

Indoor Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

This letter is intended to share information regarding Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), indoor air quality programs, and provide information about ARAUCO North America products in the context of these programs.

VOCs are generally defined as chemicals that vaporize at room temperature. Indoor VOCs may come from a variety of sources such as paints, adhesives, flooring, furniture and other wood products, textiles, electrical appliances, aerosols, pesticides, and cleaning products, to name a few. The extent and nature of the health effects of VOCs will depend on factors such as level of exposure, length of time exposed, and particular organic compound, or groups of compounds.

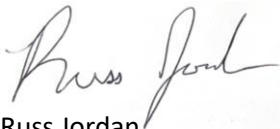
Building codes and certification schemes may endorse standards programs for measuring and assigning limits to VOCs that have been commonly present in indoor air (non-industrial settings). Some of these certification programs include Clean Air Silver and Clean Air Gold, Indoor Advantage and Indoor Advantage Gold, GREENGUARD and GREENGUARD Gold, to name a few. These and similar programs are designed to measure VOCs in products and materials that are in their finished assembled state, intended to best represent and assess potential for exposure in indoor scenarios.

ARAUCO North America manufactures component panels in raw and semi-finished formats. As such, these VOC testing protocols inherently do not apply, for the reasons noted above. Under these programs, once raw material components are machined, combined with other raw materials, and finished with a decorative coating, the assembly is tested in its finished state to ensure all elements impacting VOC generation are accounted for. Customers incorporating ARAUCO North America particleboard, MDF and TFL in the manufacturing or fabrication of products intended for certification to an indoor air quality program are responsible for engineering designs and choosing surface finishes in a manner such that the specification will be met.

It should be noted that there are regulations and certification programs that specifically address the VOC formaldehyde in composite wood panels. All ARAUCO North America composite panel products are third party certified to the CPA 4-19 Eco-Certified Composites (ECC) Sustainability Standard, California Air Resources Board (CARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) 93120 regulation, and the US EPA TSCA VI Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products 40 C.F.R. Part 770.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact your Sales Representative for assistance.

Regards,



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