

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

NO. 002/10 JANUALLY 2010

## US CARB UPDATES: PART 9 SELL-THROUGH DATES EXTENDED FOR CERTAIN COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS

In 2007, the California Air Resource Board (CARB) approved an airborne toxic control measure (ATCM) regulation to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products including hardwood plywood (HWPW-VC and HWPW-CC), particleboard(PB), medium density fiberboard(MDF), thin medium density fiberboard (thickness  $\leq$  8mm), and also finished products made with composite wood products<sup>1</sup>. Businesses required to comply with the Regulation are: manufacturers, distributors, importers, fabricators, and retailers of composite wood products and finished goods that contain these products. The Regulation establishes two tiers of formaldehyde emission standards. The Phase 1 formaldehyde emissions standards for HWPW-VC, PB, MDF, and thin MDF became effective on January 1, 2009; and for HWPW-CC on July 1, 2009. The Phase 2 emission standard for HWPW-VC will become effective on January 1, 2010.

In May 2009, CARB published Regulatory Advisory 09-02 to extend the sell-through dates by 4 months for distributors and retailers of composite wood panels manufactured before January 1, 2009<sup>2</sup>.

After a number of surveys, CARB concluded that an extension of sell-through dates is necessary for

1. Pre-Phase 1 composite wood products
2. Pre-Phase 1 Finished goods and
3. Phase 1 hardwood plywood with veneer core

On November 12, 2009, Regulatory Advisory 09-04<sup>3</sup> was published to supersede Regulatory Advisories 09-02 and 09-01. This new Advisory announces a delay through December 31, 2010, in the enforcement of sell-through dates that apply to:

1. Distributors and retailers of pre-Phase 1 composite wood product panels
2. Distributors, importers, fabricators, and retailers of finished goods made with pre-Phase 1 composite wood products and
3. Distributors of Phase 1 compliant hardwood plywood with veneer core

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<sup>1</sup> [Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products, Final Regulation Order,](#)

[California: Formaldehyde Emission Requirements to be Lowered for Composite Wood Products, Safeguards 60/08, SGS Consumer Testing Services, September 2009](#)

<sup>2</sup> [US CARB Updates: Part 6 Extension on Sell-Through Dates, Safeguards 108/09, SGS Consumer Testing Services, July 2009](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Extension of Sell-Through dates for Pre-Phase 1 Composite Wood Products, pre-Phase 1 Finished Goods, and Phase 1 hardwood Plywood with Veneer Core, Composite Wood Products Regulation Advisory: 09-04, November 12, 2009](#)

The logo for SGS, consisting of the letters 'SGS' in a bold, sans-serif font. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the 'S', and a horizontal line is positioned below the 'S', forming a partial frame around the letters.

A summary of the extended sell-through dates is in Table 1.

| No. | Relative Parts  | Date Specified in Regulation | Extended Date     | Number of Months Exemption from Original Date |
|-----|---|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1   | Distributors of Pre-Phase 1 HWPW-VC, PB,MDF, and Thin MDF*                        | May 31, 2009                 | December 31, 2010 | 19  |
| 2   | Distributors of Pre-Phase 1 HWPW-CC   | November 30, 2009            | December 31, 2010 | 13  |
| 3   | Retailers of Pre-Phase 1 HWPW-VC, PB,MDF, and Thin MDF*                           | December 31, 2009            | December 31, 2010 | 12  |
| 4   | Retailers of Pre-Phase 1 HWPW-CC  | June 30, 2010                | December 31, 2010 | 6   |
| 5   | Distributors, Importers, Fabricators, and Retailers of Pre-Phase 1 Finished Goods | June 30, 2010                | December 31, 2010 | 6   |
| 6   | Distributors of Phase 1 HWPW-VC   | May 31, 2010                 | December 31, 2010 | 7   |

Table 1. \* Previously extended four months under Regulatory Advisory 09-02

#### Definition:

1. Pre-Phase 1 products are composite wood product panels manufactured before January 1, 2009, that do not comply with the Phase 1 emission standards specified in ARB's ATCM
2. Pre-Phase 1 finished goods are finished goods made with pre-Phase 1 composite wood products

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties as developments on formaldehyde emissions in composite wood products under 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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