

## EPH-Information 02/2021

### Canada issues regulation to restrict formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels (CANFER)

On 7 July 2021 the Canadian Ministry of Environment published a regulation on the restriction of formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels SOR / 2021-148 in the Canada Gazette, Part II, Volume 155, Number 14. The aim is to protect the Canadians from the negative health effects of increased formaldehyde concentrations in the indoor air. An additional goal is to minimize any distortions of competition between the neighbouring countries USA and Canada and thereby minimize the burden for wood-based panel producers. For this reason, the Canadian regulation is mainly based on the US formaldehyde regulations EPA TSCA Title VI.

The scope of the regulation are wood-based panels and "laminated products" based on EPA TSCA Title VI regulations with identical requirements for test methodology and frequency, as well as limit values for formaldehyde emissions concerning the specific product types. Wood-based panel producers who are already certified under EPA TSCA Title VI regulation do not need to take any further steps with regard to product supervision.

Only the requirements for product labelling, record-keeping and other administrative elements, such as reporting to the Canadian Ministry of Environment deviate from EPA TSCA Title VI and must be taken into consideration before selling, offering for sale or importing wood-based panels into Canada.

For plywood, particleboard, MDF (> 8 mm thickness) and thin MDF (≤ 8 mm thickness) the regulation will come into force on 7 January 2023. On the other hand, the requirements for "laminated products" will come into force on 7 January 2028.

For more details read the regulation and visit: <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2021/2021-07-07/html/sor-dors148-eng.html>

Or visit the official website of the Canadian government on the topic formaldehyde: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/other-chemical-substances-interest/formaldehyde.html>

For further questions don't hesitate to contact:

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