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**Viewing material in docket.** To view documents mentioned in this proposed rule as being available in the docket, find the docket as described in the previous paragraph, and then select “Supporting & Related Material” in the Document Type column. Public comments will also be placed in our online docket and can be viewed by following instructions on the <https://www.regulations.gov>

[www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) Frequently Asked Questions web page. We review all comments received, but we will only post comments that address the topic of the proposed rule. We may choose not to post off-topic, inappropriate, or duplicate comments that we receive.

**Personal information.** We accept anonymous comments. Comments we post to <https://www.regulations.gov> will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions to the docket in response to this document, see DHS’s eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020).

**List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165**

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

**PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.2.

■ 2. Amend § 165.918 by revising entries (1) and (11) of Table 165.918 to read as follows:

**§ 165.918 Safety Zones; Recurring Safety Zones in Captain of the Port Sault Sainte Marie.**

\* \* \* \* \*

TABLE 165.918  
[Datum NAD 1983]

Event	Location	Event date
(1) Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau’s Tuesday and Friday Night Fireworks; Mackinaw City, MI.	All U.S. navigable waters of the Straits of Mackinac within an approximate 1000-foot radius from the fireworks launch site located in position 45°46’28” N, 084°43’12” W.	On or around July 4 and Tuesday and Friday nights between late May and late September.
* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *
(11) Mackinac Island Fourth of July Celebration Fireworks; Mackinac Island, MI.	All U.S. navigable waters of Lake Huron within an approximate 750-foot radius of the fireworks launch site, centered in position 45°50’35”N, 084°37’38” W and 45°50’30” N, 084°36’30” W.	On or around July 4th.
* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *

Dated: March 22, 2022.

**A.R. Jones,**  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sault Sainte Marie.

[FR Doc. 2022–06488 Filed 3–28–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110–04–P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 770**

[EPA–HQ–OPPT–2017–0245; FRL–8452–02–OCSPP]

RIN 2070–AK94

**Voluntary Consensus Standards Update; Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to update the incorporation by reference of several voluntary consensus standards in the

Agency’s formaldehyde standards for composite wood products regulations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that have since been updated, superseded, or withdrawn by the issuing organizations. In addition, EPA is proposing to address remote inspections for third-party certifiers (TPCs) required to conduct on-site inspections in the event of unsafe conditions such as the on-going COVID–19 pandemic or other unsafe conditions such as natural disasters, outbreaks, political unrest, and epidemics. Finally, EPA is proposing certain technical corrections and conforming changes including updating standards within the definitions section, clarifying language as it relates to production, and creating greater flexibilities for the third-party certification process.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 28, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA–HQ–OPPT–2017–0245, using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting

comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

Due to the public health concerns related to COVID–19, the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC) and Reading Room is opened to visitors only by appointment. The staff continues to provide remote customer service via email, phone, and webform. For the latest status information on EPA/DC services and docket access, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For technical information contact: Jeffrey Putt, Existing Chemicals Risk Management Division (Mail Code 7404T), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (202) 564–3703; email address: [putt.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:putt.jeffrey@epa.gov).

For general information contact: The TSCA–Hotline, ABVI–Goodwill, 422 South Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620; telephone number: (202) 554–

1404; email address: *TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Executive Summary

#### A. Does this action apply to me?

You may be affected by this proposed rule if you manufacture (including import), sell, supply, or offer for sale in the United States any of the following: Hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, particleboard, and/or products containing these composite wood materials. You may also be affected by this proposed rule if you test or work with certification firms that certify such materials. The following list of North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide to help readers determine whether this document applies to them. Potentially affected entities may include:

- Veneer, plywood, and engineered wood product manufacturing (NAICS code 3212).
- Manufactured home (mobile home) manufacturing (NAICS code 321991).
- Prefabricated wood building manufacturing (NAICS code 321992).
- Furniture and related product manufacturing (NAICS code 337).
- Furniture merchant wholesalers (NAICS code 42321).
- Lumber, plywood, millwork, and wood panel merchant wholesalers (NAICS code 42331).
- Other construction material merchant wholesalers (NAICS code 42339), *e.g.*, merchant wholesale distributors of manufactured homes (*i.e.*, mobile homes) and/or prefabricated buildings.
- Furniture stores (NAICS code 4421).
- Building material and supplies dealers (NAICS code 4441).
- Manufactured (mobile) home dealers (NAICS code 45393).
- Motor home manufacturing (NAICS code 336213).
- Travel trailer and camper manufacturing (NAICS code 336214).
- Recreational vehicle (RV) dealers (NAICS code 441210).
- Recreational vehicle merchant wholesalers (NAICS code 423110).
- Engineering services (NAICS code 541330).
- Testing laboratories (NAICS code 541380).
- Administrative management and general management consulting services (NAICS code 541611).
- All other professional, scientific, and technical services (NAICS code 541990).
- All other support services (NAICS code 561990).

- Business associations (NAICS code 813910).
- Professional organizations (NAICS code 813920).

If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action, please consult the technical person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### B. What is the Agency's authority for taking this action?

EPA is proposing this rule pursuant to the authority in section 601 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. 2697 relating to formaldehyde emission standards for composite wood products.

#### C. What action is the Agency taking?

The Agency is proposing to take the following actions:

##### 1. Update Incorporation-By-Reference (IBR) for Certain Voluntary Consensus Standards

EPA is proposing to update the IBR of certain voluntary consensus standards in 40 CFR 770.99 to reflect the most recent editions of those standards issued by the relevant standards organizations. The relevant standards organizations updated these standards after EPA incorporated them in 40 CFR 770.99. The proposed rule would require regulated entities to adhere to the updated editions of the voluntary consensus standards when complying with the requirements of 40 CFR part 770. These amendments are further explained in Unit II.B.

##### 2. Conform Voluntary Consensus Standards in Scope and Definitions

As a result of the proposed list of updated standards in Unit II.B., EPA is proposing to update 40 CFR 770.1 and 770.3 to reflect the current standards that are proposed to be incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99.

