

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-23-591

Relating to CARB Approval to Use No-added Formaldehyde Resins by
Composite Wood Product Manufacturers under
section 93120.3, title 17, California Code of Regulations

Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods Co., Ltd.

Whereas, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has adopted the "Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products" (ATCM; title 17, California Code of Regulations, sections 93120-93120.12), which establishes formaldehyde emission standards for composite wood products;

Whereas, section 93120.1(a)(29) of the ATCM defines "no-added formaldehyde" (NAF) based resins to mean resins formulated with NAF as part of the resin cross-linking structure for making hardwood plywood (HWPW), particleboard (PB), medium density fiberboard (MDF), or thin medium density fiberboard (tMDF) including, but not limited to resins made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate;

Whereas, section 93120.3(c) of the ATCM allows manufacturers of HWPW, PB, MDF, and tMDF who use NAF-based resins to apply for written approval from the Executive Officer for an exemption from the requirements of section 93120.3(b) of the ATCM;

Whereas, section 93120.3(c) of the ATCM allows manufacturers of HWPW, PB, MDF, and tMDF who use NAF-based resins to submit an application to the Executive Officer for an exemption from the requirements of section 93120.3(b) of the ATCM; the application shall include: (A) a statement indicating which product types will be manufactured using NAF-based resins for sale in California; (B) the chemical formulation of the candidate NAF-based resins, including base resins, catalysts, and other additives used in manufacturing; (C) the name of their CARB-approved third-party certifier (TPC); and (D) data on emissions performance of the candidate NAF-based resins;

Whereas, the data on emissions performance of the candidate NAF-based resin required in section 93120.3(c) of the ATCM must be obtained by working with a CARB-approved TPC, and must include three months of routine quality control testing data, the correlation of the routine quality control testing data to primary or secondary testing data, and the results of one primary or secondary method test, as required in Appendix 2 of section 93120.12 of the ATCM;

Whereas, section 93120.3(c)(1) of the ATCM requires that 90 percent of the three months of routine quality control testing data and the results of one primary or secondary method test must be shown to be no higher than 0.04 parts per million (ppm), and that all data must be shown to be no higher than 0.05 ppm for HWPW and 0.06 ppm for PB, MDF, and tMDF;

Whereas, section 93120.3(c)(4) of the ATCM provides that the Executive Officer shall approve the application and issue an Executive Order if the evidence submitted by the applicant is sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has met the requirements specified in section 93120.3(c)(1) of the ATCM;

Whereas, Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods Co., Ltd. (Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods or the applicant) submitted an original application received on November 18, 2022;

Whereas, the application from Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods was deemed complete on March 7, 2023;

Whereas, the application from Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods specifies the range in product manufacturing parameters, applicable post-press product treatments, base resin trade name(s) and base resin manufacturer(s)/supplier(s), and other ingredients added to the base resin by the applicant to manufacture NAF hardwood plywood-veneer core (HWPW-VC) products;

Whereas, CARB was provided base resin/adhesive information specifying the base resin polymer type and minimum and maximum values of all major and any minor ingredients in the base resin on a percent weight of solids basis;

Whereas, the base resin/adhesive information was provided to CARB and is set forth in Confidential Attachment A; and

Whereas, the Executive Officer finds that the evidence submitted by the applicant meets the criteria specified in section 93120.3(c)(4) of the ATCM.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods is hereby approved as a NAF manufacturer of HWPW-VC provided that the following terms and conditions are met for products sold, supplied, offered for sale, or manufactured for sale in California:

1. Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods must use the commercial resin listed and supplier listed in Section A of Confidential Attachment A for the manufacture of NAF HWPW-VC products.

2. As specified in Section B of Confidential Attachment A, Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods is legally responsible for ensuring that the base resin specifications are within the ranges specified in the original application and any subsequent amendments of this Executive Order.
3. The application rate of the base resins used for the manufacture of NAF HWPW-VC composite wood products by Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods must be within the ranges specified in Section C of Confidential Attachment A.
4. Other chemical components of the base resins (such as sizing wax and release wax) used for the manufacture of NAF composite wood products by Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods must be within the ranges specified in Section D of Confidential Attachment A.
5. The allowable operating parameters for press temperature and press time for the base resins used to manufacture the NAF HWPW-VC composite wood products by Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods must be within the ranges specified in Section E of Confidential Attachment A.
6. Only the composite wood products with the product names listed in Section F of Confidential Attachment A are authorized under this Executive Order.

Be it further ordered that Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods may change the resin system supplier listed in Section A of Confidential Attachment A if the new resin supplier supplies the same resin type listed in Confidential Attachment A, confirmatory emission tests are conducted, and the Chief of the Risk Reduction Branch within the Transportation and Toxics Division is notified in advance of using the new resin system for production.

Be it further ordered that Zhucheng Hualin Wooden Goods must conduct confirmatory testing for any new resin supplier by demonstrating that the results of one primary or secondary method test for the new resin system supplier are no higher than 0.04 ppm for the NAF products authorized under this Executive Order.

Be it further ordered that section 93120.3(c)(6) of the ATCM, as applicable, specifies that if the applicant decides to change to a formaldehyde-based resin system, the applicant must notify CARB in advance of changing resin systems and must comply with the requirements of section 93120.3(b) of the ATCM for that product type.

Be it further ordered that the Executive Officer may review and, for good cause, modify or revoke this Executive Order as provided in section 93120.3(c)(4) of the ATCM. The Executive Officer shall not modify or revoke this Executive Order without affording the applicant the opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the procedures specified in title 17, California Code of Regulations, section 60055.1 et seq.

Be it further ordered that this Executive Order shall have a duration of two years from the date this Executive Order is signed; the applicant may apply for re-approval as provided in section 93120.3(c)(4) of the ATCM.

Be it further ordered that the applicant must maintain records in electronic or hard copy form for two years, for review by CARB upon request, as specified in section 93120.3(g) of the ATCM.

Be it further ordered that the applicant must notify the Executive Officer in writing within 30 days if there is any change in their product manufacturing parameters or base resin manufacturer(s) or supplier(s) that does not comply with any of the requirements, terms or conditions specified in the ATCM or this Executive Order.

Executed at Sacramento, California this 1st day of May, 2023.



Robert Krieger, Chief
Risk Reduction Branch
Transportation and Toxics Division