement toward more wood construction, in conjunction with the green movement, because wood is a renewable resource and currently cheaper than steel, said Ying-Hei Chui.

A professor of wood products and wood technology at the University of New Brunswick faculty of forestry and environmental management, Chui was recently named a director of a new research network on innovative wood products and building systems (called NEWBuildS).

The network is funded by the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and is partnered with FPInnovations, a private, not-for-profit forest research institution.

Chui and a consortium of 40 researchers from nine universities across the country will be investigating the potential to build up to 12 stories using wood framing. There are many things to analyze: the future uses and ensuring they will be safe, stable and long lasting.

Wood, pound for pound, is actually stronger than steel, said Chui.

"Technically there is no reason why we couldn't be using wood. But in a taller building we have to develop technology that allows us to predict how a building would perform in loading

from wind, an earthquake or snow,” said Chui.

Because wood is combustible, fire safety is a major consideration.

Combining wood with some concrete, in what is called hybrid construction, including design elements like lining a fire escape stairwell with concrete, are the kinds of things that could be done to address the safe evacuation of people in a fire, explained Chui.

Installing sprinkler systems and adding more fire retardant materials are other options.

Engineers and architects will need to be convinced of the viability of these structures. So “a lot of the work that we plan to do with this network is to develop tools for engineers to use to predict the behavior of a tall wood building,” said the professor.

Computer modeling of how fast

fire would spread in a building would be one tool.

Testing new wood products, such as cross-laminated timber, is another area of research. “There is a restriction on the size of lumber you can get from a tree. But we can glue smaller pieces of timber (together) to make it a large structural member that would allow us to span a longer distance,” said Chui. “This is the reason we are able to go to taller buildings. Now we have more engineered wood products that can provide better performance, compared with the more traditional timber.”

Another cross-laminated product is large panels for walls and floors. They represent big savings in construction hours because they can be pre-fabricated in a factory.

The research will test the weight-bearing capacity of the timber and

the panels for use in something like a factory floor with heavy machinery.

The recent housing crisis in the United States taught Canada’s forest and wood products industries an important lesson - they are too dependent on residential construction.

Both industry and government see the need to diversify and to move into more commercial and industrial construction.

This is one of the motivations for creating this large network of researchers, said Chui. But the end game is to ensure these buildings work for the people using them.

“We need to have researchers working in different areas to work together to make sure whatever we develop and promote in these tall buildings is acceptable to the occupants,” said Chui. •

The Construction App

Who says construction technology is behind the curve when it comes to innovation? One of the hottest devices on the consumer technologies market these days is the iPhone with its thousands of apps that encompass everything from gaming to location-based services. How about using that iPhone to record your daily logs or during your punchlist process? Believe it or not, there is an app for both tasks, and many more.

There is some debate about just how prevalent the iPhone will become as a business tool--many would argue the BlackBerry still has a stronghold on that market. However, these devices are popping up in the hands of more and more construction professionals. Seeing this trend, construction technology providers are delivering apps that make it easier to do their job.

For example, NoteVault, www.notevault.com, San Diego, Calif., recently launched an iPhone app for its innovative mobile technology that allows contractors to record voice notes from the field and have them automatically incorporated into the project record. With

the iPhone app, users set up an account and record voice notes (up to three minutes long), which are then automatically uploaded to the NoteVault. The app also gives users the option to snap a photo with their iPhone and upload to the record as well.

By choosing to upload Notes only while connected to a high speed Wi-Fi network or uploading via a cellular network, users can also attach a GPS location to each note.

For residential builders BuilderMT, www.buildermt.com, Lakewood, Colo., offers an iPhone app for its BPM (business process management) technology. With BPM, builders can create and manage automated processes without the need for costly and complicated programming.

The company’s Phone Apps take workflow applications that run in the office and pushes them out to browser-based mobile devices. Being coded with a BPM workflow mapping tool, the Apps can be integrated with other processes like scheduling, variance purchase orders, work orders, and punchlist processes, among others. — CONSTRUCTECH

PRODUCT NEWS



New Suspended Ceiling Panels From Certain Teed Contain 75 Percent Recycled Content

CertainTeed Corp.'s Ecophon Master Solo S suspended ceiling panels allow creative design in ceiling spaces, permit the easy integration of a variety of lighting systems, and feature 75 percent recycled content and Class A sound absorption, the company reports. Easily installed, the panels are hung by ceiling wires fastened to suspension wire anchors, which are screwed in around the center of the panel's unexposed side. Ecophon Solo S features painted edges and no profiles around the panels, enabling it to be poised at a variety of angles for a true floating ceiling effect with a very clean, minimalist appearance. Go to www.certainteed.com/ceilings.

