



# ANATOMY OF A FURNITURE LAW LABEL

AHFA fields hundreds of inquiries from its member companies every year. More than half the questions pertain to product labeling requirements. This document outlines key furniture-specific labeling regulations.

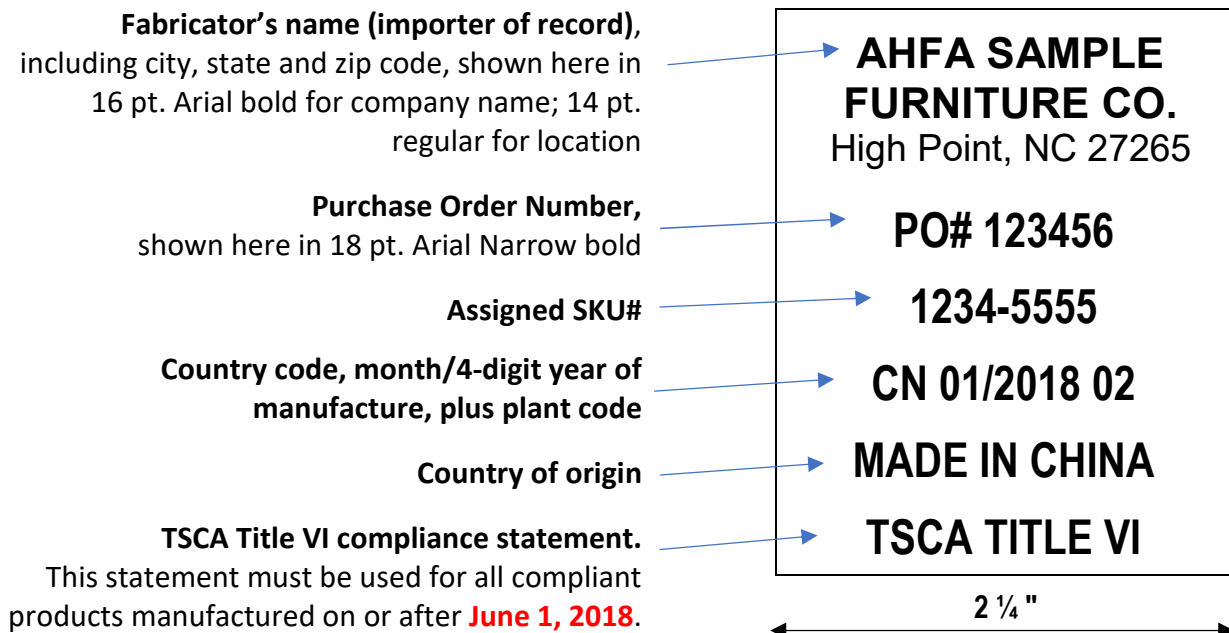
## EPA FORMALDEHYDE RULE

The EPA Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Act requires fabricators of finished goods containing composite wood products to label every finished good they produce or every box containing finished goods. These labels must contain:

- the fabricator’s name;
- the date the finished good was produced; and,
- a “statement” that the finished goods are TSCA Title VI compliant.

Optional: the label may also state that the finished good is made with composite panels containing NAF or ULEF resins, or, if appropriate, a combination of NAF/ULEF panels and compliant panels.

EPA provides no guidance on the font or size of type to be used in this label, only that the required information is “legible, in English and accurate.” EPA makes special note that “the date the finished good was produced” means the actual date of production in **month/year** format, not the date the product was imported.



Labels may be applied as a stamp, a tag or a sticker, but not as a barcode. If an unlabeled finished good is removed from its marked packaging, then the importer, distributor or retailer must keep a copy of the label and make the information available to customers upon request.

When a finished good is composed of multiple composite wood products, some of which are produced with NAF or ULEF resins and some of which are not, the EPA rule allows fabricators to design a label that efficiently describes the product, such as the label below **left**. While there is no language in the rule describing other combinations, the label on the **right** shows a combination of TSCA Title VI compliant material and PS-1 structural plywood.

**AHFA SAMPLE  
FURNITURE CO.**  
High Point, NC 27265

**PO# 123456**  
**1234-5555**  
**CN 01/2018 02**  
**MADE IN CHINA**

Product contains  
TSCA TITLE VI products  
and NAF/ULEF products

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FURNITURE CO.**  
High Point, NC 27265

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**MADE IN CHINA**

Product contains  
TSCA TITLE VI products  
and PS-1 products

#### **ADDING PROP 65 TO THE LAW LABEL**

If a company is shipping products into the State of California, another consideration for the law label is whether or not a Proposition 65 warning may be required. Prop 65 is part of California's Health & Safety Code. It requires companies doing business in California to provide a clear and reasonable warning before exposing consumers to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. The state lists nearly 900 chemicals that require this pre-exposure warning. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) maintains the list.

Prop 65 does NOT require companies to test products for the presence of chemicals. It does NOT require companies to determine the exposure level of chemicals the company believes to be or knows to be present. Prop 65 simply requires companies to notify

consumers BEFORE exposing them to any chemical on the list. If a company believes any one of the 900 chemicals is present in its products, a consumer warning is required.

