

SAFE GUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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US CARB UPDATES: PART 8 - FAQ UPDATES

Recent updates on FAQs from the California Air Resources board (CARB) have revealed that structural plywood products meeting the standards PS 1 and PS 2, Australian AS/NZS 2269" or European "EN 636 3S" are exempted.

On August 20, 2009, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) updated a series of FAQs to address certain aspects of the 'Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde from Composite Wood Products' under section 93120 of Title 17, California Code of Regulations.

Highlights on some the updates are summarised in Table 1¹.

Table 1



Item	Scope	Remark
1	Material exemption	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MDF panels made by 'wet forming'2. Structural plywood products meeting the Voluntary Product Standards for Structural Plywood (NIST PS 1) and Wood-based Structural-use Panels (NIST PS 2).3. Products with structural and resin properties equivalent to certified PS 1 or PS 2 structural plywood.4. Structural plywood products that are marked as compliant to the Australian "AS/NZS 2269" or European "EN 636 3S" standards.5. Hardboard that is marked in commerce as compliant with the EN 13986 standard.6. Softwood plywood conforming to PS 1-077. Flooring consisting solely of bamboo veneers8. Plywood made from bamboo9. Flooring that consists of a veneer of bamboo laminated to a lumber-core platform
2	Displays	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Displays containing composite wood products are finished goods and must meet the requirements for finished goods2. All displays (finished goods) sold into California after the June 30, 2010 sell-through date must meet the ATCM requirements

¹ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\) Categories, Version #4 – August 20, 2009, Air Resources Board, California Environmental Protection Agency,](#)

(To be continued)

(Continued)

Item	Scope	Remark
3	Installer such as Closet Company	1. A closet company who purchases composite wood products or component parts and then installs them for a consumer would be considered as retailer. 2. If a business exists where panels are cut, edge banded to give essentially "new fabricated products" then that business would be considered a fabricator
4	Flooring consisting of veneer bamboo laminated to a platform	This would be considered to be a laminated product. If the platform contains a composite wood product, the platform must comply with the ATCM.
5	Bamboo particles or fibers use to make PB or MDF	These are cellulosic materials used to make these products. Bamboo PB and bamboo MDF are required to be third party certified.
6	Structural products not meeting all requirements of PS 1 or PS 2	Structural products that do not meet all the requirements of PS 1 or PS 2 are required to comply with the ATCM
7	Donation of non-compliant inventories	Prohibited

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties as developments on formaldehyde emissions in composite wood products regulated by CARB and other legislation occur.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for the emission of formaldehyde in composite wood products destined for California and International markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information



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