##### 3. Increase Flexibility for TPC Certification Process

EPA is also proposing revisions at 40 CFR 770.7, subsections (a)(5)(i)(A), (c)(1)(iii), (c)(2)(v), and (c)(4)(i)(F). These proposed changes add mention of section 6.2.2 under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E). The addition of section 6.2.2 under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) would allow TPCs to utilize external evaluation resources, such as contracting out inspections to a third party in order to complete the certification process in which TPCs certify that the products are TSCA Title VI compliant. Under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), the requirements for the certification process under section 6.2.2 are the same as section 6.2.1, which

involves an internal certification process. Adding section 6.2.2 would give TPCs flexibility to choose to contract out inspections to a third party to satisfy the requirements in 40 CFR 770.7 to conduct inspections of composite wood products.

##### 4. Address Remote Inspections in Limited Circumstances

Additionally, EPA is proposing to address remote inspections for third-party certifiers under subsections (c)(4)(i)(G) and (c)(4)(viii)(A)(3) under 40 CFR 770.7, as well as 40 CFR 770.15, subsection (c)(1)(viii) in certain circumstances. During the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA provided its regulatory interpretation that TPCs could conduct remote inspections via video teleconference to satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 770.7(c)(4)(i)(F) and 770.15(c)(1)(viii) and allowed TPCs to work with the panel producer quality control managers at the time of the remote inspection to select, package, sign, and ship the TPC panels/samples for the quarterly test according to 40 CFR 770.20(c). EPA is proposing to amend the part 770 regulation to reflect its regulatory interpretation that TPCs may conduct the required initial on-site inspection or quarterly inspections and sample collections remotely when in person, on-site inspections are temporarily impossible because of unsafe conditions caused by natural disasters, health crises, or political unrest. These amendments are further explained in Unit II.B.3.

##### 5. Improve Regulatory Consistency Through Technical Corrections

Furthermore, EPA is proposing to clarify data requirements for emission standards under 40 CFR 770.17(c)(2) and 770.18(d)(2). Under these sections, EPA proposes to add language that clarifies the requirements for testing data for no added formaldehyde-based resins and ultra-low-emitting formaldehyde resins. The clarification states that that for NAF based exemptions ninety percent of the three months of routine quality control testing data and the results of the one primary or secondary method test must be shown to be no higher than 0.04 ppm. For ULEF based exemptions, the clarification states that ninety percent of six months of routine quality control testing data and the results of two quarterly primary or secondary method tests must be shown to be no higher than a ULEF-target value of 0.04 ppm. This proposal would fully align with the California Air Resource Board (CARB) quality control data under section 93120.3 of title 17 of the California Code

of Regulations (the Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products rule, or the ATCM) (Ref. 3) to create better consistency.

Additionally, EPA is proposing several technical corrections under 40 CFR 770.20. Under 40 CFR 770.20(a)(1), EPA proposes to clarify the period in which panels must be tested after their production. This clarification aligns with language in 40 CFR 770.20(c)(3) and CARB section 93120.12 Appendix 3(d)(1) under the ATCM rule. Finally, under 40 CFR 770.20(d)(1)(iii), EPA is proposing that equivalence determinations be included to align with CARB requirements under 93120.9(a)(2)(B)(5) of the ATCM rule. These technical corrections are further explained in Unit II.B.

#### D. Why is the Agency taking this action?

The Agency is proposing this action to adopt several voluntary consensus standards for incorporation by reference at 40 CFR 770.99. This rulemaking would update several voluntary consensus standards under 40 CFR 770.99 to their current editions to address outdated, superseded, and withdrawn standards that have been updated between 2019 and 2021. These new updates are needed because outdated versions may not be used by industry and have been replaced by these new standards. EPA is proposing to update these voluntary consensus standards to reflect the current editions that could be in use by regulated entities and industry stakeholders in the future. EPA believes that this action is warranted to facilitate regulated entities using the most up to date voluntary consensus standards to comply with the regulation at 40 CFR part 770.

EPA is also proposing to address remote inspections for third-party certifiers because of unsafe conditions such as the on-going COVID-19 pandemic or other unsafe conditions such as natural disasters, outbreaks, political unrest, and epidemics. The proposed remote inspections are designed to allow inspectors flexibility to comply with TSCA Title VI regulations and regional emergency declarations.

Furthermore, EPA is proposing several technical corrections to better align with CARB requirements. These technical corrections include the timing of panel testing after production, equivalency determinations, and the third-party certification process. Alignment with CARB allows EPA's TSCA Title VI program and CARB's ATCM program to work in tandem with

one another in order to create an effective and efficient formaldehyde emissions regulatory system. These corrections also would result in less burden on industry working or seeking to work in either or both the California and U.S. markets.

#### E. What are the incremental economic impacts?

EPA anticipates no additional costs to stakeholders associated with this notice of proposed rulemaking for updated standards. This is a routine action that updates voluntary consensus standards referenced in the incorporation by reference section of the regulation at 40 CFR part 770 to address updated, superseded, and withdrawn versions of the referenced standards. Additionally, regulatory language added to address remote inspections for TPCs to conduct the required on-site inspections and sample collections are also expected to result in no additional costs as this language is intended to codify practices that are currently on-going due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### F. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?

##### 1. Submitting CBI

Do not submit this information to EPA through *regulations.gov* or email (see the above **ADDRESSES** section for submitting comments either by mail or hand delivery). Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For confidential information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to EPA, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD-ROM the specific information that is claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

##### 2. Tips for Preparing Your Comments

When preparing and submitting your comments, see the commenting tips at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

## II. Background

### A. Regulatory Overview

#### 1. Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products

The Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-199) created Title VI of TSCA (15 U.S.C. 2697), established

emission standards for formaldehyde from composite wood products, and directed EPA to implement and enforce a number of provisions covering composite wood products. On December 12, 2016, EPA published a final rule (2016 final rule) (Ref. 1) to reduce exposure to formaldehyde emissions from certain wood products produced domestically or imported into the United States. EPA worked with CARB to help align the 2016 final rule with the ATCM to the extent EPA deemed appropriate and practical considering TSCA Title VI. By including provisions for laminated products, product-testing requirements, labeling, recordkeeping, and import certification, the 2016 final rule requires that hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard products sold, supplied, offered for sale, imported to, or manufactured in the United States be in compliance with the emission standards. The 2016 final rule also established a third-party certification program for laboratory testing and oversight of formaldehyde emissions from manufactured and/or imported composite wood products.

