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**STANDARDS**  
MALAYSIA

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**SAMM CIRCULAR 1/2019**  
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**POLICY ON SKIM AKREDITASI MAKMAL MALAYSIA (SAMM)**

**FORMALDEHYDE TESTING LABORATORIES UNDER THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (US EPA)**

**1. Introduction**

The Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Act of 2010 [Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)] established emission standards for formaldehyde from composite wood products and directed EPA to finalise a rule on implementing and enforcing a number of provisions covering composite wood products.

Beginning 1 June 2018, composite wood products sold, supplied, offered for sale, manufactured, or imported in the United States are required to be labeled as California Air Resources Board (CARB) ATCM Phase II or TSCA Title VI compliant. Beginning on 22 March 2019, composite wood products must be labeled as TSCA Title VI compliant. These products include: hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard, as well as household and other finished goods containing these products.

This circular describes the accreditation requirements applicable to Testing Laboratories wishing to test for levels of formaldehyde in wood products in accordance with 40 CFR Part 770 for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Third Party Certification programme.

The specific criteria for Testing Laboratories wishing to participate in this EPA programme can be found by visiting <https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde>.

All applicants and accredited laboratories intending to apply for the above scope are required to comply with relevant requirements of MS ISO/IEC 17025, SAMM and 40 CFR Part 770. The laboratories are required to complete the EPA Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI Part 770 Testing Laboratories Checklist (LA 404-1). The checklist shall be submitted during application or prior to upcoming assessment, wherever applicable,

and will be verified by Standards Malaysia assessors during the on-site assessment.

This policy will be implemented effective immediately.

## **2. Specific Requirements for Third Party Certifier (TPC) Laboratories**

### **2.1 Contract**

TPCs participating in this programme are required to either operate or have a contract with MS ISO/IEC 17025 accredited testing laboratory to perform initial and ongoing quarterly testing of products to be certified. The requirements for the accreditation programme apply to all TPC testing laboratories participating in the programme.

If the laboratory being assessed is not part of the same legal entity that is an accredited Third Party Certifier (TPC), the laboratory is expected to have a contract with the TPC (the client) which outlines the work to be performed. These contracts will be reviewed for compliance to Clause 7.1 of MS ISO/IEC 17025.

### **2.2 Scope of Accreditation**

The Scope of Accreditation shall include the CFR part ("40 CFR Part 770 – Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products") as well as the formaldehyde test methods ASTM E1333 and/or ASTM D6007. The edition as per mentioned in the current 40 CFR Part 770 (including any amendments) applies.

### **2.3 Confidentiality and disclosure of information**

2.3.1 All information gathered for this accreditation programme is open for review by authorised EPA personnel. The outcome of the accreditation, assessment report, nonconformities, and laboratory corrective action(s) may be submitted to EPA representatives upon request as required by 40 CFR Part 770.

2.3.2 The laboratory must immediately disclose in writing to Standards Malaysia any instances of inappropriate and prohibited laboratory practices per 40 CFR Part 770 discovered during any internal or external assessment or investigation, along with the applicable corrective action.

2.3.3 Standards Malaysia will notify the EPA in writing of action that adversely affects the accreditation status of a TPC laboratory accredited as part of this programme.

2.3.4 The laboratory shall notify Standards Malaysia any changes in key personnel used in relation to the EPA TSCA Title IV Third party Certification Programme.