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WMMA Changes Its Membership Eligibility Requirements

Philadelphia, PA—During a recent Board meeting, the Directors for the Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) unanimously updated its Membership Eligibility Requirements (MERs). Previously, the requirements specified that an Active Manufacturing Members had to have more than 50% of its design, manufacturing, and marketing in the United States. That is no longer the case. In addition, Associate Membership was expanded to include relevant businesses headquartered in Mexico and Canada. Educators are still eligible as Affiliate Members, while the Board can now recognize those now outside of the industry but having made major contributions to the industry as Honorary Members.

Jim Laster, WMMA President, applauded the Board's deliberation on this matter, which was first raised several years ago. "Now was the time to do what we had first discussed four years ago. Since 2003, the 'world has become flatter' and many distinguished companies merged, changed ownership or left the industry altogether. With these eligibility changes, the Association recognizes the competitive environment in which its members compete."

In the new MERs, a U.S. manufacturer of products that adds significant value through the engagement of designing, producing or assembling, and marketing in the U.S. which are used in the fabrication or processing of wood or similar materials could qualify for Active Manufacturing Membership. Eligible companies must have their principal place of business in the U.S. and be organized under the laws of one of the U.S. states or territories. As is the case for all membership categories, the WMMA may request eligibility data and reserves final authority in determining which category is most appropriate.

Associate Membership in WMMA is open to enterprises headquartered in the U.S., Canada or Mexico and which perform one of the three following functions:

1. Distributes/markets products to/for Active Manufacturing Members; or
2. Supports or supplies a product and/or service in the woodworking or related industries; or
3. Is a Canadian or Mexican manufacturer as defined for a U.S. manufacturer.

Complete details for all four types of membership in the Association can be found at www.wmma.org/.

Founded in 1899, the Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America® (WMMA®) is a professional trade association composed of more than 200+ U.S. manufacturers of woodworking equipment, cutting tools, and supplies and whose purpose is to promote the interests of its members serving the woodworking industry. Distributors, suppliers and consultants to the industry also belong to the association as Associate Members. Manufacturer members design, build and sell equipment, tooling, supplies, and components used in the manufacture of all types of wood products.

Members' products are used in furniture, door and window, flooring, and kitchen cabinet manufacturing plants; plywood and particleboard mills; lumber mills; shipyards; mobile home and pallet manufacturing plants; home workshops; plus a wide variety of associated wood processing operations. Many members also serve the plastics, stone, and non-ferrous metals market machining aluminum, brass, copper, and other non-ferrous metals. WMMA® members' equipment is sold worldwide. To learn more about WMMA® visit www.WMMA.org.

Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America® (WMMA®) is professionally managed by Fernley & Fernley, Inc., a fourth generation family firm in the association management business representing over 30 trade associations and professional societies. Fernley & Fernley holds the distinction of being among the first to receive national accreditation from the AMC Institute, and the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and is the longest established Association Management Company in the country. Throughout the years, Fernley & Fernley has maintained a solid reputation as a leader within the association management field and in the wide spectrum of industries it serves. To learn more about Fernley & Fernley visit www.fernley.com.

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