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## **JPMA Issues a Statement Regarding Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products**

**MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. November 19, 2009** – The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA), the not for profit trade association that promotes infant safety and the development of recognized ASTM International product safety standards, speaks on behalf of our members who manufacture composite wood baby furniture such as cribs and nursery case goods. Formaldehyde is an organic compound that is biodegradable, breaks down naturally and is present in many manufactured products including composite wood products. Like many substances, formaldehyde can have negative health effects on humans at extremely high concentrations.

JPMA is concerned that certain advocacy groups have been using sampling and analytical methods to measure formaldehyde emissions in nursery furniture that are not generally accepted within the scientific community. Often, those unreliable results are then used to create unnecessary health scares, and to distort consumer perceptions regarding the safety of everyday household products.

“JPMA continually works with juvenile products industry, consensus standard setting bodies, government representatives and safety advocates to improve the quality and safety of nursery products sold in the United States,” said Mike Dwyer, Executive Director of JPMA. “Independent standards organizations and the safety standards developed in cooperation with industry experts, result in some of the best hazard-based standards that ensure today’s parents may be comfortably secure in the safe use and selection of their juvenile products.”

### **The California Air Resources Board (CARB)**

California’s Air Resources Board (CARB), a division of the California EPA, is working to enact new regulations to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood product and products made from composite wood product used in the state.

The CARB measure requires that composite wood product or products manufactured from composite wood product be certified by a “third party” laboratory approved by the CARB as meeting California's emissions requirements. To provide assurance of complying products to customers, composite wood product manufacturers are required to label their products and provide documentation either on invoices or bills-of-lading that state that their products comply with the standard.. Similarly, distributors, importers and fabricators would also be required to provide documentation of complying products to their downstream customers. The emissions limits are being phased in in 2010, and will be fully implemented in 2012.

In addition, California's Proposition 65 currently requires a consumer disclosure if a product exposes the user to formaldehyde in levels that exceed its designated legal threshold.

“JPMA recognizes the importance of ensuring a supply of available nursery furniture and cribs to meet the national needs of expectant parents,” said Dwyer. “JPMA also recognizes the importance of a need for practical, reasonable construction of state regulatory requirements to avoid unnecessary, severe restrictions on the availability of safe products for consumers.”

Currently, all products with the JPMA certification seal meet the minimum federal requirements for finished products and are safe and acceptable for sale in all 50 states. All JPMA certified products meet the minimum federal safety requirements which do not include formaldehyde emission requirements on full size cribs. However formaldehyde emissions are subject to limitation under state laws which limit emissions on composite wood finished product produced by suppliers upstream in the supply chain.

The following are highlights of the requirements incorporated into the ASTM standard for cribs in the JPMA certification program that go beyond mandatory federal requirements of full-size baby cribs (16 C.F.R. 1508), and non- full-size baby cribs (16 C.F.R. 1509):

- Corner post vertical extensions
- Dynamic impact testing for crib structural integrity
- Crib interior dimensions and component spacing
- Impact testing of crib side rails.

For additional information on formaldehyde visit [www.epa.org](http://www.epa.org). For more information on the JPMA certification program, please visit [www.jpma.org](http://www.jpma.org).

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