#### 2. 2018 Voluntary Consensus Standards Amendment

On February 7, 2018, EPA published a final rule (Ref. 2) to update several voluntary consensus standards incorporated by reference at 40 CFR 770.99. These updates applied to emission testing methods and regulated composite wood product construction characteristics. Several of those voluntary consensus standards (*i.e.*, technical specifications for products or processes developed by standard-setting bodies) were updated, superseded, and/or withdrawn through the normal course of business by these bodies to take into account new information, technology, and methodologies.

#### 3. 2019 Technical Issues Amendment

On August 21, 2019, EPA further amended 40 CFR part 770 (Ref. 4) (2019 final rule) to address certain technical issues. The 2019 final rule:

- Further aligned testing requirements with the CARB ATCM;
- Clarified provisions addressing non-complying lots and how those provisions apply to fabricators, importers, retailers, and distributors who are notified by panel producers that composite wood products they were supplied are found to be non-compliant after those composite wood products have been further fabricated into component parts or finished goods;
- Clarified that regulated composite wood products and finished goods

containing composite wood products must be labeled at the point of manufacture or fabrication, and if imported, the label must be applied to the products as a condition of importation;

- Addressed TSCA Title VI “manufactured-by” date issues; and
- Updated two voluntary consensus standards that were incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99.

#### B. Proposed Amendments

##### 1. Voluntary Consensus Standards IBR Update

###### a. IBR Update

EPA is proposing to update the IBR of certain voluntary consensus standards in 40 CFR 770.99 to reflect the most recent editions of the following standards assembled by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the British Standards Institute (BSI), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Japanese International Standards (JIS), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):

###### i. American National Standard for Hardwood and Decorative Plywood (ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2020)

This standard was developed by the Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association (HPVA) and approved through ANSI. The ANSI/HPVA standard details the specific requirements for all face, back, and inner ply grades of hardwood plywood as well as formaldehyde emission limits, moisture content, tolerances, sanding, and grade marking. ANSI/HPVA last updated this standard on August 17, 2020 (Ref. 5). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2016 to ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2020.

###### ii. Standard Specification for Establishing and Monitoring Structural Capacities of Prefabricated Wood I-Joists (ASTM D5055-19e1)

This standard was issued by ASTM and identifies procedures for establishing, monitoring, and reevaluating structural capacities of prefabricated wood I-joists, such as shear, moment, and stiffness. The specification also provides procedures for establishing common details and itemizes certain design considerations specific to wood I-joists. The ASTM standard was last updated in January 2020 (Ref. 6). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated

by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from ASTM D5055-16 to ASTM D5055-19e1.

###### iii. Standard Specification for Evaluation of Structural Composite Lumber Products (ASTM D5456-21e1)

This standard was issued by ASTM and describes initial qualification sampling, mechanical and physical tests, analysis, and design value assignments. The standard includes requirements for a quality-control program and cumulative evaluations to ensure maintenance of allowable design values for the product. The ASTM standard was last updated in June 2021 (Ref. 7). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from ASTM D5456-14b to ASTM D5456-21e1.

###### iv. Wood-Based Panels—Determination of Formaldehyde Release—Part 3: Gas Analysis Method (BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020)

This standard was approved through ISO, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and BSI and describes a procedure for determination of accelerated formaldehyde release from wood-based panels. The standard was last updated on October 31, 2020 (Ref. 8). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from BS EN ISO 12460-3:2015(E) to BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020. EPA would replace the source for BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020 from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to the British Standards Institution (BSI). EPA would also replace the source for BS EN ISO 12460-5:2015 E from CEN to BSI in 40 CFR 770.99, although there are no updates to the standard itself and the previous IBR approval for the section in which this standard appears (*i.e.*, 40 CFR 770.20(b)) would remain unchanged.

###### v. Wood-Based Panels—Determination of Formaldehyde Release—Part 3: Gas Analysis Method (ISO 12460-3:2020)

This standard was approved through ISO and describes a procedure for determination of accelerated formaldehyde release from wood-based panels. The standard was last updated in October 2020 (Ref. 9). EPA proposes to include this new standard to incorporate by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 since ISO 12460-3:2020 is identical to BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020. To avoid potential confusion by regulated stakeholders, EPA is proposing to include this ISO standard as well as the BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020 so that each manufacturer may choose

which standard to use in each respective country.

###### vi. Determination of the Emission of Formaldehyde From Building Boards—Desiccator Method (JIS A 1460:2021)

This standard was approved through the Japanese Industrial Standards and describes a method for testing formaldehyde emissions from construction boards by measuring the concentration of formaldehyde absorbed in distilled or deionized water from samples of a specified surface area placed in a glass desiccator for 24 hours. The JIS standard was last updated in February 2021 (Ref. 10). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from JIS A 1460:2015(E) to JIS A 1460:2021.

###### vii. Structural Plywood (PS-1-19)

This standard was issued by NIST and describes the principal types and grades of structural plywood, covering the wood species, veneer grading, adhesive bonds, panel construction and workmanship, dimensions and tolerances, marking, moisture content and packaging of structural plywood intended for construction and industrial uses. Test methods to determine compliance and a glossary of trade terms and definitions are included, as is a quality certification program involving inspection, sampling, and testing of products identified as complying with this standard by qualified testing agencies. The NIST standard was last updated on December 1, 2019 (Ref. 11). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from PS-1-09 to PS-1-19.

###### viii. Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels (PS-2-18)

This standard was issued by NIST and covers performance requirements, adhesive bond performance, panel construction and workmanship, dimensions and tolerances, marking, and moisture content of structural-use panels, such as plywood, waferboard, oriented strand board, structural particle board, and composite panels. The standard includes test methods, a glossary of trade terms and definitions, and a quality certification program involving inspection, sampling, and testing of products for qualification under the standard. The NIST standard was last updated in March 2019 (Ref. 12). EPA proposes to update the version of the standard incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 from PS-2-10 to PS-2-18.