Chem-Calk 1250 Series Sealant



The Chem-Calk 1250 Series is a high-performance oxime/neutral silicone sealant with high UV resistance and rapid curing. The sealant features a non-

corrosive, low-odor formulation that can be applied to a wide range of substrates without compromising them, including masonry, metal, plastic and wood. The sealant can be used in both indoor and outdoor settings, and is able to retain its elastomeric properties in temperatures ranging from -61°F to 348°F. The Chem-Calk 1250 Series meets many different industrial standards, including ASTM C920, TT-S00230C and TT-S-001543A, and is compliant with CARB and SCAQMD environmental regulations. The sealants come in 10.3-ounce cartridges, and are available in clear, white, aluminum, black, bronze and gray. Visit www.bostik-us.com

DeWalt Introduces New Impact-Ready Accessories

DeWalt's new impact-ready accessories are designed to withstand the added torque of impact drivers. This is intended to reduce slippage and bit breakage, resulting



in longer service life. Impact-ready drill bits are ta-

pered, feature a pilot tip and, according to the manufacturer, are five times stronger than conventional drill bits. The stronger design allows for more reliable drilling into stainless steel, sheet metal, steel studs and junction boxes. Impact-ready fastening attachments allow use of impact drivers for applications such as metal-to-metal framing, window installation and steel erection. Other impact-ready accessories include hole saws, pivot holders, nutsetters, screwdriving bits and driver sockets.

For more information go to www.dewalt.com.

New Blazeblocker Ice™ From Duratape

Commercial contractors would agree that an easier method other than traditional embedding of tape into compound would be a welcomed change. Blazeblocker Ice™ simplifies firewall assembly in an easy application method.

The world's first code compliant paper firewall joint tape, Blazeblocker Ice™ accomplishes the logical streamlining of firewall assembly with a two-prong approach with compliance verification



PRODUCT NEWS

confirmed in laboratory testing:

Wet n Stick® technology and its water-activated adhesive adheres into wallboard and to most metal supporting components; guaranteeing a tight surface bond that will not delaminate under any conditions terminating air flow that feeds flames.

This specially formulated firewall tape resists flame ignition at the joints.

The installation using Blazeblocker Ice™ is trouble-free. Wet the tape and apply to wallboard joints. In about an hour, the joint is completely sealed dry. The result is a clean, code compliant firewall assembly. Blazeblocker Ice™ a patent pending product, is easily distinguishable to inspections by its two color printed identification seal running the length of the tape roll as seen on the left (bottom). Each production roll is 2 1/16" x 225' - 20 rolls per case; 49 cases per pallet.

For pricing and inquiries, email BLAZEBLOCKER@duratape.com.

GP DensArmor Plus® Interior Panels

The DensArmor Plus® family of gypsum interior panels provides superior moisture and mold resistance when compared to traditional paper-faced drywall products. These durable panels can be hung before installing doors and windows in commercial construction, providing benefits far beyond typical gypsum boards.

All carry a 12-month weather exposure limited warranty and are GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® and GREENGUARD Children & Schools(sm) Certified for low emissions. Additionally, they are GREENGUARD listed as microbial-resistant using ASTM D 6329 methodology and scored a 10, the highest score for resistance to mold growth, based on testing, as manufactured, per ASTM D 3273. DensArmor Plus® panels also are CHPS™ listed as low emitting.

- Abuse-Resistant Panels are specially formulated for high traffic areas such as

corridors in hospitals, schools and other public buildings.

- High-Performance Panels are used in place of traditional gypsum board are superior for pre-rock applications, allowing contractors to compress schedules and meet deadlines.

- Impact-Resistant Interior Panels are the only fiberglass mat impact-resistant panel with an extra embedded mesh for superior impact resistance. They are perfect for ultra high traffic areas such as corridors in healthcare facilities, schools and correctional institutions.

Visit www.gp.com.

Hilti's Adhesive Anchor Dispenser Has New Battery Dispenser

Hilti's adhesive anchor dispenser is now more productive because of the new Hilti HIT-ED 3500-A CPC Lithium-Ion Battery Dispenser. Utilizing the Hilti 14.4



V lithium-ion battery platform, the ED 3500-A CPC increases battery capacity from 50 cartridges up to 80.

