

ENSURE CARB ATCM COMPLIANCE SGS PRODUCT CERTIFICATION FOR FORMALDEHYDE EMISSIONS



REDUCE FORMALDEHYDE EMISSIONS FROM COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS

Formaldehyde is produced on a large scale worldwide. One major use includes the production of wood binding adhesives and resins. Formaldehyde was designated as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) in California in 1992 with no safe level of exposure. The Air Resources Board (ARB) evaluated formaldehyde exposure in California and found that one of the major sources of exposure is from inhalation of formaldehyde emitted from composite wood products.

WHAT IS CARB?

The Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) to control formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products drafted by California Air Resources Board (CARB) was approved on April 18, 2008 by the Office of Administrative law. It is applicable to composite wood products and all finished goods sold, supplied, used, or manufactured for sale in California.

CARB REGULATION SCOPE

WHO IS AFFECTED?

- Panel manufacturers
- Distributors, Importers, Fabricators, Retailers

WHAT MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS ARE AFFECTED?

- Composite wood products including hardwood plywood (HWPW), particleboard (PB), medium density fibreboard (MDF), thin medium density fiberboard (thickness ≤ 8mm)
- Furniture and other finished products made with composite wood products, including consumer shelving, fixturing, DIY products, flooring, paneling, moulding, packaging and picture frames

EXEMPTIONS (MATERIALS & PRODUCTS)

- Structural plywood, as defined in voluntary product standard PS 1-07
- Hardboard, as defined in ANSI A135.4,5 & 6
- Products subject to HUD standards
- Windows with <5 vol% composite wood
- Garage and exterior doors; doors with <3 vol% composite wood or made with waterproof resin
- Military specification plywood
- Vehicles

FORMALDEHYDE EMISSION STANDARDS

PHASE	EFFECTIVE DATE	HWPW-VC (ppm)	HWPW-CC (ppm)	PB (ppm)	MDF (ppm)	Thin MDF (ppm)
1	1st January 09	0.08		0.18	0.21	0.21
	1st July 09		0.08			
2	1st January 10	0.05				
	1st January 11			0.09	0.11	
	1st January 12					0.13
	1st July 12		0.05			

MONITOR YOUR PRODUCTS AND ENSURE YOUR COMPETITIVENESS ON THE CALIFORNIA MARKET

CARB ACTM REQUIREMENTS

PANEL MANUFACTURERS

They must demonstrate compliance through:

Third Party Certification (TPC)

- QC staff certification by TPC (blind /duplicate test)
- Correlation establishment with TPC
- Product type test at TPC
- Factory QA system assessment (audit)
- Record Keeping (all productions)
- Statement of compliance

To keep the certification current, quarterly audit is required per regulation, no matter what type of product being produced or its stated emission level.

Material and product Labelling is required in addition to the chain of custody documentation. It includes manufacturer name; product lot number or batch produced; a marking showing compliance with Phase 1 or 2 emission standards or the use of ULEF/NAF base resins; ARB assigned number of the TPC agency. All components should be labelled.

Sell-through provisions are provided to move non-compliant inventory for manufacturers of HWPW, PB and MDF with ULEF/NAF base resins. Manufacturers have up to 3 months after each specified effective date.

FABRICATORS, DISTRIBUTORS, IMPORTERS AND RETAILERS

They must demonstrate compliance through:

- Testing of materials and finished goods
- Purchase of complying composite wood products and finished products
- Record Keeping
- Materials and product Labelling
- Statement of Compliance
- Facility Inspections
- Sell-through provisions are provided to move non-compliant inventory. They are different for composite wood products and finished goods (maximum up to 18 months after the applicable effective date of the emission standard).

WHY CHOOSE SGS?

SGS offers comprehensive CARB solutions:

- Seminars /webinars
- Customized training on CARB certification
- Testing advice
- Suppliers audits & voluntary fabricator certification scheme
- Factory audits
- Certification services

SGS Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Taipei are CARB accredited third party certifiers. They operate both large and small testing chambers.



CONTACT US

To learn more about CARB services, contact us at consumer.products@sgs.com.



TESTING METHODOLOGIES

Two testing methodologies recognized by CARB for the ATCM for Determining Formaldehyde Concentrations in Air and Emission Rates from Wood Products:

ASTM E1333 – 96 (2002)

Primary test method: Large Chamber (min.22m³) designed to fit a full standard sized (4'x8') plywood panel), 24 h-test, emission result in ppm.

ASTM D6007-02

Secondary test method: Small Chamber (max.1m³), test must be performed 3 times and results averaged.

(The small scale quality control test method is approved by CARB for manufacturers' in-house quality control test, and correlation should be established with primary or secondary