EPA will initiate additional notice-and-comment rulemaking when necessary to reflect any future changes to voluntary consensus standards incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99.

b. Public Access to Voluntary Consensus Standards

i. ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2020

Copies of this standard may be purchased from the Decorative Hardwoods Association (formerly known as Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association (HPVA)), 42777 Trade West Dr., Sterling, VA 20166, or by calling (703) 435-2900, or at <https://www.decorativehardwoods.org>. Relevant sections of HPVA standards referenced in this rule are also available for public review in read-only format in the Decorative Hardwood Association Reading Room at <https://www.decorativehardwoods.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/ansi-hpva-hp-1-2020.pdf> only for the duration of the public comment period.

ii. ASTM D5055-19e1 and ASTM D5456-21e1

Copies of these materials may be obtained from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Dr., P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, or by calling (877) 909-ASTM, or at <https://www.astm.org>. ASTM standards referenced in this rule are also available for public review in read-only format in the ASTM Reading Room at <https://www.astm.org/epa.htm> only for the duration of the public comment period.

iii. BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020

Copies of these materials may be obtained from BSI, 12950 Worldgate Dr., Suite 800, Herndon, VA 20170, or by calling (800) 862-4977, or at <https://www.bsigroup.com/>. This British Standard Institute standard is an adoption of EN ISO 12460-3:2020.

iv. ISO 12460-3:2020

Copies of these materials may be obtained from the International Organization for Standardization, 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, CP 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, or by calling +41-22-749-01-11, or at <https://www.iso.org>. ISO standards referenced in this rule are also available for public review in read-only format on the ANSI Standards Incorporated by Reference Portal at <https://ibr.ansi.org/> only for the duration of the public comment period.

v. JIS A 1460:2021

Copies of these materials may be obtained from the Japanese Industrial Standards, 1-24, Akasaka 4, Minatoku,

Tokyo 107-8440, Japan, or by calling +81-3-3583-8000, or at <https://www.jsa.or.jp>.

vi. PS 1-19 and PS 2-18

Electronic copies of these materials may be obtained from the NIST at no cost at: <https://www.nist.gov>. You may purchase printed copies of these materials from NIST by calling (800) 553-6847. You must have an order number to purchase a NIST publication. Order numbers may be obtained from the Public Inquiries Unit at (301) 975-NIST. Mailing address: Public Inquiries Unit, NIST, 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070. In addition, you may also purchase printed copies of NIST publications from or from the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) if you have a GPO stock number. GPO orders may be mailed to: U.S. Government Publishing Office, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, placed by telephone at (866) 512-1800 (DC Area only: (202) 512-1800), or faxed to (202) 512-2104.

Copies of the standards identified in section II.B. of **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** have been placed in the rulemaking docket for this action. Due to the public health concerns related to COVID-19, the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC) and Reading Room is open by appointment only. Visitors must complete docket material requests in advance and then make an appointment to retrieve them. The staff continues to provide remote customer service via email, phone, and webform. For the latest status information on EPA/DC services and docket access, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>. If you have a disability and the format of any material on an EPA web page interferes with your ability to access the information, please contact EPA's Rehabilitation Act Section 508 (29 U.S.C. 794d) Program at <https://www.epa.gov/accessibility/forms/contact-us-about-section-508-accessibility> or via email at [section508@epa.gov](mailto:section508@epa.gov). To enable us to respond in a manner most helpful to you, please indicate the nature of the accessibility issue, the web address of the requested material, your preferred format in which you want to receive the material (electronic format (ASCII, etc.), standard print, large print, etc.), and your contact information.

2. Technical Correction(s)

a. Conform Voluntary Consensus Standards in Scope and Definitions

As a result of the proposed list of updated standards in section II.B.1. of **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, EPA is updating 40 CFR 770.1 and 770.3 to

reflect the current standards that are proposed to be incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99.

b. Submission of Petitions Seeking the Initiation of a Rulemaking for Additional Exemptions for Laminated Products From the Definition of the Term "Hardwood Plywood"

The proposed rule would update the address to which petitions and supporting materials, including any supporting materials that may contain CBI or other controlled unclassified information, should be submitted.

c. Timing of Panel Testing After Production

EPA is proposing a clarification under 40 CFR 770.20. Under 40 CFR 770.20(a)(1), EPA proposes to clarify the time period in which panels must be tested after their production. Based on feedback from CARB and industry, the clarifying language states that all panels must be tested in an unfinished condition prior to the application of a topcoat or finish and must occur not later than 30 calendar days after the samples were produced. This clarification was needed based on confusion between regulated entities as to when the 30-day window began. This language fully aligns with 40 CFR 770.20(c)(3) as well as CARB section 93120.12 Appendix 3(d)(1) under the ATCM rule.

d. Equivalency Determinations

Under 40 CFR 770.20(d)(1)(iii), equivalence determination corrections are included to address previous omissions. During the last voluntary consensus update in 2018 which revised the formaldehyde standards for composite wood products regulations, the acceptable intermediate and upper determinations were not included. Under 770.20(d)(1)(iii), the ASTM D6007-14 method (incorporated by reference, see 40 CFR 770.99) is considered equivalent to the ASTM E1333-14 method (incorporated by reference, see 40 CFR 770.99) if the following condition is met:  $\bar{X} + 0.88S \leq C$ . While a lower value of 0.026 was included, the intermediate and upper values were inadvertently omitted. This proposed update includes an intermediate value of 0.038 and an upper value of 0.052. These proposed changes correct an omission and fully align with CARB requirements under section 93120.9(a)(2)(B)(5) of the ATCM rule.

e. Clarify Language for NAF and ULEF Based Exemptions

Under 40 CFR 770.17(c)(2) and 770.18(d)(2), EPA is proposing to clarify data requirements for emission standards submitted by TPCs. Under these sections, EPA proposes to add language that clarifies the requirements for testing data for no-added formaldehyde-based resins (NAF) and ultra-low-emitting formaldehyde resins (ULEF). The clarification states that for NAF based exemptions ninety percent of the three months of routine quality control testing data and the results of the one primary or secondary method test must be shown to be no higher than 0.04 ppm. For ULEF based exemptions, the clarification states that ninety percent of six months of routine quality control testing data and the results of two quarterly primary or secondary method tests must be shown to be no higher than a ULEF-target value of 0.04 ppm. This language would fully align with CARB quality control data under ATCM (Ref. 3) to create better consistency.