The battery is lighter than most other models, so for contractors working throughout the day or on difficult jobs where they often reach up to work, there's more comfort and less fatigue. Protected by a glass-fiber reinforced housing, the ED 3500-A CPC is built for a long service life under rugged use.

For more information go to www.us.hilti.com.

Hilti Sockets Have A Positive impact

Rugged bolting, fastening and anchoring applications are tackled by the high-

strength Hilti Impact Sockets. Available in standard and deep configurations, Hilti's new lineup of Impact Sockets is built for quick attachment and durable performance.

Hilti Impact Sockets are constructed of hardened alloy steel for long-lasting service. Use of the hardened alloy steel allows the socket walls to be thin for use in tight spaces, yet strong enough to handle difficult torque and working conditions. The quick at-



tachment time of the new Hilti Impact Socket portfolio improves productivity. Two beveled detent holes allow the quick attachment and increase attachment accuracy. The Impact Socket line can be used for anchoring HUS and HCA coil, fastening lag bolts and bolting grades 2, 5 and 8 stainless steel or galvanized bolts. Along with the thin wall construction, the option of using deep sockets also aids in tight-space applications.

All Hilti Impact Sockets can be purchased individually to meet specific needs or purchased in varying kits with the Hilti SIW 144-A Impact Wrench. Currently, two of the most popular standard sizes, 1/2" and 9/16", are being packaged with the SIW 144-A at no additional cost, providing extra value for mechanical, electrical, building and other contractors using the SIW 144-A wrench.

For more information on Hilti Impact Sockets, contact Hilti at 800-879-8000 or visit www.us.hilti.com.

EcoBatt® Insulation From Knauf-Brown and Sustainable

Knauf EcoBatt® Insulation doesn't look like other Knauf insulations. That's because the natural brown color represents a new level of sustainability not previously

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PRODUCT NEWS

achieved in these other products.

The color comes from ECOSE® Technology, a revolutionary, new, more sustainable binder and the result of 5 years of intensive research. Based on rapidly renewable bio-based materials rather than the non-renewable petroleum-based chemicals commonly used in other insulation products, ECOSE Technology reduces binder embodied energy by up to 70%, and it does not contain phenol, formaldehyde, acrylics or artificial colors used to make traditional fiberglass insulation.

EcoBatt Insulation uses sand, one of the world's most abundant and renewable resources, post-consumer recycled bottle glass and ECOSE Technology to create the next generation of sustainable insulation.....naturally from Knauf. For more information visit <http://www.greenguard.org/index.aspx>.

EcoBatt Insulation is certified for indoor air quality as a low emitting product by the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute®, meeting both the GREENGUARD Certification Program(SM) and the more stringent GREENGUARD for Children and Schools(SM) standard. It also passes California CHPS Section 01350.

Knauf EcoBatt Insulation products are cost-effective, thermal and acoustical products made from highly resilient, inorganic glass fibers bonded with ECOSE Technology. The products are available unfaced or with kraft, foil, or flame-rated FSK-25 (foil-scrim-kraft) foil facings. Consistent quality, low dust and clean-cutting resilient fibers make fabrication easy and installation fast. These products

can be used in new and retrofit wood and metal frame applications in residential and commercial structures, as well as in manufactured housing applications. These applications include thermal and acoustical treatments to walls, ceilings and floors.

- High Density (HD) batts are available where optimal thermal performance is required and space for insulation is limited, delivering greater R-value in less space.

- EcoBatt QuietTherm® Insulation has excellent acoustical properties that reduce sound transmission when properly installed in partition walls, ceilings and floor assemblies.

- EcoBatt Staple-Free Batts are flange-less kraft-faced batts that friction fit between wood studs eliminating the need to staple in place. These batts are designed for use in standard 2" x 4" wood framed construction where the stud spacing is no more than 16" on center.

GREENGUARD Certified(SM)

GREENGUARD for Children and Schools Certified(SM)

Visit www.knaufinsulation.com.



Lafarge Announces Weather Defense Platinum Exterior Sheathing

Lafarge announces a new standard in high-performance sheathing for exterior wall and ceiling applications, Weather Defense™ Platinum. With an enhanced glass-mat facer and treated core to resist

the effects of weather and moisture, Weather Defense Platinum provides a high degree of warranted weatherability — 12 months of outdoor exposure under normal weather conditions.

