

EWPAA Media Release

28 April 2008

Illegitimate use of JAS-ANZ symbol on Chinese formwork plywood

Samples fail tests for bonding quality, safety

SAMPLES of imported formwork plywood, falsely labelled with the JAS-ANZ accreditation symbol, have failed tests for bonding quality, reliability and safety carried out by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAA).

Technical data provided with the plywood, sourced from Shanghai by Jinshan International Australia, claims the F17 and F14 product has been “qualified by an Australian authority and “has an Australian certification number”.

JAS-ANZ director of technical services Steve Keeling has confirmed the misuse of the JAS-ANZ symbol. He said the manufacturer was not listed on the JAS-ANZ register.

The EWPAA tested 10 sheets of the material purchased from the Brisbane market and also noted each sheet was labelled with a certification number C07/43/22 based on a report from a non-accredited laboratory.

EWPAA general manager Simon Dorries said the testing laboratory was not a JAS-ANZ accredited certification body licensed to issue the JAS-ANZ accreditation symbol and its laboratory was not NATA accredited for the range of tests allegedly performed on the product.

“However, of major concern is that the report provided with the plywood is titled ‘structural bracing ply’ and not the formwork plywood product which bears the report number and accreditation symbol,” Mr Dorries said.

“These products are completely different with different uses and performance criteria. There is no way that a compliance report for bracing ply could be used to verify conformance of formwork plywood.

“In my opinion, it would appear to be a very real possibility that this product may have been supplied to the market without any compliance assessment whatsoever. This is a very serious concern.”

The distributor of the plywood, who has sought market acceptance for the product in Queensland, claims it has been “selling quality formply successfully in Sydney, Adelaide and Perth since 2007”.

Mr Dorries added: "As this product is used in critical structural applications both during concrete forming and as a safe work platform during erection, it is essential that any product illegitimately labelled is removed from the market as a matter of extreme urgency."

He said deaths had been attributed to the failure of fraudulently-labelled imported formwork plywood in Australia. The JAS-ANZ accreditation symbol was used by the formwork industry to identify safe and reliable certified products.

"I do not have to explain the ramifications to both the Australian plywood industry and JAS-ANZ itself should illegitimately labelled product fail with resulting injury or loss of life," Mr Dorries said.

Mr Dorries recommended any current or future illegitimate or fraudulent use of accreditation symbols be reported to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for a mandatory regulated product safety recall.

JAS-ANZ has raised the matter with the supplier and required it to cease to use its trademark. Steve Keeling warned that should the supplier continue to misuse the JAS-ANZ logo, JAS-ANZ would take advice on what further action it could take to protect the trademark.

Products certified under JAS-ANZ's product certification program usually carry the JAS-ANZ accreditation symbol alongside the mark or logo of the certification body.

The url for the JAS-ANZ Register appears underneath the JAS-ANZ accreditation symbol. This publicly available register enables people to check the validity of JAS-ANZ accredited certifications. If the certificate appears in the register then it is a valid JAS-ANZ accredited certificate. If the certificate does not appear in the register then more information should be sought from the supplier.

The Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) is the government-appointed accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand responsible for providing accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) in the fields of certification and inspection. Accreditation by JAS-ANZ demonstrates the competence and independence of these CABs.

JAS-ANZ accredits 58 CABs who in turn certify about 50,000 organisations. Including accreditations and technical assistance projects, JAS-ANZ provides services in more than 20 countries.



EWPAAs quality systems officer Brian Latta examines an illegitimately-labelled plywood sheet

Inquiries:

Simon Dorries, General Manager, EWPAAs. Tel: (07) 3854 1228. Mob: 0407 127 618
Media contact: Jim Bowden. Tel: 07 3256 1779. Mob: 0401 312 097