

Germany: Regulations on formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels

Inofficial translation of excerpts by VHI e.V. (23.10.2018)

1. Current law: Regulation on the placing on the market of formaldehyde (Annex 1 of the Chemicals Prohibition Ordinance / Chemikalienverbotsverordnung)
2. Current law (additional to Chemicals Prohibition Ordinance): Announcement of analytical procedures for sampling and testing of substances and groups of substances listed in Annex 1 of the Chemicals Prohibition Ordinance to be applied up to 21.12.2019 and likely to be applied from the 1.1.2020 (according to the decision of the national authorities, confederation-countries-working Group on Chemical Safety [Bund-Länder-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Chemikaliensicherheit, BLAC] with participation of the Ministry of Environment at the request of the Environmental Agency [Umweltbundesamt, UBA])

Excerpt from the regulation on the placing on the market of formaldehyde (Annex 1 of the Chemicals Prohibition Ordinance / Chemikalienverbotsverordnung)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Substances / Mixtures	Prohibitions	Exceptions
<p>Entry 1</p> <p>Formaldehyde</p>	<p>(1) Coated and uncoated wood-based panels (particle boards, wood core plywood, veneer panels, fiberboards) must not be placed on the market if the equalization concentration of formaldehyde in the air of a test chamber, caused by timber panels, exceeds 0,1 ml/cbm (ppm).</p> <p>(2) Furniture containing wood-based panels, which do not meet the requirements of paragraph 1, must not be placed on the market. However, paragraph 1 is met, if furniture complies with the equalization concentration requirements referred to in paragraph 1 in a full specimen test.</p> <p>(3) Washing, cleaning and care products containing more than 0,2% mass content of formaldehyde, must not be placed on the market</p>	<p>(1) The prohibition after column 2 paragraph 1 does not apply to panels placed on the market exclusively for the purpose of a suitable coating, provided it is ensured that they comply with the equalization concentration referred to in column 2 paragraph 1 after coating.</p> <p>(2) The prohibition after column 2 paragraph 3 does not apply to cleaners exclusively for industrial use</p>

Excerpt from the announcement of analytical procedures for sampling and testing of substances and groups of substances listed in Annex 1 of the Chemicals Prohibition Ordinance

Annex to § 1 Chemicals Prohibition Ordinance	Parameter	Matrix	Sample preparation	Test procedure / method
Entry 1: Formaldehyde	Formaldehyde	<p>1. liquid/aqueous</p> <p>Washing, cleaning and care products</p> <p>2. solid</p> <p>Coated and uncoated wood-based panels</p>	<p>Matrix 1:</p> <p>Extraction method</p> <p>Matrix 2</p> <p>Reference method: Emission measurement in the test chamber; Mean of a double determination from the 28th day as equalization concentration; Air exchange 0,5/h, loading factor 1,8 m²/m³; partial cutting edge (narrow surface) sealing: Circumference/surface = 1,5 m⁻¹</p> <p>Additional method: Emission measurement in the test chamber; Equalization concentration must be multiplied by the factor 2,0</p> <p>Derived method: Derived methods are suitable for production control only. For this purpose, a product-specific</p>	<p>Photometry / HPLC</p> <p>BVL K 84.00-7(EG):1991-09 HPLC (DNPH Methode)</p> <p>DIN EN 16516</p> <p>DIN EN 717-1</p> <p>e.g. EN ISO 12460-3</p>

			<p>manufacturer correlation is to be determined</p> <p>Valid until 31.12.2019:</p> <p>Test methods for wood-based panels and products from wood-based panels</p> <p>Reference method: Emission measurement in the test chamber (all panel-shaped wood-based panels)</p> <p>Derived method: Extraction method after perforator method (only raw-particle- and raw-fiberboard)</p> <p>Derived method: Emission measurement with the gas analysis method (only raw-plywood panels and coated panels)</p>	<p>Bundesgesundheitsblatt 34, 10 (1991), S. 488-489.</p> <p>DIN EN 717-1</p> <p>EN ISO 12460-5</p> <p>EN ISO 12460-3</p>
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