Stephen DeMay, Vice President of Sales for the Gypsum Division of Lafarge North America, says "The ability to offer warranted performance against normal weather conditions, and the highest possible scores for mold and mildew resistance, combined with LEED credit

contribution, provides a competitive edge for our dealers and applicators to satisfy their most demanding customers."

Weather Defense Platinum cuts, scores, snaps and fastens as easily as traditional drywall. Its distinctive platinum-colored coating makes it less irritating to handle than traditional fiberglass-faced boards. "Providing a high-performance sheathing that is more user-friendly to the touch is a big plus for our applicator clients," adds Terrance O'Brien, Manager of Product Development and Innovation for Lafarge North America's Gypsum Division. "Skin irritation is the most common complaint with fiberglass sheathing products, and our enhancements employed in the manufacture of Weather Defense Platinum will surely provide a more enjoyable application experience and enhance productivity for those using the product."

Weather Defense Platinum will be manufactured at Lafarge North America's state-of-the-art drywall plants in Silver Grove, KY and Palatka, FL, utilizing 100% synthetic gypsum; and at the Buchanan, NY plant in 2010. This allows the product to contribute to the attainment of LEED® credits for both the Recycled Materials credit (MR 4.1 & 4.2) and the Regional Materials credit (MR 5.1 & 5.2).

According to independent tests, Weather Defense Platinum outperforms traditional drywall products in protecting against mold and mildew, achieving an average panel score of 10 out of a possible 10 using ASTM D 3273, and meets the ASTM C 1177 specification for glass-mat gypsum used as sheathing.

Visit Lafarge at www.lafargenorthamerica.com.



Meyer Insulation Blower - Series 500 with New 3G Technology

This New Series 500 with 3G technology from Meyer Insulation is a step-up to a contractor level blowing machine. Use

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it as your start-up machine, a backup, or to expand your **Meyer®** retro-fit business.

The Series 500 is capable of blowing types of loose fill materials such as cellulose, fiberglass



and rockwool. No other insulation blower provides this level of performance, reliability and versatility in an affordable machine. The Series 500 Features: Heavy Duty agitator for consistent processing; Easy engine access; Rugged drive train;

Emergency stop for operator safety; Easy access for airlock seal maintenance.

The new 3G Series 500 is backed by the most comprehensive 2-year warranty in the business. For information got to www.meyerinsulation.com

OMNOVA Solutions Debuts New Paper and surf(x)® 3D Laminates

OMNOVA Solutions unveiled the latest additions to its portfolios of Paper and surf(x)® 3D Laminates at GlobalShop 2010. Reflecting trends desired by designers and specifiers for today's interiors, these new offerings include updated and natural-looking woodgrains, inspired stone motifs and bold step-out designs.

OMNOVA has expanded its portfolio of Paper Laminates with a wide array of delectable woodgrain designs that mimic natural arbor hues, including a clean

whitewashed look, luscious cherries and deep chocolates. One new design features a unique faux leather finish. OMNOVA Paper Laminates are a cost-effective solution for internal and external cabinet surfaces, shelving, furniture and casegoods, molding and framing, and paneling.

OMNOVA's surf(x) 3D Laminates stock line has been enhanced with a selection of new designs influenced by a tropical island retreat. Featuring a



straight cut grain, Aurora Oak and Obsidian Oak are perfect complements to the bold colors and radiant metals of today's interiors. Palos Mahogany and Addison Mahogany each deliver an elegant blend of minimalism and naturalism. These new designs are further bolstered by three intricately detailed geologic offerings that resemble smooth stone, dark obsidian and a rich mineral deposit. surf(x) 3D Laminates provide increased durability and dimensional flexibility when matched with traditional vinyl surfacing options. These laminates are ideal for cabinetry, furniture and retail display fixture applications.

For more information, visit OMNOVA's website at www.omnova.com/laminates.

On Center Software Wins Big In Constructech's 2010 Top Products

ON-SCREEN TAKEOFF® AND QUICK BID AMONG TOP PRODUCTS



On Center Software, the market leader in construction-industry software and estimating solutions, announced its software is included in Constructech Magazine's Top Products of 2010 in the magazine's March 2010 issue. Selected by the Constructech editorial team, On Center Software's On-Screen Takeoff and Quick Bid were both chosen as Trusted Products based on "the overall usefulness and uniqueness of the products to the construction industry."

