

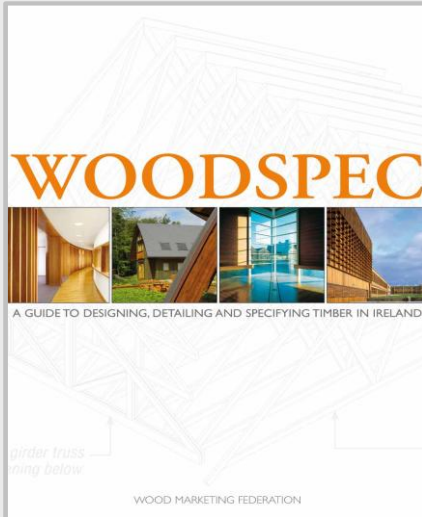
WOODWORDS

NEWS FROM WOOD MARKETING FEDERATION

MAY 2010



WOODSPEC REVISION



THE THIRD revision of *Woodspec – A Guide to Designing, Detailing and Specifying Timber in Ireland* is well underway. This is being carried out by Gordon Knaggs, Bill Robinson and Donal Magner. The editorial team will be joined later by Ciaran O'Connor, OPW. Phase one of revision involves redesign of manual for website. This involves a partial rewrite along with updating standards. The second phase will be the publication of a hard copy if funding and publisher can be sourced. It is planned to circulate the revised manual in Ireland and Britain. The format will be similar to second edition but the introductory section will be expanded to include at least four new case studies to be decided in consultation with the Council.

Top: attendance at April 27 field day which began in Coillte HQ to as part of the WMF project to promote wood usage to third level colleges – Donal Magner, WMF, Christy Conway, WMF, Richard Lowe, Coillte, Neal Murphy, UCD, Karen Foley, UCD, Dr. Paul Fanning, UCD, Sophia Meeres, UCD, Elizabeth Shotton, UCD, Tony McTigue, UCD, Dr. Annette Harte, NUIG, Willie Fitzgerald, Enterprise Ireland, Michael Lynn, COFORD and Ticso Fabia, UCD.

Right: The group was joined by Patrick Murray (left) at Murray Timber, Ballon and John Brady, Woodfab Timber (fourth from left).

3rd level wood promotion campaign



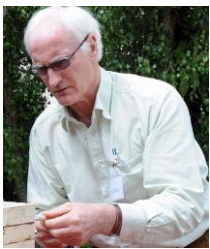
IN 2009, the Wood Marketing Federation (WMF) undertook a five-year programme to expand wood in 3rd Level courses in architecture, engineering and design. The project is co-ordinated by Christy Conway, Chairman, WMF. To date, the programme has involved a series of meetings and presentations to universities and institutes of technology in Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Cork by the WMF Chairman and Secretary. The project receives support from COFORD. As part of the programme, WMF in association with Coillte and Murray Timber, organised a field trip for relevant lecturers and administrators in UCD and NUIG on April 27 last. We thank David Gunning, CEO Coillte for providing a presentation to our guests. We are also grateful to Richard Lowe and Jim O'Dowd Coillte for organising the field trip and to Patrick Murray and John Murray for providing the group with a guided tour of Murray Timber Sawmill in Ballon, Co. Carlow.



2011 Student Wood Awards

PLANNING AND organisation of the 2011 3rd Level Student Wood Awards is well advanced. This is the sixth year of the awards organised by the Wood Marketing Federation in association with Wood NI.

The awards are now regarded as the premier awards for third level students of architecture, engineering and design in Ireland who specialise in timber and timber products for final year projects. Award winners have gone on to pursue successful careers in wood and related businesses and have exhibited at Irish and international shows.



