



To: The Editors and Readers of *Interface*, The Journal of RCI

Re: Mark Hopmann and Kimberly Steiner "Premature Metal Roof Deck Corrosion: Difficult to Detect and Diagnose," published in *Interface* July 2013, Vol. XXXI, No. 4

The North American Fiberboard Association (NAFA), representing the producers of cellulosic (wood) fiberboard roof insulation, is very sensitive about articles which contain unfounded accusations and innuendos about wood fiberboard. Previously, two such articles were published and neither of them provided evidence of metal roof deck corrosion caused by wood fiberboard. Those articles focus on bagasse or cane based board and not wood fiberboard. Bagasse board has not been produced in North America for at least seven years. One must therefore ask why such articles, indirectly seeking to implicate wood based fiberboard, continue to appear at all.

This Hopmann and Steiner article attempts to show that acetic acid (vinegar) can leach from bagasse and by implication wood fiber; and that such emissions can readily and commonly occur. If such emissions were emanating from wood fiber, there would be a flood of complaints. This has not happened.

The three articles have concluded that there needs to be an effort to "build a data base of problem buildings." NAFA has tried (and is trying) to do just that without success. The only "problem buildings" NAFA has been able to locate involved bagasse board in two lawsuits. The Florida case is ongoing. The Houston case settled out of court. NAFA has posted a line by line commentary on this article on www.fiberboard.org based on the Houston case.

We believe that seeing a more detailed analysis of this issue will reassure those of you who have had concerns about wood fiberboard.

Bottom line: No evidence has been provided that wood fiberboard has caused metal roof deck corrosion.

Louis Wagner
Executive Director
North American Fiberboard Association