

Status of U.S. EPA Formaldehyde Regulation and CARB 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 to be recognized under Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The compliance date for all regulatory provisions, including the emission standards and labeling requirements, is June 1, 2018. However, CARB-compliant products will be considered to be compliant with TSCA Title VI until March 22, 2019. 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 panels and finished goods (e.g., furniture, cabinets, and flooring) that comply with the U.S. EPA TSCA Title VI regulation and are labeled as TSCA Title VI compliant, because the CARB and TSCA Title VI formaldehyde emission standards are identical.

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

U.S. EPA 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.