3. Remote Inspections

During the COVID–19 global pandemic, some TPCs have been unable to travel to a composite wood product manufacturing panel producing facility to conduct the required on-site inspections and sample collections in-person. In response, EPA provided its regulatory interpretation that TPCs and panel producers can conduct these activities remotely (see <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/event-unsafe-conditions-geographic-area-would-prevent-third-party-certifier-tpc> for additional information). These remote inspections are designed to allow inspectors flexibility to comply with TSCA Title VI regulations and regional emergency declarations, without jeopardizing the inspector's health and wellbeing. The standard practice for a TPC providing certification services for composite wood panel producers remains that a TPC conducts in-person on-site inspections, which should resume as soon as possible when the unsafe conditions end.

EPA is proposing to amend 40 CFR 770.7 and 770.15(c) by adding an alternative to in-person, on-site inspections and sample collection for quarterly testing that would allow TPCs to perform these activities remotely via video teleconference when it is otherwise temporarily impossible to do so on-site and in person because of unsafe conditions caused by natural disasters, health crises, or political unrest. In addition to carrying out initial

and quarterly inspections remotely via video teleconference, the proposed rule would allow TPCs to work with the panel producer's quality control manager at the time of the remote inspection to select, package, sign, and ship the TPC panels/samples for the quarterly test according to 40 CFR 770.20(c). Under the proposed rule, when submitting the annual report required under 40 CFR 770.7(c)(4)(viii)(A), TPCs would also be required to identify each occurrence of an inspection that was performed remotely during each quarter and certify that a government entity identified the existence of unsafe conditions such as the on-going COVID–19 pandemic or other unsafe conditions such as natural disasters, outbreaks, political unrest, and epidemics at the time of each remote inspection.

4. Third Party Certification Process

Under 40 CFR 770.7(a)(5)(i)(A), (c)(1)(iii), (c)(2)(v), and (c)(4)(i)(F), section 6.2.2 under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) has been added. The addition of section 6.2.2 under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) would allow TPCs to utilize external evaluation resources, such as contracting out inspections to a third party, in order to complete the certification process. The requirements for the certification process under section 6.2.2 are the same as section 6.2.1 under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) which involves an internal certification process conducted by the TPC. Adding section 6.2.2 would give TPCs flexibility to choose to contract out inspections to a third party to satisfy the requirements in 40 CFR 770.7 to conduct inspections of composite wood products.

C. Rationale for Proposed Changes

1. Voluntary Consensus Standards Update

EPA is proposing to update the incorporation by reference of certain voluntary consensus standards in 40 CFR 770.99 that have been updated, superseded, or withdrawn by the issuing organizations. These new standards are needed to reflect the most recent editions of those standards issued by the relevant standards organizations.

2. Technical Correction(s) for Regulatory Consistency

a. Submission of Petitions Seeking the Initiation of a Rulemaking for Additional Exemptions for Laminated Products From the Definition of the Term "Hardwood Plywood"

This proposed amendment is intended to update the address and

protect any CBI materials which may be submitted.

b. Timing of Panel Testing After Production

This proposed amendment is intended to reduce confusion between regulated entities as to when the 30-day window is to begin. The proposed language changes reflect conversations between CARB and EPA, and fully aligns with 40 CFR 770.20(c)(3) as well as CARB section 93120.12 Appendix 3(d)(1) under the ATCM rule.

c. Equivalency Determinations

This proposed amendment is intended to address a previous omission during the last rulemaking which occurred in 2018. These proposed changes correct an omission and fully align with CARB requirements under section 93120.9(a)(2)(B)(5) of the ATCM rule.

d. Emission Standards

This proposed amendment is intended to address industry confusion about the exact timing and nature of the emission standards under 40 CFR 770.17(c)(2) and 770.18(d)(2) for NAF and ULEF based exemptions. The proposed amendment includes additional language that clarifies the requirements for such an exemption and fully aligns with CARB quality control data under the ATCM.

3. Remote Inspections

This proposed amendment is intended to codify an Agency regulatory interpretation which was provided during the start of the COVID–19 global pandemic in early 2020 in order for inspectors to fulfill their obligations under TSCA Title VI regulations, while also remaining safe from infection (see <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/event-unsafe-conditions-geographic-area-would-prevent-third-party-certifier-tpc> for additional information).

4. Third-Party Certification Process

This proposed amendment is intended to increase flexibility for TPCs seeking to utilize external evaluation resources, such as contracting out inspections to a third party in order to complete the certification process. Because the requirements for the certification process under section 6.2.2 are the same as section 6.2.1 under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), which involves an internal certification process conducted by the TPC, EPA believes that such a proposed change should be made.

### III. Request for Comments

When necessary, EPA intends to reflect any future changes to voluntary consensus standards incorporated by reference in 40 CFR 770.99 through additional notice-and-comment rulemaking. EPA is seeking public comment on all aspects of this proposed rule including comments on whether there are other standards that should be incorporated by reference or whether there are standards that should be removed from the regulations entirely. No susceptible population analysis was conducted for this proposed rulemaking given the routine nature of updating certain standards for this proposed rule. However, EPA is seeking public comment on ways the third-party certification process can be improved, either through the certification process directly or ways in which susceptible populations can be protected. Additionally, EPA is seeking public comment on the remote inspection process during unsafe conditions such as the on-going COVID-19 pandemic or other unsafe conditions such as natural disasters, outbreaks, political unrest, and epidemics. EPA is soliciting comment on alternative approaches that EPA should consider in place of reporting the occurrence of each remote inspection in the annual report. For example, EPA seeks comments on whether EPA should instead amend 40 CFR 770.7(c)(4)(vii) record requirements to include a self-certification statement that a government entity identified the existence of unsafe conditions in the area of a composite wood product manufacturing panel producer that would prevent the required quarterly or initial on-site inspections from being conducted in person in accordance with 40 CFR 770.7(c)(4)(i)(G) and that a given on-site inspection in such a scenario was conducted remotely. Finally, EPA is seeking comment on any of the proposed technical corrections to better align with CARB. EPA encourages all interested persons to submit comments on the issues identified in this proposed rule and to identify any other relevant issues as well. EPA requests that commenters making specific recommendations include supporting documentation where appropriate to facilitate the Agency's reasoned consideration of those recommendations.

