

The ABCs of CARB

California's airborne toxic control measure for composite wood products...
Made simple.

California's environmental protection regulations are among the most stringent and rapidly-evolving in the nation. Understanding the Golden State's new two-phase "CARB" standard regulating formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products is the latest challenge to be faced by distributors, retailers and fabricators.

But there's no need to be baffled. This simple guide to the composite wood regulation is designed to provide the knowledge you need to stay in compliance with California's environmental laws.

What's a CARB?

CARB is the California Air Resources Board, a regulatory and enforcement body of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2008, CARB passed new, two-phase regulations establishing lower formaldehyde-emission standards for composite wood products (hardwood plywood, particleboard, and medium density fiberboard).

The first phase of the regulations, known as CARB-1, went into effect January 1, 2009. A second, more stringent phase, known as CARB-2, will go into effect January 1, 2011.

Who's Affected?

These regulations apply to product manufacturers, such as Arauco, to the distribution and sales channels for these products, and to fabricators of finished goods made with these composite wood products. California's regulations apply only to composite wood products that are sold, offered for sale, supplied, used or manufactured for use in California.

Are ARAUCO's Products CARB-Compliant?

All of the composite wood products sold by Arauco in North America are now CARB-1 compliant.

That means there's no need to carry dual inventories for sales into and outside of California, and no need to worry that non-compliant material will be accidentally shipped into the state.

What About CARB-2?

The second phase of the new composite wood standard for particleboard and MDF – CARB-2 – does not take effect until 2011. Arauco intends to have a full range of CARB-2 compliant products in the pipeline well in advance of the April 1, 2011 date that distributors must begin to purchase CARB-2 compliant panels.

Can I Still Sell the Pre-CARB Inventory I Have on Hand?

The CARB has provided a sell-through period for non-compliant composite wood products (Pre-CARB). The cut-off dates vary by the classification of your company – distributor, retailer, or fabricator, and by the type of product being sold.

The CARB At-A-Glance tables at the end of this document provide all of the CARB-1 and CARB-2 must-purchase and sell-through dates applicable to Arauco composite wood products.

Note that these deadlines apply only to distributors, retailers, and fabricators located in California or out-of-state entities selling, offering to sell, supplying, or manufacturing panels or finished products for use in California.

A summary of CARB-1 sell-through deadlines follows:

Distributors

Distributors have only until September 30, 2009 to sell pre-CARB-1 panels, and have until June 30, 2010 to sell pre-CARB-1 finished goods, such as moulding or cabinets containing medium density fiberboard.

Distributors are required to begin selling CARB-1 compliant materials on October 1, 2009. (March 31, 2009 was the cut-off date for purchase of pre-CARB materials sourced directly from manufacturers or imported.)

Retailers

Retailers have until April 30, 2010 to sell pre-CARB-1 panels, and have until June 30, 2010 to sell pre-CARB-1 finished goods, such as moulding or cabinets containing medium density fiberboard.

Retailers that purchase through distribution are required to begin buying CARB-1 compliant panels on October 1, 2009. (April 1, 2009 was the must-purchase date for CARB-1 materials sourced directly from manufacturers or imported.)

Fabricators

Fabricators have until June 30, 2010 to sell finished goods that contain pre-CARB-1 materials.

Fabricators that purchase through distribution are required to begin buying CARB-1 compliant panels on October 1, 2009. (April 1, 2009 was the must-purchase date for CARB-1 materials sourced directly from manufacturers or imported.)

For more information about Arauco's CARB-compliant panels and moulding, contact:

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CARB-1 At-A-Glance (Effective Date of Standard: January 1, 2009)

Must-Purchase and Sell-Through Schedule For Particleboard and MDF Panels & Finished Goods

Item	Distributor	Retailer	Fabricator
Last day to sell pre-CARB-1 Panels	September 30, 2009	April 30, 2010	Not Applicable
Last day to sell pre-CARB-1 Finished Goods	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2010
Required to buy CARB-1 Panels	April 1, 2009	October 1, 2009 (for purchases from distributors) April 1, 2009 (for purchases from manufacturers or imports)	October 1, 2009 (for purchases from distributors) April 1, 2009 (for purchases from manufacturers or imports)
Required to begin selling CARB-1 Panels	October 1, 2009	May 1, 2010	Not Applicable
Required to begin selling CARB-1 Finished Goods	July 1, 2010	July 1, 2010	July 1, 2010
Last day to sell CARB-1 Panels	May 31, 2011	December 31, 2011	Not Applicable
Last day to sell CARB-1 Finished Goods	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2012

CARB-2 At-A-Glance (Effective Date of Standard: January 1, 2011)

Must-Purchase and Sell-Through Schedule For Particleboard and MDF Panels & Finished Goods

Item	Distributor	Retailer	Fabricator
Last day to sell CARB-1 Panels	May 31, 2011	December 31, 2011	Not Applicable
Last day to sell CARB-1 Finished Goods	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2012
Required to buy CARB-1 Panels	April 1, 2011	June 1, 2011 (for purchases from distributors) April 1, 2011 (for purchases from manufacturers or imports)	June 1, 2011 (for purchases from distributors) April 1, 2011 (for purchases from manufacturers or imports)
Required to begin selling CARB-2 Panels	June 1, 2011	January 1, 2012	Not Applicable
Required to begin selling CARB-2 Finished Goods	July 1, 2012	July 1, 2012	July 1, 2012