



NEWS RELEASE

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California is the First to Adopt Building Codes Limiting Embodied Carbon; Freres Engineered Wood's Mass Ply Can Help Builders Adapt

Mass Ply can help California builders comply with new climate-conscious regulations

LYONS, Ore., July 16, 2024 – As of July 1, 2024, California became the first state in the nation to adopt mandatory building code measures to reduce embodied carbon emissions from the construction industry. Freres Engineered Wood, a leading engineered wood manufacturer in Oregon, has designed a series of mass timber products called Mass Ply that allows California builders to drastically cut embodied carbon emissions without sacrificing the structural integrity of their buildings.

“Mass Ply is an innovative product that is reducing the environmental impact of construction and transforming the industry for the better. It will help California builders and contractors adapt to these new embodied carbon regulations, while constructing stronger, more sustainable buildings in a shorter period of time,” says the company’s Vice President of Operations, Kyle Freres.

The two new building codes, collectively known as CALGreen, will reduce the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions released during the life cycle of a building, including the extraction, manufacturing, transportation, installation, and even maintenance and disposal of building materials. California’s new regulations require builders to use building materials that have been proven to limit carbon emissions, as a means of encouraging the development and application of sustainable building products. The new building codes apply specifically to commercial buildings larger than 100,000 square feet as well as school projects over 50,000 square feet.

Freres Wood’s engineered wood products provide California builders with an ideal solution to these new measures, as they are uniquely designed to limit carbon emissions at every point of production. Mass Ply is made of thin layers of veneer, peeled from logs as small as six inches in diameter, which allows the company to use trees from thinning operations thereby mitigating wildfire risk. When compared to traditional building materials like concrete and steel (as well as many alternative mass timber products), Mass Ply is stronger, generates fewer GHG emissions in production, and offers greater thermal and seismic performance. Additionally, unlike concrete and steel, which are among the largest sources of industrial carbon emissions in the country, Mass Ply retains carbon for the life of the product.

“We are confident that other states will follow California’s lead and adopt building code measures like CALGreen that promote eco-conscious changes in the construction industry — including the adoption of products like Mass Ply,” says Freres. “In the meantime, we will continue to do our part to support the industry shift towards sustainable building practices, by

developing innovative products that reduce carbon emissions without compromising on performance.”

For more information about Freres Engineered Wood and their Mass Ply products, call 503-859-2121 or visit www.frereswood.com.

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About Freres Engineered Wood Products

[Freres Engineered Wood](http://www.frereswood.com), formerly Freres Lumber Co., Inc., has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in Oregon’s Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres’ operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LCC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit www.frereswood.com or call 503-859-2121.