### IV. References

The following is a list of the documents that are specifically referenced in this document. The docket includes these documents and other information considered by EPA,

including documents that are referenced within the documents that are included in the docket, even if the referenced document is not physically located in the docket. For assistance in locating these other documents, please consult the technical person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

1. EPA. Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products. Final Rule. **Federal Register**. 81 FR 89674, December 12, 2016 (FRL-9949-90).
2. EPA. Voluntary Consensus Standards Update; Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products. Final Rule. **Federal Register**. 83 FR 5340, February 7, 2018 (FRL-9972-68).
3. California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board. Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products. Final Regulation Order. April 2008.
4. EPA. Technical Issues; Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products. Final Rule. **Federal Register**. 84 FR 43517, August 21, 2019 (FRL-9994-47).
5. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association (HPVA). American National Standard for Hardwood and Decorative Plywood, ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2020.
6. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). ASTM D5055-19e1, Establishing and Monitoring Structural Capacities of Prefabricated Wood I-Joists.
7. ASTM. ASTM D5456-21e1, Evaluation of Structural Composite Lumber Products.
8. British Standards Institute (BSI). BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020, Wood-based Panels—Determination of Formaldehyde Release—Part 3: Gas Analysis Method.
9. International Organization for Standardization (ISO). ISO 12460-3:2020, Wood-based Panels—Determination of Formaldehyde Release—Part 3: Gas Analysis Method.
10. Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS). JIS A 1460:2021, Determination of the Emission of Formaldehyde from Building Boards—Desiccator Method.
11. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). PS 1-19, Structural Plywood.
12. NIST. PS 2-18, Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels.

### V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Additional information about these statutes and Executive Orders can be found at <https://www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/laws-and-executive-orders>.

*A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review and Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review*

This action is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and was therefore not submitted to the

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011).

#### *B. Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)*

This action does not impose any new information collection burden under the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Burden is defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(b). This action does not create any new reporting or recordkeeping obligations. OMB previously approved the information collection activities contained in the existing regulations and assigned OMB control number 2070-0185 (EPA ICR No. 2446.03).

#### *C. Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)*

The Agency certifies that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* In making this determination, EPA concludes that the impact of concern is any significant adverse economic impact on small entities, and the Agency is certifying that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because the proposed rule would update incorporation by reference of voluntary consensus standards in 40 CFR part 770 by adopting the most current versions of those standards. The updated versions of the standards are substantially similar to the previous versions. EPA expects that many small entities are already complying with the updated versions of the proposed standards listed Unit II.B. This action would relieve these entities of the burden of having to also demonstrate compliance with outdated versions of these standards. This action also provides an amendment to the equivalence and correlation requirements at 40 CFR 770.20 that would reduce testing burdens without compromising the integrity of the data collected by panel producers and third-party certifiers to demonstrate compliance with the emission standards in the final rule. This action will reduce burden and allow greater flexibility for inspections of composite wood product producing mills. Additionally, this action provides clarifying language under 40 CFR 770.17 and 40 CFR 770.18 that would conform to current CARB language therefore easing the burden for regulated stakeholders in interpreting formaldehyde regulations. Finally, this action provides an amendment under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), section 6.2.2 which allows TPCs greater flexibility in conducting inspections in order to satisfy the requirements in 40 CFR 770.7. EPA believes this added flexibility will reduce burdens for TPCs

during the inspection of composite wood products. These actions will relieve or have no net regulatory burden for directly regulated small entities.

*D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA)*

This action does not contain any unfunded mandate as described in UMRA, 2 U.S.C. 1531–1538, and does not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. The action imposes no enforceable duty on any state, local or tribal governments or the private sector.

*E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism*

This action does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). It will not have substantial direct effects on the states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

*F. Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments*

This action does not have tribal implications as specified in Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). It will not have substantial direct effects on tribal governments, on the relationship between the Federal government and the Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal government and Indian tribes. Thus, E.O. 13175 does not apply to this action.

*G. Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*

EPA interprets Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), as applying only to those regulatory actions that concern environmental health or safety risks that the Agency has reason to believe may disproportionately affect children, per the definition of “covered regulatory action” in section 2–202 of the Executive Order. This action is not subject to Executive Order 13045 because it does not concern an environmental health risk or safety risk.

*H. Executive Order 13211: Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use*

This action is not a “significant energy action” as defined in Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001), because it is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution or use of energy and has not otherwise been designated by the

Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action.

*I. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) and 1 CFR Part 51*

This action involves voluntary standards under NTTAA section 12(d), 15 U.S.C. 272 note. EPA is proposing to adopt the use of ANSI/HPVA HP–1–2020, ASTM D5055–19e1, ASTM D5456–21e1, BS EN ISO 12460–3:2020, ISO 12460–3:2020, JIS A 1460:2021, NIST PS 1–19, and NIST PS–2–18. Additional information about these standards, including how to access them, is provided in section II.B.1 of **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

The following standard have already been approved for the sections in which they appear, and no change is proposed: ANSI A208.1–2016, ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), ISO/IEC 17020:2012(E), ASTM D6007–14, and ASTM E1333–14 20(d).

*J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*

EPA believes that this action is not subject to Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994) because it does not establish an environmental health or safety standard. As addressed in Unit II.A., this action would not materially alter the final rule as published and would update existing voluntary consensus standards incorporated by reference in the final rule and proposes other technical amendments.

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 770**

Environmental protection, Formaldehyde, Incorporation by reference, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Third-party certification, Toxic substances, Wood.

Dated: March 17, 2022.

**Michal Freedhoff,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.*

Therefore, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, EPA proposes to amend 40 CFR chapter I as follows:

**PART 770—FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 770 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 2697(d).

■ 2. In § 770.1, revise paragraphs (c)(3) through (5) and (8) to read as follows:

**§ 770.1 Scope and applicability.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(3) Structural plywood, as specified in PS 1–19, Structural Plywood (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

(4) Structural panels, as specified in PS 2–18, Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

(5) Structural composite lumber, as specified in ASTM D5456–21e1, Standard Specification for Evaluation of Structural Composite Lumber Products (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

\* \* \* \* \*

(8) Prefabricated wood I-joists, as specified in ASTM D5055–19e1, Standard Specification for Establishing and Monitoring Structural Capacities of Prefabricated Wood I-Joists (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. In § 770.3, the definitions for “Hardwood plywood” and “Particleboard” are revised to read as follows:

**§ 770.3 Definitions.**

\* \* \* \* \*

*Hardwood plywood* means a hardwood or decorative panel that is intended for interior use and composed of (as determined under ANSI/HPVA HP–1–2020 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99)) an assembly of layers or plies of veneer, joined by an adhesive with a lumber core, a particleboard core, a medium-density fiberboard core, a hardboard core, a veneer core, or any other special core or special back material. Hardwood plywood does not include military-specified plywood, curved plywood, or any plywood specified in PS 1–19, Structural Plywood (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99), or PS 2–18, Performance standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99). In addition, hardwood plywood includes laminated products except as provided at § 770.4.

