

Is wood subject to Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)?

Under Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), three composite wood products are regulated: hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard (MDF, including thin-MDF), and particleboard.

Hardwood plywood is defined as a hardwood or decorative panel that is intended for interior use and composed of (as determined under ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2016) an assembly of layers or plies of veneer, joined by adhesive with a lumber core, a particleboard core, a medium-density fiberboard core, a hardboard core, a veneer core, or any other special core or special back material. Hardwood plywood includes laminated products except as provided at 40 CFR 770.4 (see the Laminated Products portion of the Q&A page for more info). The emission standards for hardwood plywood only apply to hardwood plywood made with a veneer core or a composite core. A composite core consists of a combination of layers of veneer and particleboard or medium-density fiberboard.

Medium-density fiberboard is defined as a panel composed of cellulosic fibers made by dry forming and pressing a resonated fiber mat (as determined under ANSI A208.2-2016). This includes thin-MDF, which has a thickness less than or equal to 8 millimeters or 0.315 inches.

Particleboard is defined as a panel composed of cellulosic material in the form of discrete particles (as distinguished from fibers, flakes, or strands) that are pressed together with resin (as determined under ANSI A208.1-2016).

Imports of chemical substances, mixtures or articles that contain a chemical substance or mixture **must comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in order to enter the U.S.**

Importers must certify that imported chemicals either comply with TSCA (positive certification = subject to TSCA and complies with all applicable rules and orders) or, if not otherwise clearly identified as a chemical excluded from TSCA, are not subject to TSCA (negative certification = that the chemical shipment is not subject to TSCA).