

Untreated and Unfinished Engineered Wood Products Exempted from Third Party Testing of CPSIA

On June 22, 2018, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a final rule 16 CFR 1252, determining that certain *untreated and unfinished engineered wood products (EWPs)*, specifically,

- particleboard,
- hardwood plywood, and
- medium-density fiberboard,

made from virgin wood or pre-consumer wood waste, *do not contain lead, the ASTM F963 elements, or specified phthalates* that exceed the limits set forth under the CPSC's rules.

Based on these determinations, the specified EWPs would not be required to have third party testing for compliance with the requirements for lead, ASTM F963 elements, or phthalates for children's products, children's toys, and child care articles.

This new rule is effective on July 23, 2018.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) had exempted certain wood products as defined in 16 CFR Part 1251.2 (b) ¹ from third party testing by 16 CFR Part 1251 with effect from September 15, 2015. However, the exemption did not by itself include *manufactured or engineered woods* (such as pressed wood, plywood, particle board, or fiber-board). The new rule has extended the scope of the original exemption to include also *the untreated and unfinished engineered wood products (EWPs)*, as described above.

STC (The Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre) is a not-for-profit, independent testing, inspection and certification organization. With a global network of ISO/IEC 17025 accredited testing laboratories and over 50 years of experience in consumer product testing, we can meet your conformity assessment needs with highly efficient and reliable service.

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¹ “wood harvested from the trunks of trees with no added surface coatings (such as, varnish, paint, shellac, or polyurethane) and no materials added to the wood substrate (such as, stains, dyes, preservatives, antifungals, or insecticides)”, but “does not include manufactured or engineered woods (such as pressed wood, plywood, particle board, or fiber-board).”