Along with the honor of obtaining two Top Products awards, On Center Software also received special recognition for its Digital Production Control project-tracking software and its Digital Takeoff Table® solution. Both of these On Center Software products were among Constructech's top five products that contractors should "keep an eye on" in 2010, according to the magazine's editorial team.

More information about On Center software is available at www.oncenter.com.

More Product News on following page

PRODUCT NEWS

Phillips' New gripSTIK® Spray Adhesive

Phillips Manufacturing has announced the release of its gripSTIK® Corner Bead Spray Adhesive. Phillips gripSTIK®



Spray Adhesive is a high tack web based spray adhesive designed for adhering vinyl corner bead to drywall. This product works great with Phillips gripSTIK® vinyl beads and trims. This web based spray adhesive features a unique adjustable nozzle for desired spray strength and width. Phillips gripSTIK® Spray Adhesive is available in 17.0 oz. cans.

For more information, contact Phillips at 1-800-822-5055 or email the company at info@phillipsmfg.com.

Parex USA Announces the Launch of 121 Optimum Wet Base Coat and Adhesive

Parex USA, Inc. the parent company of leading building material brands; Parex, Teifs, LaHabra, El Rey Stucco,



and Merkrete today announced the launch of Parex 121 Optimum Wet Base Coat and

Adhesive.

121 Optimum Wet is a premium EIFS base coat and adhesive that promotes higher acrylic content and enhanced workability. This is the newest product in Parex's new Optimum Series line and is intended to be used as a component of the new Optimum Series EIFS.

When launching the new Optimum Series of EIFS we knew the contractor's preference for base coat and adhesives was evenly split between dry & wet bases. The launch of 121 Optimum Wet was done to satisfy the needs of those contractors who prefer a wet base product. With this

introduction, Parex Optimum Series EIFS includes a wet base coat in addition to the 121 Optimum dry and now has all the components to push for national expansion into this premium EIFS marketplace.

"With its higher acrylic content and enhanced workability 121 Optimum Wet is a premium base coat and adhesive that provides easier installation and longer term durability," said Quenton Roehricht, Brand Manager. "Similar to our 121 Optimum (dry mix), early feedback from test usage of this product has been overwhelmingly positive. We have received an enthusiastic response and eager anticipation for its launch."

121 Optimum Wet was primarily designed for use on Optimum series EIFS but like all Parex Base Coats and Adhesives this product can be used in all Parex EIFS and as a skim coat.

For more information visit www.parex.com.

Zero's Automatic Door Bottom Boosts STC Ratings In Door Manufacturer Tests

Tested through five million cycles, Zero International's High Sound Automatic Door Bottom proves its worth one Sound Transmission Test at a time. In separate recent tests of acoustical assemblies commissioned by door manufacturers, Zero's model # 369 heavy-duty mortised door bottom replaced



competitor door bottoms, while perimeter gasketing and door construction remained unchanged. The results were persuasive – the STC rating of one tested assembly increased by two points, and the rating went up three points in the second assembly tested. Both manufacturers are now selling their new higher-rated assemblies.

The difference in performance reflects the unequaled quality of design, materials and construction in Zero's automatic door bottoms. The advanced technology

common to all Zero models utilizes a concealed flat spring mechanism, which activates when the door is closed, lowering a neoprene seal insert against the floor or saddle. A protruding, hinge-side "plunger" is compressed by the frame as the door closes to activate the spring. The seal then drops in a scissors-like motion from the hinge side, adjusting to the floor from a pivoting point. This motion ensures a smooth drop without drag for a tight, secure seal against the saddle or floor. The seal retracts automatically as the door is opened.



Added features ensuring optimal seals in the High Sound models include double neoprene seals to minimize sound penetration. Zero's unique, patented design also incorporates lock-side magnets and a steel plate, which amplify the action of the spring mechanism and ensure a controlled, uniform drop and seal. The High Sound automatic door bottom is the key component in Zero's highly regarded SOUND TRAP Door Sealing Systems, which achieve up to a 53 STC rating.

The vital importance of door bottoms in sound-rated assemblies was underscored by another door manufacturer's account of testing several door assemblies with STC ratings ranging from the low 30s to the low 40s. Regardless of the original rating of the assembly, removal of the door bottom resulted in a rating drop to STC 20. These findings highlight the impact of any gaps in acoustical gasketing, because sound travels through even the smallest openings with very little loss.

