



Q&A | IVC Products and Formaldehyde Emissions

This document is intended to answer questions about formaldehyde emissions as it relates to IVC products.

Q: Are IVC laminate products CARB Compliant?

Yes – all IVC laminate products are CARB 2 Compliant. IVC takes public wellbeing and environmental regulations seriously and is committed to adhering to the strictest standards set forth by the California Air Resources Board and the California Composite Wood Products Regulation (CWP Regulation). All IVC laminate products are manufactured in Belgium, where we also are compliant with European emissions guidelines and standards, which are considered to be the strictest worldwide.

Q: What is CARB?

CARB stands for the California Air Resources Board, which is department of the California Environmental Protection Agency, and whose mission is to promote and protect public health, welfare and ecological resources through the effective and efficient reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the effects on the economy. CARB as an organization predates the federal EPA, and CARB mandates are generally the strictest across the nation and frequently are adopted as the de facto standards for the United States.

Q: What does being “CARB Compliant for Formaldehyde” or “CARB 2 Compliant” mean?

Products that meet or exceed the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) stringent emission standards for formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products are considered CARB Compliant. The first emission standards (Phase 1) went into effect in 2009 and was aimed at reducing formaldehyde emissions, often referred to as “CARB Compliant for Formaldehyde” or “California 93120 Compliant for Formaldehyde Phase 1.” In 2012, Phase 2 standards, often referred to as “CARB 2 Compliant” or “California Phase 2 Compliant,” went into effect which enforced even stricter formaldehyde emission reduction criteria for all composite wood panels and finished goods, including MDF.

Q: What is formaldehyde?

Formaldehyde is a naturally occurring, colorless gas, which is produced on a large scale worldwide that can be found in a variety of sources including wood, gasoline and propane, tobacco smoke, fireplaces, and wood burning stoves. It is commonly used to make a variety of products including resins that are used as adhesives in composite wood products, such as hardwood plywood, particle board and MDF and/or HDF. While formaldehyde is a naturally occurring substance, high levels are considered harmful for humans; which is why IVC is proud of its CARB 2 Compliance, where we meet the strictest formaldehyde emissions reduction standards. We take the safety of consumers very seriously.

Q: What about IVC luxury vinyl plank and tile (LVT) flooring?

IVC LVT products have been tested for aldehydes (including formaldehyde) per CDPH-IAQ and found to be compliant to California health guidelines for indoor emissions (Eurofins Product Testing A/S Report No. 15628B). IVC LVT products also meet the California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Laboratory Branch Standard Method v1.1-2010 for residences, school and private office indoor emission quality standards (California Specification 01350). These IVC LVT products are FloorScore® certified for Indoor Air Quality to SCS-EC10.3-2014.

Q: What about IVC sheet vinyl flooring?

IVC sheet vinyl products have been tested for aldehydes (including formaldehyde) per CDPH-IAQ and found to be compliant to California health guidelines for indoor emissions (Eurofins Product Testing A/S Report No. 15628B). IVC sheet vinyl products also meet the California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Laboratory Branch Standard Method v1.1-2010 for residences, school and private office indoor emission quality standards (California Specification 01350). These IVC sheet vinyl products are FloorScore® certified for Indoor Air Quality to SCS-EC10.3-2014.

Q: Where can I find more information?

For more information please visit CARB's Composite Wood Products website at:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/compwood.htm>.