

Are your backboards Green Building Compliant?

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has identified urea-formaldehyde (UF) as a health risk within homes and commercial buildings. Interior grade plywood products contain urea-formaldehyde (UF) resins and generally emit formaldehyde at considerably higher rates than exterior grade plywood products with phenol-formaldehyde (PF) resins. When products made with urea-formaldehyde (UF) resins are new, high indoor temperatures or humidity can cause increased release of formaldehyde from these products. As a result, backboards made with interior plywood with urea-formaldehyde can not be used for "Green Buildings". Ask about the formaldehyde content of the backboards going into your projects before you approve them.

ReadySPEC® Backboards only uses urea-formaldehyde resin free plywood. Specify ReadySPEC® Backboards and you are assured compliance with your "Green Building" urea-formaldehyde resin free requirements.

A few paragraphs from the EPA website regarding urea-formaldehyde.

Health Effects

Formaldehyde, a colorless, pungent-smelling gas, can cause watery eyes, burning sensations in the eyes and throat, nausea, and difficulty in breathing in some humans exposed at elevated levels (above 0.1 parts per million). High concentrations may trigger attacks in people with asthma. There is evidence that some people can develop a sensitivity to formaldehyde. It has also been shown to cause cancer in animals and may cause cancer in humans. Health effects include eye, nose, and throat irritation; wheezing and coughing; fatigue; skin rash; severe allergic reactions. May cause cancer. May also cause other effects listed under "organic gases." EPA's Integrated Risk Information System profile - <http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0419.htm>

Steps to Reduce Exposure

- Use "exterior-grade" pressed wood products (lower-emitting because they contain phenol resins, not urea resins).
- Use air conditioning and dehumidifiers to maintain moderate temperature and reduce humidity levels.
- Increase ventilation, particularly after bringing new sources of formaldehyde into the home.

Even if you do not experience such reactions, you may wish to reduce your exposure as much as possible by purchasing exterior-grade products, which emit less formaldehyde.

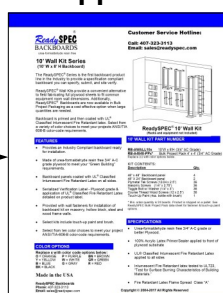
Design Engineers, End Users and Inspectors have all needed a solution to verify backboard compliance to building codes and project specifications. For nearly 14 years, ReadySPEC® Series Backboards have provided the Industry with the only Standards Compliant Backboard Solution!

Specify



Specify a project compliant backboard with one part number .

Approve



The contractor now includes a submittal sheet for the backboard with the rest of the cabling components.

Site Verify



Verify the backboard during site inspection. ReadySPEC® Series backboards detail the Fire Retardant and Plywood Grade used on the product label.