\* \* \* \* \*

*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 ANSI A208.1–2016 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99)). Particleboard does not include any product specified



in PS 2–18 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 4. In § 770.4 revise paragraph (b)(2) to read as follows:

**§ 770.4 Exemption from the hardwood plywood definition for certain laminated products.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(2) Each petition should provide all available and relevant information, including studies conducted and formaldehyde emissions data. Submit petitions to: TSCA Confidential Business Information Center (7407M), WJC East; Room 6428; Attn: TSCA Title VI Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460–0001.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 5. Amend § 770.7 by:

- a. Revising paragraphs (a)(5)(i)(A), (c)(1)(iii), (c)(2)(v), and (c)(4)(i)(F);
- b. Adding paragraph (c)(4)(i)(G); and
- c. Revising the introductory text of paragraph (c)(4)(viii)(A) and paragraph (c)(4)(vii)(A)(3).

The revisions and addition read as follows:

**§ 770.7 Third-party certification.**

(a) \* \* \*

(5) \* \* \*

(i) \* \* \*

(A) An on-site assessment by the EPA TSCA Title VI Product AB to determine whether the TPC meets the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), is in conformance with ISO/IEC 17020:2012(E) as required under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) section 6.2.1 and section 6.2.2 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99) and the EPA TSCA Title VI TPC requirements under this part. In performing the on-site assessment, the EPA TSCA Title VI Product AB must:

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(iii) Have the ability to conduct inspections of composite wood products and properly train and supervise inspectors to inspect composite wood products in conformance with ISO/IEC 17020:2012(E) as required under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) section 6.2.1 and section 6.2.2 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99);

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(v) An affirmation of the TPC's ability to conduct inspections of composite wood products and properly train and supervise inspectors to inspect composite wood products in

conformance with ISO/IEC 17020:2012(E) as required under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) section 6.2.1 and section 6.2.2 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99);

\* \* \* \* \*

(4) \* \* \*

(i) \* \* \*

(F) Inspect each panel producer, its products, and its records at least quarterly in conformance with ISO/IEC 17020:2012(E) as required under ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E) section 6.2.1 and section 6.2.2 (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

(G) In the event a government entity has identified the existence of unsafe conditions (e.g., natural disasters, outbreaks, political unrest, epidemics, and pandemics) in the area of a composite wood product manufacturing panel producer that would prevent the required quarterly inspections from being conducted in person on-site, a TPC may opt to perform a remote quarterly inspection in lieu of the in person on-site inspection. Such a remote inspection may occur only during the period of the unsafe conditions. For such a remote inspection during the period of the unsafe conditions, the TPC must conduct a remote quarterly inspection via live remote technology (e.g., video/teleconference) operating as directed by the TPC to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (c)(4)(i)(F) of this section, and work with the panel producer quality control manager at that time to select, package, sign, and ship the TPC panels/samples for the quarterly test according to § 770.20(c). TPCs and panel producers must remain in close communication with each other to ensure any changes or developments that might affect the panel producer or product type certification are managed according to the TSCA Title VI regulations. The standard practice for a TPC providing certification services for composite wood panel producers remains that a TPC conducts in person quarterly inspections and sample collection, packaging, signature, and shipping for quality control testing.

\* \* \* \* \*

(viii) \* \* \*

(A) The following information for each panel producer making composite wood products certified by the EPA TSCA Title VI TPC:

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) Dates of quarterly inspections; for any inspection(s) conducted remotely in accordance with paragraph (c)(4)(i)(G) of this section, the TPC must certify that a government entity identified the

existence of unsafe conditions at the time of the inspection(s);

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 6. In § 770.15 revise paragraph (c)(1)(viii) to read as follows:

**§ 770.15 Composite wood product certification.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(viii) Results of an initial, on-site inspection by the TPC of the panel producer. In the event a government entity has identified the existence of unsafe conditions as outlined in § 770.7(c)(4)(i)(G) and in order to conduct the required initial, on-site inspection associated with new certification activities, the TPC may conduct a virtual inspection via on-site video/teleconference technology (operating as directed by the TPC) and that aligns with the standard operating procedure the TPC would normally employ during an in person inspection to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph (c)(1)(viii).

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 7. In § 770.17 revise paragraph (c)(2) to read as follows:

**§ 770.17 No-added formaldehyde-based resins.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(2) Ninety percent of the three months of routine quality control testing data and the results of the one primary or secondary method test (required under paragraphs (a)(3) and (4) of this section) must be shown to be no higher than 0.04 ppm.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 8. In § 770.18 revise paragraph (d)(2) to read as follows:

**§ 770.18 Ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) \* \* \*

(2) Ninety percent of six months of routine quality control testing data and the results of two quarterly primary or secondary method tests (required under paragraphs (a)(3) and ((4) of this section) must be shown to be no higher than a ULEF-target value of 0.04 ppm.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 9. In § 770.20 revise paragraphs (a)(1), (b)(1)(iii) and (vii), and (d)(1)(iii) to read as follows:

**§ 770.20 Testing requirements.**

(a) \* \* \*

(1) All panels must be tested in an unfinished condition, prior to the application of a finishing or topcoat, as soon as possible after their production,

but no later than 30 calendar days after the samples were produced.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(iii) BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020 (Gas Analysis Method) (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99) or ISO 12460-3:2020 (Gas Analysis Method) (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

\* \* \* \* \*

(vii) JIS A 1460:2021 (24-hr Desiccator Method) (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99).

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(iii) *Equivalence determination.* The ASTM D6007-14 method (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99) is considered equivalent to the ASTM E1333-14 method (incorporated by reference, see § 770.99) if the following condition is met:  $\bar{X} + 0.88S \leq C$ .

