



# Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

July 16, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

The California Air Resources Board (ARB/Board) staff invites you to participate in a discussion session on Thursday, August 1, 2013, to discuss the differences between ARB's Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products (Composite Wood Products ATCM) and proposed United States Environmental Protection Agency's regulations (U.S. EPA regulations). The objective of the discussion session is to share views, solicit participant's thoughts, provide input to U.S. EPA, and to explore approaches for aligning ARB's ATCM with the proposed U.S. EPA regulations.

The discussion session will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Thursday, August 1, 2013  
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)  
Location: Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Directions to the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) headquarters and public transit can be found at the Cal/EPA website at:  
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/>.

## Background

In 2008, the California Air Resources Board adopted the Composite Wood Products ATCM to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood product panels and from finished goods that contain composite wood products (title 17, California Code of Regulations, sections 93120-93120.12). The ATCM established formaldehyde emission standards for hardwood plywood-veneer core (HWPW-VC), hardwood plywood-composite core (HWPW-CC), particleboard (PB), medium density fiberboard (MDF), thin medium density fiberboard (tMDF), and requirements for furniture and other finished products made with composite wood products. The ATCM applies to panels and finished goods that are sold, supplied, offered for sale, used, or manufactured for sale in California.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Congress established the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act (Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act). The Act was signed into law in 2010 and directed the U.S. EPA to develop a rule to limit formaldehyde exposure from composite wood products produced domestically or imported into the United States. On June 10, 2013, the U.S. EPA released two proposed regulations in the Federal Register. One proposed regulation addresses definitions, emission standards, and implementation measures and the second regulation focuses on a third party certification framework.

While the emission standards for formaldehyde and many of the key elements of U.S. EPA's proposed rule are similar to ARB's ATCM, there are also differences. The purpose of the discussion session is to discuss approaches for aligning the ATCM and the proposed U.S. EPA regulations.

#### Webcast and Handout Information

For those unable to attend in person, this discussion session will be webcast. Webcast links are posted at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>. ARB staff recommends that you do not run other programs while viewing the webcast, as it may interrupt or lower the quality of the signal. Webcast participants will be able to send in questions or comments via e-mail.

To receive email notification concerning the availability of the discussion session materials to be posted on the webpage above, please join our Composite Wood Products ATCM email list at:  
[http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/listserv\\_ind.php?listname=compwood](http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/listserv_ind.php?listname=compwood).

A preliminary agenda for the discussion session is enclosed with this notice. The final agenda and any discussion session handouts and materials will be available prior to the meeting, on our website for your review at:  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/compwood.htm>. Hard copies of any discussion session handouts will also be available on the day of the meeting. You can find additional information regarding the current Composite Wood Products ATCM at the website above. To access the proposed U.S. EPA regulations, please visit the following website at: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/chemtest/formaldehyde/>.

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Special Accommodations and Language Assistance

If you require special accommodations or need this document in an alternative format (i.e., Braille, large print) or another language, please contact Ms. Linda Keifer at (916) 327-1011, or [lkeifer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:lkeifer@arb.ca.gov) as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled event/meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

We welcome and encourage your participation at this discussion session. If you have general questions regarding the upcoming discussion session, please contact Ms. Angela Csondes, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 445-4448 or [acondes@arb.ca.gov](mailto:acondes@arb.ca.gov), or Mr. Lynn Baker, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 324-6997 or [lbaker@arb.ca.gov](mailto:lbaker@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Donohue, Chief  
Emissions Assessment Branch

Enclosure

cc: Angela Csondes  
Air Pollution Specialist  
Technical Analysis Section

Lynn Baker  
Staff Air Pollution Specialist  
Technical Analysis Section

**California Environmental Protection Agency  
Air Resources Board**

**Discussion Session Regarding  
ARB's Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde  
Emissions from Composite Wood Products and Proposed U.S. EPA  
Regulations**

**Preliminary Agenda**

**Thursday, August 1, 2013  
9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)**

Coastal Hearing Room  
Cal/EPA Headquarters (Joe Serna Building)  
1001 I Street Sacramento, California

Webcast: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>

- I. Introductions
- II. Composite Wood Products Formaldehyde Emission Standards
  - ARB Presentation
  - Stakeholder Presentations
  - Open Discussion
- III. Third Party Certification (TPC)
  - ARB Presentation
  - Stakeholder Presentations
  - Open Discussion
- IV. Closing Remarks
- V. Adjourn
- VI. TPC discussion with U.S. EPA (conference call – participation optional)