

111th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. R. 4805

To amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2010

Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. EHLERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the [Toxic Substances Control Act](#) to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act”.

SEC. 2. FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS.

(a) Amendment.—The [Toxic Substances Control Act](#) ([15 U.S.C. 2601](#) et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VI—FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS

“SEC. 601. FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS.

“(a) Definitions.—In this section:

“(1) FINISHED GOOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘finished good’ means any good or product (other than a panel) containing—

“(i) hardwood plywood;

“(ii) particleboard; or

“(iii) medium-density fiberboard.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘finished good’ does not include—

“(i) any component part or other part used in the assembly of a finished good; or

“(ii) any finished good that has previously been sold or supplied to an individual or entity that purchased or acquired the finished good in good faith for purposes other than resale, such as—

“(I) an antique; or

“(II) secondhand furniture.

“(2) HARDBOARD.—The term ‘hardboard’ has such meaning as the Administrator shall establish, by regulation, pursuant to subsection (d).

“(3) HARDWOOD PLYWOOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘hardwood plywood’ means a hardwood or decorative panel that is—

“(i) intended for interior use; and

“(ii) composed of (as determined under the standard numbered ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2004 (or a successor standard)) an assembly of layers or plies of veneer, joined by an adhesive with—

“(I) lumber core;

“(II) particleboard core;

“(III) medium-density fiberboard core;

“(IV) hardboard core; or

“(V) any other special core or special back material.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘hardwood plywood’ does not include—

“(i) military-specified plywood;

“(ii) curved plywood; or

“(iii) any other product specified in—

“(I) the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard-Structural Plywood’ and numbered PS 1-07 (or a successor standard); or

“(II) the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard-Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels’ and numbered PS 2-04 (or a successor standard).

“(C) LAMINATED PRODUCTS.—

“(i) RULEMAKING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct a rulemaking process pursuant to subsection (d) that uses all available and relevant information from State authorities (including the California Air Resources Board), industry, and other available sources of such information, and analyzes that information to determine, at the discretion of the Administrator, whether the definition of the term ‘hardwood plywood’ should exempt engineered veneer or any laminated product.

“(II) MODIFICATION.—The Administrator may modify any aspect of the definition contained in clause (ii) before including that definition in the regulations promulgated pursuant to subclause (I).

“(ii) LAMINATED PRODUCT.—The term ‘laminated product’ means a product—

“(I) in which a wood veneer is affixed to—

“(aa) a particleboard platform;

“(bb) a medium-density fiberboard platform; or

“(cc) a veneer-core platform; and

“(II) that is—

“(aa) a component part;

“(bb) used in the construction or assembly of a finished good; and

“(cc) produced by the manufacturer or fabricator of the finished good in which the product is incorporated.

“(4) MANUFACTURED HOME.—The term ‘manufactured home’ has the meaning given the term in section 3280.2 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of promulgation of regulations pursuant to subsection 601 (d)).

“(5) MEDIUM-DENSITY FIBERBOARD.—The term ‘medium-density fiberboard’ means a panel composed of cellulosic fibers made by dry forming and pressing a resinated fiber mat (as determined under the standard numbered ANSI A208.2-2009 (or a successor standard)).

“(6) MODULAR HOME.—The term ‘modular home’ means a home that is constructed in a factory in 1 or more modules—

“(A) each of which meet applicable State and local building codes of the area in which the home will be located; and

“(B) that are transported to the home building site, installed on foundations, and completed.

“(7) NO-ADDED FORMALDEHYDE-BASED RESIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘no-added formaldehyde-based resin’ means a resin

formulated with no added formaldehyde as part of the resin cross-linking structure that meets the performance standard contained in section 93120.3(c) of title 17, California Code of Regulations (as in effect on July 28, 2009).

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘no-added formaldehyde-based resin’ may include any resin made from—

“(i) soy;

“(ii) polyvinyl acetate; or

“(iii) methylene diisocyanate.

“(8) PARTICLEBOARD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘particleboard’ means a panel composed of cellulosic material in the form of discrete particles (as distinguished from fibers, flakes, or strands) that are pressed together with resin (as determined under the standard numbered ANSI A208.1-2009 (or a successor standard)).

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘particleboard’ does not include any product specified in the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard-Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels’ and numbered PS 2-04 (or a successor standard).

“(9) RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.—The term ‘recreational vehicle’ has the meaning given the term in section 3282.8 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of promulgation of regulations pursuant to subsection 601 (d)).

“(10) ULTRA LOW-EMITTING FORMALDEHYDE RESIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resin’ means a resin formulated using a process the average formaldehyde emissions of which are consistently below the phase 2 emission standards contained in the airborne toxic control measure for composite wood products described in section 93120.3(d) of title 17, California Code of Regulations (as in effect on July 28, 2009).

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resin’ may include—

“(i) melamine-urea-formaldehyde resin;

“(ii) phenol formaldehyde resin; and

“(iii) resorcinol formaldehyde resin.

