



## RULE TO IMPLEMENT THE FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS ACT

The Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act was signed into law July 7, 2010, and added Title VI to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The law established limits for formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products: hardwood plywood (veneer and composite core), particleboard, medium-density fiberboard (MDF), and thin-MDF. The national emissions standards in the law are designed to reduce exposures to formaldehyde, avoid harmful health effects, and mirror the emission standards previously established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for products sold, offered for sale, supplied, used or manufactured for sale in California. Congress tasked EPA with developing regulations to implement this law.

### **Specifically, among other things, this rule:**

- Sets standards to limit formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products that are manufactured in, sold, offered for sale, or imported into the United States.
- Sets testing requirements to ensure that regulated composite wood products comply with the emission standards.
- Establishes a third-party certification program to ensure that composite wood panel producers comply with the emissions standards.
- Requires labelling for regulated composite wood products and finished goods that contain these products to show they are certified as compliant with the emission standards.
- Ensures that products sold outside of California will meet the new emission standards.

### **What are composite wood products, and what types are covered by this rule?**

- Composite wood products are created by binding strands, particles, fibers, veneers, or boards of wood together with adhesives (i.e., glues or resins) and include hardwood plywood, particleboard, MDF, and thin-MDF panels. Formaldehyde is found in the adhesives used in a wide range of composite wood products.
- Composite wood products are commonly used in the fabrication of finished goods such as furniture, kitchen cabinets, flooring, picture frames and wooden children's toys, among other products.

### **How are formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products verified?**

All panel producers are required to have their products tested by an EPA-recognized TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certifier (TPC) to ensure their products are certified as compliant with the certification requirements and emissions standards. Panel producers are also required to conduct quality control tests on a regular basis to ensure that regulated composite wood products meet emissions standards.

### **How do I know if the composite wood products, or finished goods that contain them, that I am purchasing comply with the regulation?**

By June 1, 2018, regulated composite wood panels and finished products containing such composite wood panels that are manufactured (in the United States) or imported (into the United States) must be certified as compliant with either the TSCA Title VI or the CARB Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCM) Phase II emission standards.

After March 22, 2019 regulated composite wood panels and finished products containing such composite wood panels that are manufactured (in the United States) or imported (into the United States) must be certified and labeled as TSCA Title VI compliant.

### **Are renovators and contractors who install regulated composite wood products subject to the final rule requirements?**

Under this rule, persons or entities in the construction trades are neither fabricators nor retailers by selling, renovating, or remodeling buildings. TSCA Title VI is intended to regulate goods that move freely through the product supply chain and that are produced through a manufacturing process at a manufacturing facility. By regulating the manufacture of a product, the regulation works to ensure that only compliant composite wood products enter the marketplace.

### **When do the rule requirements go into force?**

The formaldehyde emissions standards come into force June 1, 2018.

**For more information** about EPA's formaldehyde standards, visit [www.epa.gov/formaldehyde](http://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde).