

## ➔ REGULATORY NEWS



### EPA Extends Formaldehyde

**Comments** Comments on the proposed EPA Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products have been extended from August 9 to September 9, 2013. Comments on the EPA Third-Party Certification Framework for the EPA Formaldehyde Emission Standards have been extended from August 9 to August 26, 2013. Note that the extension deadlines for these are different.

*Source: [Federal Register](#), July 23, 2013.*

## ➔ HOUSING TRENDS



## New-Home Sales Rise

**Again** Sales of newly built, single-family home sales surged 8.3% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 497,000 units in June, the fastest pace in the last five years according to data released by HUD and the U.S. Census Bureau.

"The takeaway from this report is that the housing recovery is solidly on track and isn't going to be derailed by slightly higher mortgage rates," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. Gains are expected to continue through this year.


Inventory of new homes for sale declined in June to 161,000 - the lowest level since March, 2004.

Source: *NAHB, July 23, 2013.*

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**Effectiveness Of EUTR Questioned** A BBC reporter's investigation demonstrated that the new European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) is not keeping illegal wood out of the EU. An inspection of a shipment of logs from Congo showed that EUTR markings had been deliberately changed to show a zone of origin where cutting is legal. This is not the first violation for exporter Taman Industries Limited.



*Source: BBC, July 22, 2013.*



### **FSC And PEFC Against ISO Certification Proposal**

The Forest Stewardship Council and the largest forest certification organization, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, are against a recent proposal for a new ISO standard. The proposal, initiated by German and Brazilian standardization organizations, would detail new standard chain of custody requirements designed to reduce costs for multiple certifications. ISO members have until the end of August to vote.

*Source: PEFC, July 8, 2013.*



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**Fewer Shattered Baseball Bats** Maple baseball bats continue to increase in popularity. After extensive testing, U.S. Forest Service researchers at the Forest Products Laboratory are recommending changes in manufacturing to continue to lower the number of maple baseball bats that shatter. To date, they have reduced the rate by over 50%. "Since 2008, the U.S. Forest Service has worked with Major League Baseball to help make America's pastime safer," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.



*Source: National Association of State Foresters, July 19, 2013.*



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