

# **Update on California's Formaldehyde Regulation**

**World of Wood Convention  
Formaldehyde Compliance Committee  
International Wood Products Association**

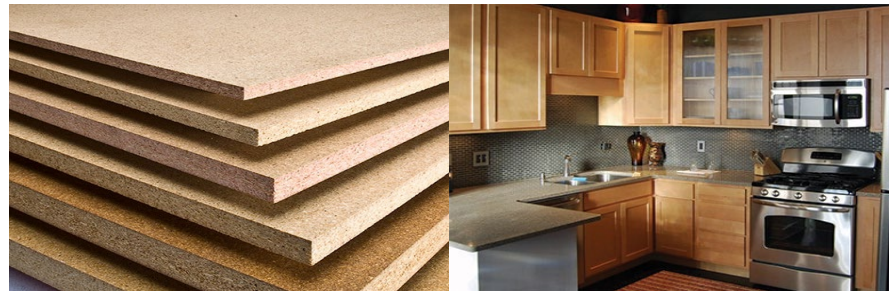
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**California Air Resources Board**

# Overview

- Background
- Comparison of CARB & U.S. EPA regulations
- Remote TPC inspections
- CARB enforcement update
- Plans & timeline to amend CARB regulation
- Questions



# Background

- CARB's Composite Wood Products Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) to reduce public exposure to airborne formaldehyde became effective January 2009
- Established formaldehyde emission standards for three composite wood products
- Requires use of compliant products in finished goods (e.g., furniture, flooring, & cabinets)
- Requires labeling, statements of compliance on shipping documents, & record keeping

# Comparison of CARB & U.S. EPA Regulations

- EPA Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI regulation fully in effect as of March 2019
- All products sold in U.S. must be TSCA-compliant and labeled as such
- CARB accepts TSCA labeled products
- Some differences between CARB & TSCA; whichever is most stringent applies in California
- Ongoing interaction with EPA
- CARB will retain & enforce California regulation

# Remote TPC Inspections

- Covid-19 pandemic presented ongoing problem to third-party certifiers (TPCs) due to lack of access to conduct on-site mill inspections
- EPA & CARB received requests from several TPCs to conduct inspections remotely
- EPA & CARB issued guidance in spring of 2020 allowing TPCs to certify mills & conduct quarterly inspections remotely
- Experience has been positive

# Status of CARB Enforcement

- CARB is continuing to inspect distributors & retailers of panels & finished goods
- Products are inspected for compliance with labeling requirements
- Documentation is reviewed regarding statement of compliance
- Samples are collected for emissions testing
- CARB has settled cases against 21 companies for selling noncompliant flooring, cabinets, & furniture
- Settlements ranged from \$3K - \$2.5M

# Plans & Timeline to Amend CARB Regulation

- Amendments being considered
  - Reduce emissions of additional products
    - Some types of children's furniture
    - Cork flooring
  - Improve enforceability & better ensure compliance of imported products
  - Align with EPA regulation, where appropriate
- Timeline
  - Industry workgroup meetings summer/fall 2021
  - Public workshop late 2021/early 2022
  - Presentation to CARB Board mid-2022

# Questions

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