Where  $C$  is equal to: 0.026 for the lower range; 0.038 for the intermediate range; and 0.052 for the upper range.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 10. Revise § 770.99 to read as follows:

**§ 770.99 Incorporation by reference.**

Certain material is incorporated by reference into this [chapter/subchapter/part/subpart] with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. To enforce any edition other than that specified in this section, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must publish a document in the **Federal Register** and the material must be available to the public. All approved material is available for inspection at the EPA and at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Contact EPA at: OPPT Docket in the Environmental Protection Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), West William Jefferson Clinton Bldg., Rm. 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC. The EPA/DC Public Reading Room hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number of the EPA/DC Public Reading room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket is (202) 566-0280. For information on the availability of this material at NARA, email: [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov), or go to: [www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html). The material may be obtained from the following source(s):

(a) *APA.* APA—The Engineered Wood Association, 7011 S 19th Street, Tacoma, WA 98466-5333; (253) 565-6600; [www.apawood.org](http://www.apawood.org).

(1) ANSI A190.1-2017, Standard for Wood Products—Structural Glued Laminated Timber, Approved January 24, 2017; IBR approved for § 770.1(c).

(2) [Reserved]

(b) *ASTM.* ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Dr., P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959; (877) 909-ASTM; [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

(1) ASTM D5055-19e1, Standard Specification for Establishing and Monitoring Structural Capacities of Prefabricated Wood I-Joists, Approved January 2020; IBR approved for § 770.1(c).

(2) ASTM D5456-21e1, Standard Specification for Evaluation of Structural Composite Lumber Products, Approved June 2021; IBR approved for § 770.1(c).

(3) ASTM D5582-14, Standard Test Method for Determining Formaldehyde Levels from Wood Products Using a Desiccator, Approved August 1, 2014; IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(4) ASTM D6007-14, Standard Test Method for Determining Formaldehyde Concentrations in Air from Wood Products Using a Small-Scale Chamber, Approved October 1, 2014; IBR approved for §§ 770.3; 770.7(a) through (c); 770.15(c); 770.17(a); 770.18(a); 770.20(b) through (d).

(5) ASTM E1333-14, Standard Test Method for Determining Formaldehyde Concentrations in Air and Emission Rates from Wood Products Using a Large Chamber, Approved October 1, 2014; IBR approved for §§ 770.3; 770.7(a) through (c); 770.10(b); 770.15(c); 770.17(a); 770.18(a); 770.20(c) and (d).

(c) *BSI.* British Standards Institute, 12950 Worldgate Dr., Suite 800, Herndon, VA 20170; (800) 862-4977; [www.bsigroup.com/](http://www.bsigroup.com/).

(1) BS EN ISO 12460-3:2020, Wood-based panels.—Determination of formaldehyde release—Part 3: Gas analysis method, October 2020; IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(2) BS EN ISO 12460-5:2015 E, Wood based panels.—Determination of formaldehyde release—Part 5: Extraction method (called the perforator method), December 2015; IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(d) *CPA.* Composite Panel Association, 19465 Deerfield Avenue, Suite 306, Leesburg, Virginia 20176; (703) 724-1128; [www.compositepanel.org](http://www.compositepanel.org).

(1) ANSI A135.4-2012, Basic Hardboard, Approved June 8, 2012; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(2) ANSI A135.5-2012, Prefinished Hardboard Paneling, Approved March 29, 2012; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(3) ANSI A135.6-2012, Engineered Wood Siding, Approved June 5, 2012; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(4) ANSI A135.7-2012, Engineered Wood Trim, Approved July 17, 2012; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(5) ANSI A208.1-2016, Particleboard, Approved May 12, 2016; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(6) ANSI A208.2-2016, Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) for Interior Applications, Approved May 12, 2016; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(e) *Georgia Pacific.* Georgia-Pacific Chemicals LLC, 133 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303; (877) 377-2737; [www.gp-dmc.com/default.aspx](http://www.gp-dmc.com/default.aspx).

(1) The Dynamic Microchamber computer integrated formaldehyde test system, User Manual, revised March 2007 (DMC 2007 User's Manual); IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(2) The GP Dynamic Microchamber Computer-integrated formaldehyde test system, User Manual, copyright 2012 (DMC 2012 GP User's Manual); IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(f) *HPVA.* Decorative Hardwoods Association (formerly known as Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association (HPVA), 42777 Trade West Dr., Sterling, VA 20166; (703) 435-2900; [www.decorativehardwoods.org](http://www.decorativehardwoods.org).

(1) ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2020, American National Standard for Hardwood and Decorative Plywood, Approved August 17, 2020; IBR approved for § 770.3.

(2) [Reserved]

(g) *ISO.* International Organization for Standardization, 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, CP 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland; +41-22-749-01-11; [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org).

(1) ISO 12460-3:2020, Wood-based panels.—Determination of formaldehyde release—Part 3: Gas analysis method, October 2020; IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(2) ISO/IEC 17011:2017(E) Conformity assessments—requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessments bodies (Second Edition), November 2017; IBR approved for §§ 770.3; 770.7(a) and (b).

(3) ISO/IEC 17020:2012(E), Conformity assessment—Requirements for the operation of various bodies performing inspection, Second edition, 2012-03-01; IBR approved for §§ 770.3; 770.7(a) through (c).

(4) ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories (Third Edition), November 2017; IBR approved for §§ 770.3; 770.7(a) through (c).

(5) ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), Conformity assessment—Requirements

for bodies certifying products, processes and services, First edition, 2012–09–15; IBR approved for §§ 770.3; 770.7(a) and (c).

(h) *Japanese Standards Association*. Japanese Industrial Standards, 1–24, Akasaka 4, Minatoku, Tokyo 107–8440, Japan; +81–3–3583–8000; [www.jsa.or.jp/](http://www.jsa.or.jp/).

(1) JIS A 1460:2021, Determination of the emission of formaldehyde from building boards—Desiccator method,

First English edition, February 2021; IBR approved for § 770.20(b).

(2) [Reserved]

(i) *NIST*. National Institute of Standards and Technology, Public Inquiries Unit, NIST, 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–1070; (301) 975–NIST or (800) 553–6847; [www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov).

(1) PS 1–19, Structural Plywood, December 1, 2019; IBR approved for §§ 770.1(c); 770.3.

(2) PS 2–18, Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels,

March 2019; IBR approved for §§ 770.1(c); 770.3.

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