In 2016, OEHHA revised the Prop 65 warning guidelines. Among the changes was the addition of a new “safe harbor warning” for furniture products. The furniture safe harbor requires companies to name **one** specific chemical in the on-product warning.

**NOTE:** Do not confuse the “*furniture safe harbor*” with “*safe harbor exposure levels*” that OEHHA has published for about 300 of its listed chemicals. These are two different types of “safe harbors,” even though OEHHA uses the same term for both. The **safe harbor exposure levels** are numerical exposure limits expressed as “no significant risk level” for carcinogens or “maximum allowable dose level” for reproductive toxicants. The “furniture safe harbor” is the specific language to be used in a Prop 65 warning for furniture.

The sample Prop 65 warning label below assumes the product contains formaldehyde. AHFA cannot tell companies what chemical to list. The Alliance developed a workbook of Prop 65 compliance guidance in 2018, and it provides a list of chemicals most likely to be present in home furnishings products. The workbook can be downloaded by AHFA members from our website, [www.ahfa.us](http://www.ahfa.us).


This sample law label assumes that the product contains formaldehyde and that an exposure to formaldehyde may occur.

This sample label shows the required Prop 65 warning symbol in yellow, but because there is no other color on the label, the symbol could be printed in black and white instead.

The word **WARNING** is in ALL CAPS and in bold face, as required by the Prop 65 regulation.

The hazard symbol is placed to the left of the text, in a size no smaller than the height of the word “WARNING.” This also is required by the regulation.


The entire warning is shown in 14 pt. Arial Narrow, a size no smaller than the largest type used for other consumer information on the label. In no case may the Prop 65 warning appear in a type size smaller than 6 pt.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AHFA SAMPLE FURNITURE CO.</b> High Point, NC 27265  PO# 123456 1234-5555 CN 2017/01 02 MADE IN CHINA TSCA TITLE VI</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>WARNING:</b> This product can expose you to chemicals including formaldehyde, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to <a href="http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture">www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture</a></p>

← 2 ½ " →

**ADDING PROP 65 TO THE CA FLAMMABILITY LAW LABEL**

In the case of upholstered furniture, manufacturers may add the TSCA TITLE VI compliance information along with the Proposition 65 warning to the law label in a billboard format that includes the California Technical Bulletin 117-2013 compliance statement. A horizontal “billboard” format is shown below:

<p>UNDER PENALTY OF LAW THIS TAG NOT TO BE REMOVED EXCEPT BY THE CONSUMER</p>	<p><b>NOTICE:</b> THIS ARTICLE MEETS THE FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES TECHNICAL BULLETIN 117-2013. CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED NEAR OPEN FLAME OR WITH BURNING CIGARETTES.</p> <p>THE UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS IN THIS PRODUCT:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CONTAIN ADDED FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTAIN NO ADDED FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS</p>	<p> <b>WARNING:</b> This product can expose you to chemicals including formaldehyde, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to:</p> <p><a href="http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture">www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture</a></p>
<p>ALL NEW MATERIAL consisting of:</p>	<p>The State of California has updated the flammability standard and determined that the fire safety requirements for this product can be met without adding flame retardant chemicals. The state has identified many flame retardant chemicals as being known to, or strongly suspected of, adversely impacting human health or development.</p>	<p><b>TSCA TITLE VI</b></p>
<p>REGISTRY NO:</p>		
<p>Certification is made by the manufacturer that the materials in this article are described in accordance with the law.</p>		

- The minimum TB117-2013 label size is 2 x 3 inches.
- The minimum type size is 1/8 inch in height. The TB117-2013 section must be in ALL CAPS. The chemical statement does not need to be in all caps. The sample is shown in 12 pt. Arial Narrow.
- A thick black line must separate the various components of the “billboard” law label. The sample is shown with a 3 pt. line.

A vertical “billboard” format may also be used. This format is shown below:

UNDER PENALTY OF LAW THIS TAG NOT TO BE  
REMOVED EXCEPT BY THE CONSUMER

ALL NEW MATERIAL  
consisting of:

REGISTRY NO:

Certification is made by the manufacturer that the  
materials in this article are described in accordance  
with the law.


**NOTICE:**

THIS ARTICLE MEETS THE FLAMMABILITY  
REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES TECHNICAL  
BULLETIN 117-2013. CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED  
NEAR OPEN FLAME OR WITH BURNING CIGARETTES.

THE UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS IN THIS PRODUCT:

- CONTAIN ADDED FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS
- CONTAIN NO ADDED FLAME RETARDANT  
CHEMICALS

The State of California has updated the flammability  
standard and determined that the fire safety requirements  
for this product can be met without adding flame retardant  
chemicals. The state has identified many flame retardant  
chemicals as being known to, or strongly suspected of,  
adversely impacting human health or development.

 **WARNING: This product can expose you to  
chemicals including formaldehyde, which is  
known to the State of California to cause cancer  
or birth defects or other reproductive harm. For  
more information, go to:  
[www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture)**

**TSCA TITLE VI**