

Status of U.S. EPA Formaldehyde Regulation

On May 22, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulation to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products went into effect. Accreditation bodies and third party certifiers can now apply to U.S. EPA for recognition under Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). On September 25, 2017, U.S. EPA announced a delay in the compliance dates for all regulatory provisions, including the emission standards and labeling requirements, from December 12, 2017 to December 12, 2018. Other compliance dates were also delayed. Links to the U.S. EPA final regulation (dated December 12, 2016) and the revised compliance dates are attached below. Note that the Federal Register document starts on page 89674 with preamble and background information; the regulation text starts on page 89724.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) “Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products” remains fully in effect and CARB will continue to enforce the ATCM.

CARB will accept products labeled as being compliant with the U.S. EPA TSCA Title VI regulation as being compliant with CARB’s formaldehyde emission standards, because the standards are identical. CARB staff plans to provide additional guidance regarding how the U.S. EPA and CARB regulations interact.

U.S. EPA Regulation:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/12/2016-27987/formaldehyde-emission-standards-for-composite-wood-products>

U.S. EPA Delayed Compliance Dates:

<https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde/formaldehyde-emission-standards-composite-wood-products#CDamendment>

If you have questions regarding the CARB ATCM, please contact Mr. Lynn Baker at lynn.baker@arb.ca.gov or (916) 324-6997.