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November 16, 2009

Mr. Tom Weaver  
Roddis Lumber & Veneer Co.  
727 N. Cherry Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78202

Dear Tom:

Timber Products Company has been actively involved in the recent California ruling on formaldehyde emissions regarding what they define as composite wood products. As you know, that includes hardwood plywood, MDF, and particleboard.

All three Timber Products hardwood plywood mills are CARB Phase 2 certified. We hope our particleboard plant will achieve that level soon, thus completing our primary responsibilities for compliance.

To get to this point, we have done extended testing of our panels, CARB Phase 2 imports, NAUF panels, and NAF panels. Based on our testing and that of our third party certifiers HPVA and CPA, there is no measurable difference in emission levels between our CARB Phase 2 material and NAF panels. Both test at background levels, that of raw veneer. However, NAUF and NAF panels present quality control issues that we have overcome but at additional cost.

Given this, Timber Products plans to retain CARB Phase 2 certified materials as our company standard. Customers can order NAUF and NAF products, but the cost will always be higher and there is no benefit as it relates to emissions.

In addition to the unnecessary additional costs, NAUF resins present many quality control issues with many hardwood veneers such as plain sliced sap maple. These issues range for purple splice lines to checking. Worse yet, the extent and severity of the quality issues vary at different times of the year and with different veneer sources.



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I continue to be involved with the LEED program through my involvement with the LEED Wood Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Recent conversations with staff and committee members, I am aware of the begging efforts to review EQ 4.4 which specifies no added urea formaldehyde. It is widely recognized by LEED staff that the more logical way to address formaldehyde is by dictating emissions levels. Why urea was singled out 15 years ago is not known. It is possible, even likely, that LEED will go to a CARB-like standard in 2010. This will further negate the need for costly, NAUF panels.

The sum of all these factors is simple: using CARB Phase 2 compliant materials is the logical solution from both a cost and product quality perspective.

Timber Products will continue to tell our story to industry members. This is one issue where working together, we will all benefit.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Rutan', written in a cursive style.

Roger Rutan  
Vice President, Sales & Marketing

C: Gail Overgard