

Arauco North America and EPA TSCA Title VI, Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products

On December 12, 2016, the EPA published the long-awaited EPA rule for Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products in the Federal Register. The rule has recently undergone further changes, announced in September 2017, including timelines for implementation which have been pushed back. The first compliance date is now December 12, 2018, when panel manufacturers (domestic and imported) must meet the established emissions levels and all product manufacturers and laminators (domestic and imported) will be required to use compliant core material. Additionally, EPA has implemented a new certification requirement for imports of composite wood panels or products made with composite wood that will apply on March 22, 2019. Also, a narrowly defined group of attached wood or woody grass veneered products, referred to by the EPA as “laminated products,” will have further requirements for compliance effective March 22, 2024.

In the new EPA rule, formaldehyde emission limits from composite wood products are the same as those prescribed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Air Toxics Control Measure (ATCM).

All Arauco North America Particleboard and Medium Density Fiberboard mills have been certified by the Composite Panel Association (CPA), an approved CARB third party certifier, to comply with the CARB ATCM formaldehyde Phase 2 emission limits since 2012 (for thin MDF) and since 2011 (for all other products) and will comply with the EPA TSCA Title VI regulation to the extent that it applies to our products. We anticipate the only change for our products with respect to this regulation will be to the specific verbiage on product labelling and sales/delivery documents. Arauco has aligned its internal formaldehyde compliance program to prepare for the new EPA TSCA Title VI requirements and we will begin labeling our products EPA compliant after the amendments to the rule are finalized which is expected to be in the second quarter of 2018.

Additional information resources:

- [EPA TSCA Title VI rule Federal Register](#)
- [EPA TSCA Title VI rule Questions and Answers website.](#)

Regards,



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ARAUCO North America

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