“(b) Requirement.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in an applicable sell-through regulation promulgated pursuant to subsection (d), effective beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of promulgation of those regulations, the formaldehyde emission standard contained in table 1 of section 93120.2(a) of title 17, California Code of Regulations (relating to an airborne toxic control measure to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products) (as in effect on July 28, 2009), shall apply to hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard sold, supplied, offered for sale, or manufactured in the United States.

“(2) APPLICABILITY.—The formaldehyde emission standard referred to in paragraph

(1) shall apply regardless of whether an applicable hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, or particleboard is—

“(A) in the form of an unfinished panel; or

“(B) incorporated into a finished good.

“(c) Exemptions.—The formaldehyde emission standard referred to in subsection (b)(1) shall not apply to—

“(1) hardboard;

“(2) structural plywood, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard-Structural Plywood’ and numbered PS 1-07 (or a successor standard);

“(3) structural panels, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard-Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels’ and numbered PS 2-04 (or a successor standard);

“(4) structural composite lumber, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Standard Specification for Evaluation of Structural Composite Lumber Products’ and numbered ASTM D 5456-06 (or a successor standard);

“(5) oriented strand board;

“(6) glued laminated lumber, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Structural Glued Laminated Timber’ and numbered ANSI A190.1-2002 (or a successor standard);

“(7) prefabricated wood I-joists, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Standard Specification for Establishing and Monitoring Structural Capacities of Prefabricated Wood I-Joists’ and numbered ASTM D 5055-05 (or a successor standard);

“(8) finger-jointed lumber;

“(9) wood packaging (including pallets, crates, spools, and dunnage);

“(10) composite wood products used inside new vehicles (as defined in section 430 of the California Vehicle Code) (excluding recreational vehicles), rail cars, boats, aerospace craft, or aircraft;

“(11) windows that contain composite wood products, if the window product contains less than 5 percent by volume of hardwood plywood, particleboard, or medium-density fiberboard, combined, in relation to the total volume of the finished window product; or

“(12) exterior doors and garage doors that contain composite wood products, if—

“(A) the doors are made from composite wood products manufactured with no-added formaldehyde-based resins or ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins; or

“(B) the doors contain less than 3 percent by volume of hardwood plywood, particleboard, or medium-density fiberboard, combined, in relation to the total volume of the finished exterior door or garage door.

“(d) Regulations.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2012, the Administrator shall promulgate

regulations to implement the formaldehyde emission standard required under subsection (b) in a manner that ensures that compliance with the standard is equivalent to compliance with the standard contained in table 1 of section 93120.2(a) of title 17, California Code of Regulations (as in effect on July 28, 2009).

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The regulations promulgated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include provisions relating to—

- “(A) labeling;
- “(B) chain of custody requirements;
- “(C) sell-through provisions;
- “(D) ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins;
- “(E) no-added formaldehyde-based resins;
- “(F) finished goods;
- “(G) third-party testing and certification;
- “(H) auditing and reporting of third-party certifiers;
- “(I) recordkeeping;
- “(J) enforcement; and
- “(K) laminated products.

“(3) FINISHED GOODS REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, MANUFACTURED HOMES, AND MODULAR HOMES.—With respect to finished goods containing regulated composite wood products—

“(A) the effective date of sell-through regulations for recreational vehicles, manufactured homes, and modular homes shall be based on a designated date of manufacture of the finished good, rather than date of sale of the finished good; and

“(B) any inventory of finished goods containing regulated composite wood products and manufactured before designated date of manufacture of the finished goods shall not be subject to the formaldehyde emissions standard required under subsection (b)(1).

“(4) IMPORT REGULATIONS.—Not later than July 1, 2012, the Administrator, in coordination with the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall revise regulations promulgated pursuant to section 13 as the Administrator determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with this section.

“(5) MODIFICATION OF STANDARDS.—The Administrator may modify, by regulation, any reference to an industry standard contained in this subsection if the standard is subsequently updated.

“(e) Prohibited Acts.—An individual or entity that violates any requirement under this section (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to subsection (d)) shall be considered to have committed a prohibited act under section 15.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—The table of contents of the [Toxic Substances Control Act](#) (15 U.S.C. prec. 2601) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VI—FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS

“Sec. 601. Formaldehyde standards.”.

SEC. 3. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than December 31, 2010, and annually thereafter through December 31, 2014, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing, with respect to the preceding calendar year—

- (1) the status of the measures carried out or planned to be carried out pursuant to title VI of the [Toxic Substances Control Act](#); and
- (2) the extent to which relevant industries have achieved compliance with the requirements under that title.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF REGULATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of promulgation of regulations pursuant to section 601(d) of the [Toxic Substances Control Act](#) (as amended by section 2), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall update the regulation contained in section 3280.308 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that the regulation reflects the standards established by section 601 of the [Toxic Substances Control Act](#).