Duncan Stewart has agreed to chair the judging panel again this year

The aim is to encourage students to explore functional, aesthetic and design aspects of wood. The awards are judged by professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering and design. This year Duncan Stewart (above) has once again agreed to chair the panel which will also consist of Malcolm Jacob, consultant engineer and Simon O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll Furniture

Judging will take place over two days in University College Dublin and University of Limerick (June 9-10). Richard Lowe and Maurice Brook will attend as observers, while organisation, photography and liaison with colleges will be carried out by Christy Conway, Paddy Bowes and Donal Magner.

The awards are divided into three categories: engineering, architecture and design. Total prize fund is €10,000. Awards will be presented in the **RDS, Dublin on Thursday June 23** to the overall winner and category winners.

In addition to the WMF and Wood NI, Coillte and COFORD are major sponsors of the awards. WMF acknowledges the input of Anne-Marie Lyster, who has been seconded by Coillte to co-ordinate the project.

Comments to Donal Magner, Secretary, Wood Marketing Federation (Tel 0404 61111 / 086 2607883 or email donalmagner@eircom.net).

EU REGULATION TO BAN TRADING OF ILLEGAL TIMBER FROM MARCH 2013

OVER THE past two years, the Forest Service has made presentations to the WMF on EU Regulation No 995/2010. This was passed by the European Parliament last October and it will effectively ban the placing of illegal timber and timber products on the EU market when it comes into force on 3rd March 2013. It places an obligation of due diligence on importers who will face severe penalties if they are trading in illegal timber.

The implications of the Regulation were spelled out at a recent workshop in Brussels, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee and attended by the Secretary, WMF. The Regulation began as an EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan in 2003. This was followed in 2008 by an Implementing Regulation allowing for the control of the entry of timber to the EU from countries entering into bilateral FLEGT agreements with the EU or Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). Ghana entered a VPA in 2008 followed by Indonesia, Malaysia and Cameroon. WMF supported FLEGT and the use of wood from sustainably managed forests (Talking Timber No.4; February 2008).

While FLEGT raised public consciousness and created a positive climate for the development of VPAs, it didn't stop illegally logged wood entering the EU. It was voluntary, but the Regulation changes all this as it aims to:

- Prohibit the first placing of illegal timber and timber products on the EU market.
- Put an obligation of "due diligence" on operators to take measures to verify the legality of timber or timber products traded.
- Insist on basic traceability for traders (other than 'operators') to keep records on suppliers and customers.

Compliance with the Regulation will require the keeping of records as operators (those who place timber products in the EU market) will need to know the location of the forest of origin and to ascertain that the timber was harvested legally in accordance with the laws of the country where the timber is sourced.

Making the Regulation – and its implications – understood will be a major challenge. Irish stakeholders need to make their views known to the Forest Service on how the Regulation should be implemented effectively to ensure that we only import legally logged and processed timber while at the same time ensuring that Irish growers and legitimate companies are not disadvantaged by unnecessary and encumbering layers of bureaucracy. The Forest Service is open to constructive comments and will make a further presentation to the Federation at our next meeting to be arranged.

REVIEW OF IS440

WMF IS WORKING with COFORD in reviewing the Irish standard for timber frame dwellings, IS 440. Duncan Stewart has outlined why it is important to make a number of major amendments and changes to IS 440 including:

- The implementation of the changeover from former structural design standards to the Eurocodes.
- Increased requirements to improve air tightness and to prevent wind infiltration in Part L of the Building Regulations

Malcolm Jacob, Duncan Stewart and Bill Robinson have been working on the review – co-ordinated by WMF Secretary – and are producing a study which will review and propose amendments under the following headings:

- Amendments resulting from implementation of the Eurocodes
- Air tightness and wind infiltration
- Reverse external wall construction (i.e. a variation of the traditional TF wall with OSB3 or plywood sheathing fixed to the inside face of the wall studs).
- Diffusion-open external wall construction

Review will also examine the potential for Irish grown softwoods in timber frame construction. Phase 1 has been completed and the final study will be incorporated into *Woodspec* and forwarded to DOE for consideration.