

Formaldehyde-Like Odor Emissions from Weyerhaeuser TJI® Joists With Flak Jacket® Protection Manufactured After December 1, 2016

On July 18, 2017, Weyerhaeuser issued a press release indicating that “TJI® Joists with Flak Jacket® Protection” manufactured after December 1, 2016 are releasing an odor related to a recent formulation change that included a formaldehyde-based resin (<http://investor.weyerhaeuser.com/2017-07-18-Weyerhaeuser-issues-statement-regarding-TJI-R-Joists-with-Flak-Jacket-R-Protection>). According to the press release, basements of approximately 2200 new homes in various stages of construction have these joists.

Prism Analytical Technologies has analyzed a few indoor air quality samples from homes that have these joists installed and the results have indicated formaldehyde levels in the range of 300-900 ng/L. Most homes measured by Prism’s air test have concentrations in the range of 30-70 ng/L. Although there are no requirements set for formaldehyde concentration limits in homes, the NIOSH recommended limit for occupational exposure is 20 ng/L (i.e., 16 ppb). The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that short-term formaldehyde exposures not exceed 100 ng/L (i.e., 80 ppb).

Common symptoms of formaldehyde exposure include irritation of the throat, nose, eyes, and skin, which also can exacerbate asthmatic symptoms and other respiratory illnesses. Prism’s convenient 20-minute formaldehyde test is accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA); feel free to contact us for more information.

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About Prism Analytical Technologies

Prism Analytical Technologies is a leading consultative air testing laboratory in the United States that is devoted to the chemical identification and analysis of contaminants in the air. We are a recognized leader in the development and deployment of ambient air testing methodologies for Fortune 100 and 500 companies, industrial hygienists, and environmental consultants. Prism’s science-based technologies and wide range of air testing support help clients solve indoor air quality, process control, industrial, and environmental challenges.