

21 August 2009

Department of Labour

TE TARI MAHI



John Walley
New Zealand Manufacturers
and Exporters Association
PO Box 13152
Christchurch

Dear John

Consultation meeting - proposed changes to Workplace Exposure Standards for Wood dust and formaldehyde

Prior to the publication of the third edition of the New Zealand Workplace Exposure Standards (WES), stakeholder consultation was sought in regard to proposed changes for some substances. Some of the WES are in need of revision in order to bring them more into line with current international best practice, notably, USA and the United Kingdom. The standards chosen for review are currently inconsistent with international comparators and require moderation.

The proposed changes to the wood dust and formaldehyde standards are below.

Substance	Current WES	Proposed changes
Formaldehyde	1ppm (ceiling)	0.3 ppm (8 hour TWA) 0.6 ppm (STEL)
Wood dust (8 hour TWA)	1 mg/m ³ for certain hard wood dusts 5 mg/m ³ for soft wood dusts	1 mg/m ³ for certain hard wood dusts 1 mg/m ³ for soft wood dusts

The technical committee has reviewed the feedback received so far for the wood dust and formaldehyde WES and is of the opinion further consultation is required.

This letter is to invite you as an interested party to attend a meeting on Wednesday 25th November 2009 in Wellington to discuss submissions received on the proposed changes to the WES for wood dust and formaldehyde and to produce an agreed timetable for the drafting of the exposure standards. The Department of Labour's perspectives on the proposed changes will also be discussed.

The meeting is to be held in the Sonja Davies Room, Level 3 Greenock House, 39 The Terrace, Wellington from 10am to 1pm. Please note that due to constraints of available venues we are only able to welcome one representative from each organization.

RSVP by 18 September to:
Nikki Jensen, Technical Support Services, Box 3705, Wellington, 6011

Yours Sincerely

Richard Steel
Manager Technical Support Services