

INVESTIGATION OF IMPORTED DRYWALL *STATUS UPDATE, June 2010*

I. Overview

This update describes new developments in the ongoing investigation of imported drywall and supplements the previous reports provided to the Committee. As of June 30, 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission” or “CPSC”) had received 3,418 incident reports related to drywall from 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. More than 90% of reports are from five states – Florida (58%), Louisiana (19%), Mississippi (7%), Alabama (5%) and Virginia (4%).

II. New Developments

- Publicly released raw scientific data underlying CPSC’s 51-home indoor air study performed by our contractor, Environmental Health & Engineering (EH&E). This information is available on our Drywall Information website at www.DrywallResponse.gov.
- Publicly released 54 additional In Depth Investigation reports which are available at <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia10/idi/idi.html>.
- Publicly released report by CPSC contractor EH&E on source markers and detection methods. A strong correlation was found between elemental sulfur content in samples of unpainted drywall and hydrogen sulfide emissions measured for those same samples in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory chamber emissions testing which was reported on April 2, 2010. Additionally, EH&E found that x-ray fluorescence (XRF) measurements of strontium in drywall were in excellent agreement with inductively coupled plasma (ICP) spectroscopy results. This work suggests that XRF screening for strontium followed by elemental sulfur testing could be an effective tool to identify drywall with elevated hydrogen sulfide emissions at import or manufacture.

III. Progress in the Investigation

We continue to investigate long term corrosion on electrical and fire safety components under contract with other Federal laboratories. This work may allow us, working with HUD, to fine tune the Interim Identification Guidance and Interim Remediation Guidance at some point in the future, but the bulk of our scientific investigation is complete. This has been the largest Compliance investigation in agency history. To date, CPSC has spent over \$5 million to investigate the chemical nature and the chain of commerce of problem drywall, and issue the associated identification and remediation guidance to assist impacted homeowners.