

Updated May 16, 2019

Status of U.S. EPA Formaldehyde Regulation and Comparison with CARB Regulation

As of March 22, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulation to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products was fully in effect. A link to the U.S. EPA final regulation [Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)] is included 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 is continuing to enforce the ATCM. CARB will accept composite wood 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.

It is important to note that for composite wood panels and finished goods to be legal for sale in California, if there is a difference between the CARB and U.S. EPA requirements, the more stringent requirement applies, regardless of whether it is a CARB or U.S. EPA requirement.

U.S. EPA Regulation:

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

If you have questions regarding the CARB ATCM, please contact Ms. Julie Cooper at julie.cooper@arb.ca.gov or (916) 323-0018.