

Submitted Electronically

July 2, 2018

Clerk of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
<https://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Re: Public Comments on Notice of Availability of Modified Text (“15-day Language”) for the Proposed Regulation of Prohibitions on Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons in Stationary Refrigeration and Foam End-Uses

Dear Air Resources Board Members:

The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (“PIMA”) respectfully submits the following public comments on the above referenced 15-day Language. PIMA represents North American manufacturers of laminated polyisocyanurate insulation board products (“polyiso insulation”). Our members include Atlas Roofing Corporation, Carlisle Construction Materials, Firestone Building Products, GAF, Johns Manville, IKO Industries, Rmax, and Soprema. These manufacturers account for the vast majority of polyiso insulation produced and installed in North America, including California.

I. History of Polyiso Insulation

The polyiso industry is a recognized leader in the manufacture of energy efficient building products and environmental stewardship. The industry has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“U.S. EPA”) with the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award for leadership in the phase-out of chlorofluorocarbons and exceptional contributions to global environmental protection. Additionally, the industry was recognized with the U.S. EPA’s Climate Protection Award for leadership in promoting energy efficiency and climate protection.

Over the past three decades, the polyiso insulation industry has undertaken research and development of new technology to reduce or eliminate the use of ozone depleting pollutants and high global warming substances. Today, polyiso insulation is manufactured using pentane (or pentane blends) as the blowing agent in the foaming process. The industry completed this

transition nearly twenty years ago. In fact, some polyiso insulation manufacturers have never used the hydrofluorocarbon (“HFC”) technology that is subject to the proposed prohibitions.

Pentane offers an economical solution for polyiso insulation products and delivers exceptional thermal resistance that contributes to polyiso insulation’s high R-value – the primary physical property for thermal insulation products. Polyiso insulation manufacturers have made significant capital investments in modifying existing facilities and constructing new plants that allow for the safe use of pentane technology in the manufacturing process. It is important to note that polyiso insulation formulations – and the process used to manufacture the product – are optimized for the use of pentane, which may not be a suitable blowing agent substitute for other foam end-uses.

Additionally, as referenced above, polyiso insulation manufacturers have made significant investments in the research and development of new product formulations that utilize pentane technology to deliver industry-leading thermal and fire performance in the foam insulation market. From a manufacturing perspective, the HFC substances subject to California’s proposed regulations are simply not suitable (or attractive) replacements for polyiso insulation when compared to the performance and economic advantages of pentane-based formulations.

II. PIMA supports the revised effective date and the deletion of the disclosure statement requirement for foam end-uses.

PIMA supports the new effective date of January 1, 2019 to allow impacted manufacturers additional time to comply with the proposed regulatory requirements.¹ Additional time will be necessary to ensure procedures comply with any final regulatory requirements. Furthermore, PIMA supports the deletion of the proposed disclosure statement requirements for foam end-uses.² As noted in Section I of these comments, the polyiso insulation industry does not use the prohibited HFC substances listed in Table 1 of Section 95374(a). Therefore, the original proposal to require an affirmative disclosure statement is both unnecessary and potentially confusing to consumers. For these reasons we support the decision to eliminate the disclosure statement requirement.

III. PIMA believes the recordkeeping requirement is unnecessary as applied to the polyiso insulation end-use and, therefore, requests polyiso insulation manufacturers be exempted from compliance with the requirement.

The recordkeeping requirement³ as applied to polyiso insulation is unnecessary and the end-use should be exempt from complying with the requirement because the industry does not use the prohibited HFC substances listed in Table 1 of Section 95374(a). As described above in Section I of these comments, the polyiso insulation industry transitioned to pentane technology several decades ago for economic and performance reasons. Legacy HFC substances do not present

¹ Proposed 15-day language modifications to Table 1 of Section 95374(a).

² Deletion of “Disclosure Statement” requirements included formerly as Section 95375(d)(1) *Disclosure Statement*.

³ Section 95375(d)(1) *Recordkeeping* as referenced in the proposed 15-day language modifications.

viable or attractive options for polyiso insulation manufacturers now or into the future. Furthermore, as indicated in the text of the notice for the 15-day Language, the Air Resources Board notes that “. . . foam end-uses affected by this regulation have already transitioned out of using HFCs. The risk that these end-uses revert to prohibited HFCs is low.” Therefore, the polyiso insulation end-use can be exempt from compliance without interfering with the enforcement of the proposed prohibitions.

Additionally, PIMA is unaware of polyiso insulation products sold into California that are manufactured outside of the North American market. This means there is little to no risk of non-compliant imports being sold into the California market. Therefore, the recordkeeping requirement will not assist with enforcement because the prohibited substances are not used within the polyiso insulation industry. We respectfully request that the polyiso insulation end-use be exempt from the recordkeeping requirement.

As an alternative to a full exemption, we request that the proposed regulation be further modified to allow polyiso insulation manufacturers to submit a one-time certification to the Air Resources Board that their respective products do not contain the prohibited HFC substances. The certification also could be made at the request of, or at a time specified by, the Air Resources Board. This alternative compliance option would provide regulators with a direct and immediate assurance that the polyiso insulation end-use market is in full compliance with the HFC prohibitions.

IV. Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the 15-day Language. Please contact me should additional information be helpful to the regulatory process.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin Koscher
President