

## Tafisa Canada wins the CPA Safety Innovation Award

Tafisa Canada was awarded the CPA Safety Innovation Award in a ceremony that took place during the Spring 2018 Meeting of the Composite Panels Association (CPA), in Victoria, British Columbia. This award recognizes a proactive safety initiative that has been implemented by a member in 2017.

### Error-proof lockout method

In the scope of its Operational Excellence Program, Tafisa Canada was looking to improve its lockout procedures to be more time efficient and prevent errors, by ensuring there was no margin of error in terms of one's own safety and the safety of others while performing maintenance work.

The team took a mix of lean concepts, internal knowledge and creativity and brought to life a completely new method of energy control on its equipment prior to shut downs and maintenance works. The methodology is based on a color-coded identification of the electrical equipment, which is a visual, user-friendly, and error proof procedure. With this method, the operations and maintenance teams can lock the production process by areas based on an assigned colour.

Since each coloured section can contain up to 100 motors, with some motors belonging to two different areas, the challenge was to control the energy sources that could be located in different areas in the plant, in different electrical rooms. Each section was organized to contain a coloured lockout box, the designated area to display the lockout sheet and all necessary equipment to perform the lockout. As a result, when an employee needs to lock a specific area, he uses the coloured locks that match his section. Whenever an equipment overlaps two sections, two sets of assigned coloured locks are used.



*Example of colour coding in an electrical room*



*Lockout box with colour coding*

This new process is a major efficiency gain during the lockout procedures. It now takes 30% less time to prepare the shutdown and 25% less time to lock the designated area. With this new method, Tafisa Canada eliminated waste from the production process and improved the health and safety of one of its most valuable assets: its people.

### **About CPA**

The Composite Panel Association (CPA), founded in 1960, represents the North American composite panel industry on technical, regulatory, quality assurance and product acceptance issues. CPA General Members include 30 of the leading manufacturers of particleboard, medium density fibreboard and hardboard. Together they represent more than 92% of the total manufacturing capacity in the US, Canada and Mexico.

The Safety Innovation Award allows the industry to share ideas and benchmark one of the most important aspects of the business. Over the years, there have been great improvements in safety records because of vigilance, innovation and creativity. Those fine qualities should be recognized, celebrated and shared for the greater good.

Maia, 25 May 2018