

Nov. 30, 2005

**Formaldehyde Council, Inc., Statement on  
Exclusion from EcoLogo of Insulation Made with Formaldehyde**

The Formaldehyde Council, Inc., (FCI) is very disappointed that Environment Canada (EC) has excluded insulation made with formaldehyde binders from carrying the EcoLogo.

Insulation made with formaldehyde binders remains available in Canada. But now Canadian consumers who demand insulation carrying the EcoLogo will have to use products having lower “R-values” that are less energy efficient than insulation made using formaldehyde binders, with no public health benefit. And, even fiberglass insulation made without formaldehyde binders has some formaldehyde in the finished product from a chemical reaction during manufacturing.

FCI and its members had worked since August 2004 to convince the EcoLogo administrator – TerraChoice Environmental Marketing – and EC that thermal insulation made with formaldehyde binders is safe and should continue to carry the EcoLogo. In fact, extensive research on formaldehyde has shown that:

- Emissions of formaldehyde from finished standard products are low and not significantly different from levels for products made without using formaldehyde (as reported by the California Integrated Waste Management Board). And in any case, formaldehyde levels emitted by either product are so low that they do not present a health risk, and they decrease further over the course of one or two weeks.
- Formaldehyde exposure levels to workers in fiberglass insulation manufacturing plants in Canada are well below the levels determined to be safe by appropriate regulatory agencies.
- Emissions of formaldehyde from fiberglass insulation manufacturing plants in Canada are regulated by the Ministries of Environment of the various provinces where the plants are located. Emissions to the environment from those plants conform to all requirements, standards and levels set by those regulatory agencies. Sophisticated environmental modeling conducted at industry plants in Canada shows that concentrations of formaldehyde at the property line of those plants are significantly below the level those agencies have determined to present no significant risk to the environment or people living near those facilities.

(more)

Moreover, formaldehyde binders produce an extremely effective insulator, making it an energy-efficient product that saves Canadian consumers on their heating and air-conditioning bills.

Additional information about formaldehyde may be found on FCI's website – [www.formaldehyde.org](http://www.formaldehyde.org).

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