



European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers



Joint Statement on the revision of the DIRECTIVE 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (3rd Batch) – Formaldehyde

The European Commission, as part of the periodic review of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (Directive 2004/37 / EC) has published the proposed modification aimed at establishing new limits for 5 chemical substances, including formaldehyde, which meets the criteria for the classification as a carcinogen (category 1B), in accordance with the EC regulation n.1272 / 2008.

For these reasons formaldehyde is therefore regulated by the directive currently under review. A table is given in Annex III of the proposal, showing the limit values proposed by the Commission for the 5 chemical substances, to which EU workers are exposed, including formaldehyde.

The emission limit values proposed for formaldehyde are the following:

- 0.37 mg / m³ (0.3 ppm) over 8 hours - standard working hours - (TWA)
- 0.738 mg / m³ (0.6 ppm) on short exposures (STEL - 15 minutes).

EPF, EFIC and EFBWW welcome the proposal of the Commission and support the establishment of a health-based limit value. The values proposed for formaldehyde are in line with those recommended by the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) and they are thus considered to be safe limits for use in the wood processing companies.

We therefore ask that they not be changed during the legislative process of the coming months.

The three signatories are committed to implement the limit value and to reduce exposure as much as possible. Currently we are working on an action guide for the panel industry.

Yours sincerely,

European Wood-Based Panels Federation (EPF)

European Furniture Industries Confederation (EFIC)

European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)