



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

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

October 23, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

The California Air Resources Board (ARB/Board) staff invites you to participate in a public workshop on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, to discuss proposed amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products (Composite Wood Products ATCM or ATCM). At the workshop, ARB staff will discuss proposed amendments to the ATCM that focus on improving the ATCM based on experience in implementing the ATCM over the past five years and on aligning the ATCM with proposed United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulations to the extent practicable. A draft agenda is attached to this workshop notice.

The workshop will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (PST)
Location: Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street, 2nd 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 establishes 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

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>.

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sale in California. Businesses required to comply with the ATCM are: manufacturers, distributors, importers, fabricators, and retailers of composite wood products and finished goods that contain these products.

Implementation of the Composite Wood Products ATCM has been underway for the past five years. During the course of implementation, ARB staff identified potential areas for improvement and, in late 2011, a process was initiated to develop amendments to the ATCM. That effort was temporarily suspended pending release of U.S. EPA's proposed regulations for composite wood products. Now that U.S. EPA has released their proposed regulations, ARB staff is restarting the process to amend the ATCM with the overarching goal of aligning the ATCM with the federal regulation to the extent practicable.

At this workshop, ARB staff will discuss proposed amendments to the ATCM to clarify requirements and improve the program based on our experience in implementing the ATCM. ARB staff will also facilitate a focused discussion on laminated products. Staff understands that there are stakeholder concerns regarding U.S. EPA's proposal which, unlike the ATCM, will require third party certification and quality control testing for laminated products unless they are made with no-added formaldehyde resins. ARB staff agrees in principle with U.S. EPA that there are additional opportunities to reduce formaldehyde exposures from laminated products and we are committed to working with U.S. EPA and stakeholders over the next several months to develop an alternative approach to regulating laminated products that addresses the public health impacts from laminated products and minimizes the concerns raised by stakeholders. U.S. EPA staff has agreed to participate in this workshop and we are optimistic that an alternative approach for laminated products can be identified that can be incorporated both into the ATCM and the final U.S. EPA regulation.

Webcast and Handout Information

For those unable to attend in person, this workshop 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.

To receive email notification concerning the availability of the workshop 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. Workshop handouts and materials will be available prior to the workshop, on our website for your review at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/compwood.htm>. Hard copies of the workshop handouts will also be available on the day of the meeting.

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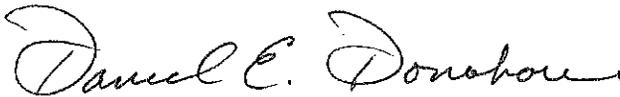
You can find additional information regarding the current Composite Wood Products ATCM at the website above which contains links to the current regulatory language, fact sheets, and regulatory advisories.

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) 327-1505, or 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 workshop. If you have general questions regarding the upcoming workshop or the proposed amendments to the regulation, please contact Ms. Angela Csondes, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 445-4448 or acsondes@arb.ca.gov, or Mr. Lynn Baker, Staff Air Pollution Specialist at (916) 324-6997 or lbaker@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Donohue, Chief
Emission Assessment Branch

Attachment

cc: Angela Csondes
Air Pollution Specialist
Technical Analysis Section

Lynn Baker
Staff Air Pollution Specialist
Technical Analysis Section

Attachment

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board**

**Public Workshop to Discuss
Proposed Amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM)
to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products**

Draft Agenda

**Wednesday, November 20, 2013
9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)**

Byron Sher Auditorium
Cal/EPA Headquarters (Joe Serna Building)
1001 I Street Sacramento, California

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

- I. Introductions
- II. Background
- III. Proposed Amendments to the Composite Wood Products ATCM
- IV. Laminated Products Discussion
- V. Lunch (tentative)
- VI. Stakeholder Presentations (tentative, depending on interest)
- VII. Questions/Open Discussion