

Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association

Meeting with the Office of Management and Budget
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

Discussion on the Federal EPA Formaldehyde Emissions Standards for Composite Wood
Products

May 23, 2016

Key Points:

The Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) has been consistent in its position throughout the development of the relevant statute, the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act, or Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act and the implementation of the final rule that it must adhere to the California Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products. For this reason, we encourage EPA to include the following in the final rule which would make the rule consistent with the ATCM:

1. Exempt wood veneers, flat or raised, that are laminated to a compliant panel using No Added Formaldehyde (NAF), Ultra Low Emitting Formaldehyde (ULEF) or other low emitting formaldehyde resin.
2. No testing required by fabricators who use certified composite products.
3. Point #2 is not limited to the manufacturer or fabricator of the finished good but would include a company laminating a door and selling it to the finished good cabinet manufacturer.
4. Products laminated with materials other than veneer (paper, foil, decorative laminates) should be exempt.
5. EPA needs to put in place proper procedures to enforce the rule and to verify and hold accountable all third-party certification operations. By doing so, cabinet manufactures can reasonably rely on composite wood products manufactured by mills with EPA third-party certification.

6. The impact of a regulation (testing, recordkeeping and labeling) on facilities that laminate would pose an enormous economic burden to all cabinet manufacturers (especially small to medium sized companies). These costs will ultimately be passed on to the consumer with many of the smaller cabinet makers likely being forced out of business. Thus, testing, record keeping, labeling should mirror the ATCM rule, which is recognized as the gold standard for formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products.
7. Consistent with section 601(d) of the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products of 2010, EPA's implementing regulations must include a provision that excludes products and components containing *de minimis* amounts of composite wood products.
8. KCMA funded a study conducted by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute¹ which supports the conclusion that raised panels should be excluded from the definition of Hardwood Plywood (HWPW) due to the small amount of glues used in this process and the relatively small size of such panels.
9. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and the Consumer Product Safety Commission all recommend increasing ventilation reduces exposure to formaldehyde. The kitchen is the best ventilated room in the house. KCMA sponsored a study entitled "Residential Kitchen and Bathroom Ventilation as Compartmented to the Whole House."²
10. Finally, on April 15, 2016 President Obama signed Executive Order 13725 on "Steps to Increase Competition and Better Inform Consumers and Workers to Support Continue Growth of the American Economy". KCMA firmly believes that the economic and operational burdens presented by a final rule that could cause redundant testing would impose a cost without a corresponding benefit and speaks to the intent of the recently signed Executive Order.

1. Buhlmann, U. (2013, September 15). Process Comparison of Raised Panels vs. Plywood [Letter to C. Richard Titus, Executive Vice President]. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Sustainable Biomaterials, Blacksburg, VA.

2. Rudd, A. (2013, September 21). Residential Kitchen and Bathroom Ventilation as Compared to the Whole House [Letter to C. Richard Titus, Executive Vice President]. ABT Systems, LLC. 723 East Maple Street, Annville, PA.