



THE UPDATE

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The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.

NON-DESTRUCTIVE MOLD DETECTION POSSIBLE




Use of radar technology to detect mold behind gypsum wallboard is currently under evaluation at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). GTRI researchers are currently conducting tests to determine the feasibility of using millimeter-wave extremely high-resolution radar to detect mold on damp, mold infected panels in the hopes of developing a non-destructive and less expensive method to detect mold behind walls. If proven successful ,it could result in the early detection of otherwise hidden mold which may otherwise result in structural damage and potential health concerns if undetected.

DOL PROPOSED OVERTIME CHANGES



A potentially significant cost impact for US employers and construction contractors may result from planned revisions to the 50 year old overtime regulations covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act recently released by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The new rules expand the number of workers eligible for overtime. This may have a significant effect for construction contractors in terms of their labor and overhead costs on current and future projects. For additional information go to www.dol.gov.fairplay.

EMF CONCERNS RECENTLY RE-EMERGE



A new study released by the U.S. Department of Energy ' s (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is likely to re-energize the decade old debate regarding safety around power lines and household appliances .PNNL is the DOE Office of Science research center charged with advancing the fundamental understanding of complex systems by providing science based solutions. Dr Steven Goheen, a scientist at PNNL reported in a recent issue of the journal Bioelectromagnetics on his experiments which he claimed "conclusively link an electromagnetic field with a human adverse chemical effect from the electromagnetic fields". According to Dr Goheen previously we had been looking in the wrong place ; namely " inside animals for the effect from electromagnetic fields. It now appears that the danger is in

the air surrounding the animals that are near a large magnetic field ". For further details go to www.pnl.gov/news/2004/04-02.htm.



NEW TOOLS TO ENHANCE HOMELAND SECURITY

A new center has been created by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS); namely the National Visual Analytics Center (NVAC) to provide scientific guidance and co-ordination for the research and development of new tools and methods that DHS requires for managing ,visually representing and analyzing enormous amounts of diverse data and information in order to increase our nation 's ability to discover and predict terrorists activities. Visual analytics is defined as " combining the art of human intuition and the science of mathematical deduction to perceive patterns and derive knowledge and insight from them". Technologies developed under NVAC are intended to support information sharing , hopefully in a secure environment , while protecting the privacy of individuals. While such technologies are intended to enhance our national security ,it is also hoped that they may also find useful application in other scientific areas e.g. forensic engineering ,biology, drug discovery and other fields requiring data intensive analysis.

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