

## **Formaldehyde emissions—Meeting CARB regulations**

Steven A. Verhey  
Technical Manager  
TECO  
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, USA

The new formaldehyde emission limits imposed on manufacturers of composite wood products by the State of California's Air Resources Board (CARB) have been in effect since January 1, 2009 and the transition to retail sales of CARB compliant products has started. From the viewpoint of an independent Third Party Certifier (TPC), this presentation will include a survey of topics including: the importance of uniformity in certification practices, challenges presented to TPCs, and experience dealing with segments of the regulated community. At the time of this presentation, CARB has approved at least 23 different TPCs from North America, Europe, Australia and Asia, to certify panels, but the demand for timely certification remains strong. CARB is planning oversight of the activities of TPCs and should be starting to check panels for compliance, but there are still many unanswered questions about enforcement. Consumers of all types – from distributors to retailers – are still learning about how the regulation affects them, so the full impact of the regulation has not yet been felt throughout the distribution chain.