

## CARB provides guidance to third-party certifiers regarding COVID-19 concerns

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In light of the challenges COVID-19 brings to the global composite wood products industry and public health, the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) composite wood products team has a reminder for third-party certifiers (TPCs).

We do not expect CARB-approved TPCs to send their staff into dangerous situations to conduct routine on-site inspections pursuant to CARB's Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde from Composite Wood Products (Compwood ATCM).

Regarding the requirements for conducting routine audits, we suggest the following:

- TPCs work with the affected mill(s) and monitor mill production activities remotely
- TPCs have the mill send the TPC the quarterly samples for testing
- TPCs work with the mill to find out when it is perceived safe to conduct on-site inspections and acquire quarterly samples for testing

CARB's bulletin below, (item #4), provides TPCs with guidance for dealing with unusual circumstances (e.g., civil unrest, political instability, natural disaster, etc.) in affected areas at the time of scheduled quarterly testing inspections.

[https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/tpc/tpcbulletin\\_one.pdf](https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/tpc/tpcbulletin_one.pdf)

Note: The U.S.EPA updated their list of frequently asked questions to add similar guidance. [See question #13.](#)

TPCs working with new mills must meet the requirements for initial plant qualification as outlined in [Appendix 3 of the Compwood ATCM.](#)

For more information on CARB's composite wood program, please visit:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/composite-wood-products-program>