



August 29, 2023

Mr. Andrew Beck
Director
Risk Management Bureau
Safe Environments Directorate
Health Canada
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Mr. Matthew Watkinson
Director
Regulatory Analysis & Valuation Division
Environment & Climate Change Canada
200 Sacre-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H3

VIA Email: formaldehyde-formaldehyde@hc-sc.gc.ca and darv-ravd@ec.gc.ca and formaldehyde@ec.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Beck and Mr. Watkinson,

Re: *Canada Gazette, Part I* – June 17, 2023 – Amending the *Formaldehyde Emissions from Wood Products Regulations*

On behalf of the Canadian Toy Association (CTA) and the Toy Association in the U.S., we are writing in response to the Canada Gazette I (CG1) consultation notice published on June 17 regarding the Government of Canada's proposal to amend the *Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products Regulations* (the Regulations).

We were pleased to see Environment & Climate Change Canada and Health Canada finalize the Regulations in 2021. As we commented on the last amendments to the Regulations in our CG1 submission (September 12, 2021), we welcome the government's commitment to enhanced alignment with U.S. regulating authorities. For the toy industry, coordination and consistency of product safety standards are vital to ensuring consumer confidence and product safety in a global economy.

Specific to the June 17 CG1 consultation, we remain supportive of the government's working objective to again increase alignment with TSCA Title VI; however, we are concerned with the proposed requirement that certain records be maintained in Canada instead of being available upon request as currently applied. As detailed in the CG1 Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement (RIAS), the government has proposed changes to "require that certain records (such as dates of purchase of composite wood products) be maintained in Canada, rather than being provided within 40–60 days upon request." The government has provided little evidence or justification that necessitates this change nor a reasonable rationale as to why an importer would need to maintain such records within Canada.

If implemented, this proposed requirement will be problematic for product importers and should not be classified as a "minor" issue as referenced in the RIAS. With the ease of electronic communication, this requirement is unnecessary and would only add significant logistical and administrative burdens onto importing companies. Furthermore, it would contradict the stated alignment objectives by ECCC and HC for TSCA Title VI, and would impose a burden on U.S.-Canada trade.

We recommend the government not proceed with this in-Canada documentation requirement, thus maintaining the current record-keeping requirements and removing the addition of a burden on regulated parties.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. Our member companies remain committed to working with the Government of Canada to ensure that Canada's product safety regime delivers the intended health and safety benefits to consumers.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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About the Canadian Toy Association and The Toy Association in the U.S.

The Canadian Toy Association (CTA) supports over 100 members consisting of manufacturers, importers, and distributors of toys. Many CTA members are small and medium enterprises operating across Canada; however, the bulk of Canadian sales come from larger multinational toy companies, most of which are based in the U.S. The Toy Association is a not-for-profit trade association for producers and importers of toys and youth entertainment products sold in North America. It represents over 800 companies. The mission of our members is to bring fun and joy to children's lives and in that mission toy safety is paramount – it is our industry's number-one priority.