For more information or a copy of Zero's catalog, contact Zero International.

Titebond Polymer Panel Adhesive

Titebond GREENchoice Advanced

PRODUCT NEWS

Polymer Panel Adhesive has excellent initial grab and develops the strength of its urethane and solvent-based



counterparts in one-sixth the time. This no-VOC panel adhesive reportedly bonds to just about any porous or non-porous material without the use of fasteners or solvent. It is ideal for use with FRP, PVC, tub surrounds, wood, foam, laminate, treated (fire-rated) plywood, metal (galvanized and stainless steel), foam board, ceramic tile, sealed concrete (including below grade), vinyl, fiberglass-faced and/or mold-resistant gypsum board, and more. Go to www.titebond.com.

New WEATHER GUARD E-Line™ Model 143 Saddle Box

The E-Line Model 143 provides small contractors and remodelers with the industry-leading features they expect to find in WEATHER GUARD.



The 143 is fully protected against break-ins by a secure locking system and tamper-resistant piano-style hinge. A full weather seal safeguards against the elements. A paddle handle with automotive-style latches open the cover easily. Generous storage volume is enhanced with a removable tool storage box.

The 143 also comes with reinforced heavy-duty aluminum diamond-plate construction, topped off with a powder-coat finish that will deliver years of attractive appearance.

And not only does E-Line come with the WEATHER GUARD reputation, it's backed by a Ten-Year Warranty!

Visit www.weatherguard.com.

Two Georgia-Pacific Gypsum Dens Interior Panel Products Pass EPA-ASTM 12-Week Mold Test

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC has had two of its premier Dens interior gypsum panel products pass the industry's most stringent mold resistance test.

DensArmor Plus High-Performance Interior Panel and DensShield Tile Backer each passed the 12-week test, conducted in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency's ASTM D 6329 protocol. The test – three times longer and much more rigorous than ASTM D 3273, the current industry standard – was conducted by an independent third party, RTI International, at its facilities in Research Triangle Park, N.C., between February and June 2009.

No other gypsum products manufacturer has announced test results showing zero mold growth for 12 full weeks for any product.

"These results confirm what we have long known – that our Dens products lead the industry in mold and moisture resistance performance," said Kendall Clark, Research & Development Program Manager, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum. "Architects and builders can take comfort in the fact that the mold-resistant properties of Dens products save time and money during construction, and also ensure the sustainability of structures."

According to Susan Raterman, a prominent industrial hygiene consultant in the critical areas of indoor air quality, mold mitigation and asbestos management, the news that two Dens interior products have passed a rigorous 12-week test is quite noteworthy.

"Both the length of the test and the fact that it used two of the most problematic species of mold found in buildings are indicative of the rigor of this mold resistance performance standard," said Raterman, founder and president of The Raterman Group Ltd. "These results raise the bar for the entire industry, and further illustrate Georgia-Pacific Gypsum's leadership in product quality and innovation."

The 12-week test continues the long history of "firsts" achieved by Georgia-Pacific Gypsum, via its Dens family of products. It was the first company to offer fiberglass mat products, the first to achieve a top rating of 10 under ASTM D 3273 and the first to offer an extended Weather Exposure Limited Warranty.

The DensArmor Plus panels were also the first to be GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified and GREENGUARD Children & Schools Certified as low-emitting gypsum panels, and were among the first gypsum panels to be listed by The Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) as low-emitting materials.

Since the introduction of its flagship DensGlass sheathing more than 20 years ago, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum has steadily expanded its portfolio of fiberglass mat gypsum panels to include DensArmor Plus High-Performance Interior Panels, DensArmor Plus Abuse-Resistant Interior Panels, DensDeck Roof Boards, DensGlass Shaftliner, DensShield Tile Backer and the newly-released DensArmor Plus Impact-Resistant Panels.

* Test results limited to DensArmor Plus High-Performance Interior Panel and do not include DensArmor Plus® Abuse-Resistant Interior Panels and DensArmor Plus Impact-Resistant Panels.

** For more information about the EPA's Environmental and Sustainable Technology Evaluations (ESTE) projects for microbial resistant building materials, visit www.epa.gov/etv/este.html#mrbrmgw

OSHA Notifies 15,000 Workplaces Nationwide Of High Injury And Illness Rates

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration surveys employers to collect workplace injury and illness data it uses to identify employers whose injury and illness rates are considerably higher than the national average. A letter has been sent to about 15,000 workplaces with the highest numbers of injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work, restricted work activities or job transfers, known as the DART rate.

