

## **New Test Standard for the Evaluation of Formaldehyde-emitting Wood-based Materials**

To Whom it May Concern,

From 1 January 2020, a new test standard for formaldehyde emissions from wood-based materials, DIN EN 16516, will take effect in Germany. This European Standard specifies a reference method for measuring the release of regulated hazardous substances from building products into indoor air. At the same time as the change in measuring method, there is an increase in the requirements for formaldehyde-emitting products.

In order for you to continue to feel confident using our products given the new regulations, we have summarised the main questions and answers for you here.

### **Has the existing emission class E1 changed?**

No, emission class E1 remains in place. This refers to the limit of formaldehyde emissions of 0.1 ppm, which still applies. However, the new testing methods pursuant to DIN EN 16516 mean a significant increase in requirements: concentrations determined using the testing method according to the previous standard (DIN EN 717-1) must be multiplied by a factor of 2 in order to match the requirements of the new testing method according to DIN EN 16516.

### **What limits apply to products manufactured and marketed from 1 January 2020 in order to comply with emission class E1?**

0.05 ppm (emission test DIN EN 717-1)

0.1 ppm (emission test DIN EN 16516)

### **Which RESOPAL products are affected by the new provision?**

The emission tests (DIN EN 16516 and DIN EN 717-1) apply exclusively to RESOPAL products containing coated wood-based materials, e.g. composite elements made of HPL and a wooden beam, as well as faced boards and worktops.

### **What significance does the new regulation have for HPL sheets and compact laminate, as well as edging?**

None. HPL laminates and compact laminate and edgings are not affected by the new provision. The testing methods apply exclusively to coated wood-based materials.

### **What effect does the new provision have on RESOPAL coated wood-based materials that have already been purchased?**

None. According to a statement from the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) and an assessment by the Hauptverband der Deutschen Holzindustrie (HDH/Main Association of the German

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Wood Industry), it is permitted to use the previous test method (DIN EN 717-1) without halving the limit to 0.05 ppm until 31 December 2019. All coated wood-based materials manufactured up to that point need only meet this standard, and may continue to be marketed. Needless to say, these should not exceed the specified E1 limit determined in accordance with DIN EN 717-1. All relevant RESOPAL products meet this requirement.

**When will the RESOPAL products in question meet the requirements of the new regulation?**

For the German market, the new regulation enters into force on 1 January 2020. By this time at the latest, all RESOPAL products will be produced in line with the new test standard DIN EN 16516.

**To which regions does the new provision apply?**

Initially, the new regulation applies only to products that are brought to market in Germany.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our International Customer Service Centre at [kundencenter@resopal.de](mailto:kundencenter@resopal.de)

With kind regards,



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