



# Air Resources Board



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

May 6, 2016

Harald Schwab and Bettina Meyer  
Fraunhofer Institute for Wood Research  
Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut  
Bienroder Weg 54 E  
38108 Braunschweig  
Germany

Dear Mr. Schwab and Ms. Meyer:

Thank you for your letter dated April 6, 2016, informing us that two of the alternate small scale quality control test methods previously approved by staff of the Air Resources Board (ARB) have been superseded by new standards approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). To date, ARB has approved of six alternate small scale quality control test methods for use by manufacturers of composite wood products when conducting routine quality control testing of formaldehyde emissions, pursuant to ARB's Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products. In your letter, you requested that ARB approve of the use of the two new quality control test methods by manufacturers of composite wood products.

We understand that the European test method EN 717-2 (gas analysis), approved by ARB in March 2009, has been superseded by ISO 12460-3, and that EN 120 (perforator), approved by ARB in November 2008, has been superseded by ISO 12460-5. We also understand that small revisions have been made to the test methods to improve results when testing composite wood products with low formaldehyde emissions. We reviewed the new ISO methods and concur that the revisions are relatively minor. Therefore, on behalf of our Executive Officer, Richard Corey, we approve of your request.

We will update our Composite Wood Products webpage listing of approved alternate quality control test methods to indicate that ISO 12460-3 is approved for use by manufacturers of hardwood plywood, particleboard, and medium density fiberboard, and that ISO 12460-5 is approved for use by manufacturers of particleboard and medium density fiberboard (but not hardwood plywood, consistent with our approval of EN 120). Also, we will leave the two EN methods on our list to allow a transition to the new ISO methods.

*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

Harald Schwab and Bettina Meyer  
May 6, 2016  
Page 2

If you need further assistance, please contact Mr. Lynn Baker at (916) 324-6997 or via email at [lynn.baker@arb.ca.gov](mailto:lynn.baker@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Richard Boyd, Chief  
Emissions Assessment Branch  
Transportation and Toxics Division

cc: Lynn Baker  
Staff Air Pollution Specialist  
Technical Analysis Section  
Emissions Assessment Branch