

## Softwood Lumber Board Holds Inaugural Meeting

The Softwood Lumber Board (SLB) held its first meeting on November 29th in Chicago, IL, to launch the softwood lumber check-off, a unified industry funded promotion program created by super-majority support in an industry referendum last June.

Some pertinent points brought out at that meeting:

- 1) The Board recommended to USDA that the Board collect assessments on imports directly from importers of record, in lieu of having assessments collected at the border by U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- 2) Shipments will be subject to assessment beginning January 1, 2012, but will not be invoiced for payment until the end of the first quarter 2012.
- 3) In January 2012 the Board will send detailed procedures to each softwood lumber manufacturer and importer of record, and request documentation of multi-year shipment volumes.
- 4) Companies that regularly ship or import less than 15 million board feet annually will be issued a certificate of exemption, and will not be invoiced for assessments.
- 5) The SLB will be providing regular updates on its efforts and programs. These updates will be communicated to the industry directly and available on the organization's website: [www.softwoodlumberboard.org](http://www.softwoodlumberboard.org)

Contact via post may also be made by writing to:

The Softwood Lumber Board  
401 North Michigan Avenue,  
Suite 2200,  
Chicago, IL 60611

Their Telephone number is: 1-312-321-5131

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