"Receipt of this letter means that workers in that particular establishment are being injured at a higher rate than in most other businesses of its kind in the country," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. "Employers whose businesses have injury and illness rates this high need to take immediate steps to protect their workers."

Employers receiving the letters also were provided copies of their injury and illness data, along with a list of the most frequently cited OSHA standards for their specific industry. The letter offered assistance in helping to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by suggesting, among other things, the use of OSHA's free safety and health consultation services for small businesses provided through the states.

OSHA identified businesses with the nation's highest rates of workplace injuries and illnesses through employer-reported data from a 2009 survey of about 100,000 worksites. (This survey collected injury and illness data for calendar year 2008.) Workplaces receiving notifications had DART rates more than twice the national average among all U.S. workplaces.

OSHA's consultation program is available to assist in addressing safety and health in the workplace for employers with 250 or fewer workers. This program is administered by a state agency and operated separately from OSHA's enforcement program. The service is free and confidential, and there are no fines even if problems are found. Designed for small employers, the consultation program can help an employer identify hazards while finding effective and economical solutions for repairing them. In addition, the OSHA state consultant can assist in developing and implementing a safety and health management system for the workplace.

A list of the employers receiving the letter is available on OSHA's public Web site at http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/foia/hot_16.html. A list of OSHA's consultation services is available at <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/consult.html>.

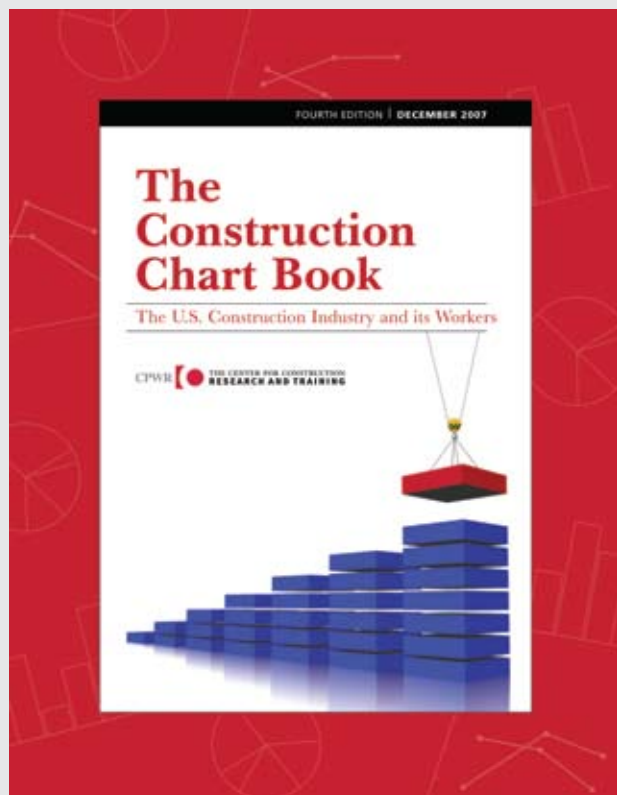
Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, outreach, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.



NEW OSHA WORKPLACE POSTER

Publication 3165 - English - Job Safety and Health: It's the Law

The OSHA Job Safety and Health: It's the Law poster (OSHA 3165) is available for free from the OSHA Office of Publications. Employers do not need to replace previous versions of the poster, however, all covered employers are required to display and keep displayed, a poster prepared by the Department of Labor* informing employees of the protections of the Occupational Safety and Health Act P.L. 91-596, December 29, 1970 and its amendments. (* Federal Government Agencies must use the Federal Agency Poster.)



CPWR The Construction Chart Book: The U.S. Construction Industry and its Workers.

