



North American Wholesale Lumber Association

**Professionalism Integrity Honesty Innovation**

## NAWLA Industry News Alert

### To NAWLA Members Selling into California

NAWLA wishes to inform you of recent happenings with the California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board related to the sale of composite wood products and finished goods that contain composite wood products in California.

### Background

In April 2007, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved an airborne toxic control measure (Regulation) to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products and from finished goods that contain composite wood products. Businesses required to comply with the Regulation include manufacturers, importers, distributors, fabricators, and retailers of composite wood products and finished goods. The Phase 1 emission standards are now fully in effect for composite wood products, including hardwood plywood with either veneer core (HWPW-VC) or composite core (HWPWCC), particleboard (PB), and medium density fiberboard (MDF).

### Deadlines Approaching

The Regulation contains "sell-through" provisions that allow affected businesses to sell or use non-complying composite wood products for limited periods of time after the effective dates in the Regulation. However, in light of the downturn in home construction and slower movement of non-complying inventories, ARB has provided a four-month enforcement grace period for distributors and retailers of HWPW-VC, PB, and MDF panels to allow additional time to sell non-complying inventories. The grace period allows distributors to sell non-complying panels through September 30, 2009, and allows retailers to sell non-complying panels through April 30, 2010. For more information concerning the extension of sell-through dates for distributors

and retailers of panels, please refer to their regulatory advisory (Number 09-02) available at: [http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/outreach/sell\\_thru\\_advisory.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/outreach/sell_thru_advisory.pdf)

## California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board

Recently Updated "Frequently asked Questions"

The ARB recently posted responses to numerous questions posed to them by companies just like you. These responses cover applicable products, economics, emission testing, enforcement, exemptions, imports and labeling among others. To review these questions and responses, go to <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/implementation/faq.htm>.



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