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(Not quite Mass Plywood Panels, but a possible trend worth keeping abreast of. Opportunities for JAS certified CLT, DLT, NLT, MPP? Rich)

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Seihoku Plywood Developing Super Thick Plywood

Seihoku Plywood (Tokyo) is developing super thick plywood with thickness of more than 50 mm (1.97 inches) and it is applying to obtain JAS certificate. This will allow Seihoku to participate in the new engineered wood market. Presently the maximum thickness Seihoku is manufacturing is 32 mm (1.26 inches). Manufacturing of thicker panel is the same as standard panel but there is limit of thickness for press so the process after press is used LVL line. Seihoku happens to have LVL manufacturing line so through production of super thick plywood is possible. Thickness of veneer is 3.73 mm (0.15 inches), thicker than standard veneer to make standard plywood. Species it uses is domestic larch. Veneer goes through veneer strength measuring machine and veneer with 100E -120E strength is recovered to manufacture super thick plywood. Subject of plywood industry is to manufacture thicker panel and non-structural panel. Thicker panel is aimed to become as new wood products to compete with lumber, laminated lumber and structural LVL and it becomes a new market for plywood manufacturers. Seihoku has already succeeded to manufacture 200 mm (7.87 inches) thick plywood (width of 1,000 mm (39.37 inches) and length of 2,000 mm) (78.74 inches) by plying 57 veneers. This is used as structural material for wood-based eleven stories high training facility Obayashi Corporation plans to build. 200 mm (7.87 inches) thick plywood is put in between two 150 mm (5.91 inches) thick structural LVL posts and tied with drift pins.

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