The Construction Chart Book 18,374 KB (156 pages)

Download from: <http://www.cpwrr.com/pdfs/CB 4th Edition/ Fourth Edition Construction Chart Book final.pdf>

This fourth edition uses updated statistics to characterize the changing construction industry and its workers in the United States, monitor the impact of such changes on worker safety and health, and identify priorities for safety and health interventions in the future. While addressing a broad audience, this book focuses on aspects of the construction industry that are most important to the decision makers responsible for worker safety and health. The safety and health section is greatly enhanced and expanded from previ-

ous editions. While this section continues to provide detailed construction injury statistics, additional calculations on health risk factors and chronic illnesses are included. This section also compiles the recent findings from research conducted by CPWR staff, CPWR consortium members, NIOSH researchers, and other published studies. Newly developed information includes results from the NIOSH lead surveillance program (ABLES), the latest reports on noise-induced hearing loss, respirator use, worker exposure to manganese and chromium during welding, and OSHA enforcement efforts, just to name a few. For the first time, this section presents an estimation of total cost of construction fatal and nonfatal injuries.

Green Building Initiative Establishes American Commercial Green Standard

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for rating sustainable commercial buildings in the U.S.”



To gain experience with the new standard in a real-world setting,

the GBI will now take the standard through a limited pilot program, utilizing the new protocol to assess and certify a limited number of commercial buildings. Applications for the pilot program will be accepted starting May 1st, with project evaluation criteria for pilot program approval spanning building size, principal use, and sustainability considerations.

The GBI owns the U.S. license to the Green Globes environmental

assessment protocol, a user-friendly and cost-effective way to rate a commercial green building. There are currently over 100 buildings certified under Green Globes in the U.S., which uses an online and interactive platform and provides users with feedback throughout the green building design and assessment process. The current version of Green Globes for New Construction will continue to be available for use throughout the GBI ANSI standard pilot process.

For more information about the GBI, Green Globes, ANSI standard pilot, or to view a full list of the ANSI Technical Committee, visit

www.thegbi.org.

ABOUT THE GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVE:

The mission of the Green Building Initiative is to accelerate the adoption of building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable buildings by promoting credible and practical green building approaches. A not-for-profit education initiative, the GBI is supported by a broad cross section of organizations and individuals with an interest in residential and commercial construction. For more information on the Green Building Initiative, please visit www.thegbi.org. •

Green Building Initiative Establishes American National Standard for Commercial Green Building

The Green Building Initiative (GBI) announced the completion of the first, and only, American National Standard for commercial green building, as approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The standard, officially named *ANSI/GBI 01-2010: Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings* was derived from the Green Globes environmental design and assessment rating system for New Construction and was formally approved on March 24, 2010. The standard was developed following ANSI's highly regarded consensus-based guidelines, which are among the world's most respected for the development of consensus standards and ensure a balanced, transparent and inclusive process.

"The guidelines set forth by ANSI ensure that this new standard was developed in a way that gives all stakeholders, including sustainability experts, architects and engineers, ENGOs, and industry groups a seat at the table," said Ward Hubbell, President of the GBI. "This is a significant advancement in green building and the standard will be set apart from any green building rating system of its kind."

The result is the most scientifically advanced and robust green building rating system for the new construction or major renovation of commercial buildings in the U.S. The new standard takes a holistic approach to green building with seven areas of assessment: Project Management, Site, Water, Energy, Emissions, Indoor Environment and Resources. The energy section includes minimum achievement levels and introduces carbon equivalency measures that are used in combination with energy performance goals. Other areas of innovation are the addition of a water consumption calculator, a materials/resources section that fully incorporates Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and an emphasis on building integrity issues. The standard also contains minimum point requirements in each of the seven areas of assessment, ensuring the building has a minimum level of sustainability while still giving the project teams the flexibility to choose what works best

for each unique building.

"The approval from ANSI is the result of a long and thoughtful process, where many different people were able to find common ground toward our shared goal of increasing sustainable building practices," said Wayne Trusty, President of the Athena Institute and Chairman of the ANSI Technical Committee. "The technical advancements of this standard really show how beneficial the ANSI consensus-process can be for a green building rating tool."

In 2005 the GBI gained official designation as a Standards Developing Organization and shortly thereafter began the process of working through ANSI to establish the standard. The GBI served as secretariat to the ANSI Technical Committee, which per ANSI guidelines, acted autonomously throughout the standard development process. The technical committee is comprised of 30 full-time members and almost 100 sub-committee members, representing organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Lung Institute, ASHRAE and various academicians.

"We are extremely thankful to all of the volunteers on the technical committee who participated in the development of the new standard," said Hubbell. "Their dedication and commitment to green building helped establish what we believe will become the benchmark

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**The Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry
Industries of New York, Inc.**
125 Jericho Tpke., Suite 301, Jericho, NY 11753