

Background

One of the most potent health hazards found in homes and offices nationwide is formaldehyde, a common indoor air pollutant. This emitting gas can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs, and experts believe exposure can cause cancer. The most offensive, are pressed wood products such as furnishings made from plywood, particleboard and medium-density fiberboard.

Mirasol[®] Shutters have long been recognized as a consistent leader in quality and performance. To maintain these attributes the proprietary and unique formulation used in production has been improved over the years, but since

inception, have always been environmentally compatible. Now, as governmental regulatory agencies are about to establish environmental protocols for air toxicity, Mirasol Shutters can boast that its formulation is also ready to meet or exceed these same protocols.

Manufactured under ITA's GreenAssured[®] program, Mirasol Shutters join a growing number of environmentally compatible window fashion products within the Meridian Home brand. ITA developed and implemented the GreenAssured program in response to growing awareness of the effects of airborne chemicals including formaldehyde on indoor air quality.

GreenAssured Test Methodology

Technical testing was conducted by Air Quality Sciences, Inc., an independent laboratory and an ISO 9001-2001 accredited firm. Using internationally recognized protocols, each product was carefully inspected upon arrival and stored in a controlled environment until testing. Using specific and precise procedures, component parts of each

product were loaded into the SA5 environmental chamber with all sides exposed for individual testing. The environmental chamber test follows ASTM D 5116 while the analysis is based on EPA IP-6A and ASTM D 5197 for formaldehyde by high performance liquid chromatography.

Test Results

Sample ID: Mirasol[®] Shutters

Formaldehyde Predicted Air Concentration		Formaldehyde Emission Factor	
<p>The Predicted Air Concentration test is a prediction, based upon a standard room environment with normal air flow, to assess how much emitted gas a person in the room would be exposed to from the product.</p>	<p>The Formaldehyde Emission Factor is a chemical emission test that measures the amount of pollutant (micrograms of formaldehyde per sq. meter per hour) off-gassing from the product tested. The exposure data is collected during a 4-hour elapsed time period in a controlled environment.</p>		

Test Criteria:

The State of California is planning to introduce regulations over several years. Phase 1 proposals are that medium density fiberboard (MDF) must meet 0.19 ppm maximum by July 1, 2008. Phase 2 proposals suggest that MDF must meet 0.05 ppm maximum by July 1, 2012.

Test Conclusion

Mirasol[®] Shutters boast a formaldehyde safe formulation that meets or exceeds proposed environmental protocols for air toxicity.