

# **Furniture industry compliance with COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2023/1464 as regards formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers and related EU-wide limit values**

## **EFIC guidance document**

**September 2025**

*Disclaimer: This document is addressed to furniture companies and serves merely as guidance based on the interpretation of EFIC of COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2023/1464. EFIC does not hold any responsibility for companies' implementation of the Regulation.*

### **Adoption of Regulation and ECHA guidance & timeline for compliance**

On 14 July 2023, [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1464](#) amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council **as regards formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers** was published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

**The new rules establish an emission limit of 0.062 mg/m<sup>3</sup> of formaldehyde into indoor air for wood-based articles and furniture** and to the interior of road vehicles. A limit of 0.08 mg/m<sup>3</sup> will apply to all other articles such as textile, leather, plastic, construction materials or electronic products. Please see an extract of the Regulation at the end of the document.

**Producers of articles where formaldehyde is used will have 36-months – until August 2026 - to comply with the new rules**, which the Commission considers sufficient time to adapt production, develop analytical methods and shift to low-emitting or formaldehyde-free materials. *Note: a separate 48-month transition period ending in August 2027 applies to road vehicles, but this lies outside the furniture sector's scope.*

To support harmonised implementation, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published the [“Guidelines for the measurement of formaldehyde releases from articles and formaldehyde concentrations in the interior of vehicles 1.0”](#) (hereafter *ECHA-Guideline*) in **May 2025**.

In line with the Commission's mandate, the *ECHA-Guideline*:

- **describes appropriate test methods** to measure formaldehyde emissions from articles (including furniture) and provides example data;
- **clarifies the reference conditions** in Appendix 14 to REACH and other factors that may influence test results; and
- **explains how to correlate results** obtained under non-reference conditions with those obtained under the reference conditions, giving examples of how the scientific correlation should be applied to practical cases.

### **How was EFIC involved in the process?**

EFIC advocated towards the European Commission and Member States throughout the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2023/1464, for, among others, the setting of a harmonised EU-level limit value and the avoidance of double testing.



EFIC was also involved in developing the ECHA Guideline that accompanies the Regulation, with two EFIC experts participating directly, backed by the technical expertise of the whole membership. EFIC promoted multiple compliance pathways, no double testing, and the option of component-based testing and testing of representative parts. EFIC also raised the need for ECHA to consider and align with standardisation work in CEN/TC 207 WG9/TG 4 on 'Furniture - Determination emissions into indoor air - Emission test chamber method'.

## Testing methodologies & results of EFIC advocacy

### ECHA-Guideline:

- The ECHA Guideline recognizes that, with the standards currently available, no single test method yet covers all furniture types, particularly regarding specimen preparation and chamber conditions (Clause 3.3.1). Board-like furniture elements can be tested directly with EN 717-1, whereas EN 16516 or ISO 16000-9 may also be used provided that any result above the limit value is first correlated to EN 717-1, the reference-condition method (Clauses 3.1.1 & 3.1.2).
- This clarification reflects the wide variety of furniture designs and materials. EFIC therefore promoted multiple compliance pathways—including component-based and representative-part testing—and the elimination of double testing, ensuring that manufacturers throughout the EU have fair and reproducible means of demonstrating compliance.
- Testing individual parts (e.g. wood panels, textiles, foams) is allowed and, provided that the furniture producer does not introduce any additional formaldehyde-emitting materials—such as adhesives, paints or surface coatings—during subsequent processing and assembly, this is sufficient to demonstrate compliance.
- When testing a complete piece of furniture is not feasible — for instance because no chamber of adequate size is available — the ECHA Guideline permits restricting the measurement to representative parts that actually contain the formaldehyde-emitting materials added during manufacture.
- Whole furniture testing is required only when the manufacturer has added formaldehyde-emitting substances (e.g. adhesives, varnishes, surface coatings) during assembly — a provision strongly advocated by EFIC to avoid double testing. For fully assembled items, EFIC further argued that both area-based and unit-based approaches should be available, depending on the furniture's type, form and design (e.g. cabinet furniture vs upholstered furniture). Both approaches are now being pursued in CEN/TC 207/WG 9 standardisation work. The current ECHA Guideline still provides no detailed procedure for upholstered furniture and does not yet explain how unit-based results should be applied consistently across different furniture categories; these gaps are expected to be closed by forthcoming standards. *Note: For upholstered furniture, the ECHA Guideline states that the chamber parameters set out in the German Blue Angel label DE-UZ 117 can be used for testing, but their use is not mandatory.*
- Reference to future standardisation: ECHA acknowledges the ongoing work under CEN/TC 207/WG9/TG 4, and leaves room for new harmonised methods, possibly available by August 2026.



## How can furniture companies prepare in time for the new obligations?

- Focus first on suppliers whose products may **contain or emit formaldehyde**. Raw materials and components that typically pose challenges include for example: adhesives (especially UF-based glues), acid-curing lacquers, textiles, foams, and wood-based panels such as particleboard (PB), plywood (PW), medium-density fibreboard (MDF) and high-density fibreboard (HDF). Treat all these inputs—and their combinations—as one integrated *emission system*.
- **Request compliant components:** ask suppliers for test reports from accredited laboratories that demonstrate conformity with the ECHA Guideline (EN 717-1 or EN 16516/ISO 16000, with correlation where required).
- **Reject undocumented parts:** do not allow materials without clear formaldehyde data into production.
- **Encourage low-emission alternatives:** work with key suppliers to shift to ultra-low-emission or formaldehyde-free formulations.
- **Include compliance clauses in contracts:** require batch-wise documentation of emission performance.
- **Standardise the supplier information form:** capture material ID, emission class, test method, chamber conditions, result, correlation (if applicable) and lab accreditation.
- **Contact your national furniture association** for additional guidance or training.



**Extract from [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1464](#)**

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ANNEX

Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 is amended as follows:

(1) the following entry is added:

<p>77. Formaldehyde</p> <p>CAS No 50-00-0</p> <p>EC No 200-001-8</p> <p>and formaldehyde-releasing substances</p>	<p>1. Shall not be placed on the market in articles, after 6 August 2026, if, under the test conditions specified in Appendix 14, the concentration of formaldehyde released from those articles exceeds:</p> <p>(a) 0,062 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for furniture and wood-based articles;</p> <p>(b) 0,080 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for articles other than furniture and wood-based articles.</p> <p>The first subparagraph shall not apply to:</p> <p>(a) articles in which formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasing substances are exclusively naturally present in the materials from which the articles are produced;</p> <p>(b) articles that are exclusively for outdoor use under foreseeable conditions;</p> <p>(c) articles in constructions, that are exclusively used outside the building shell and vapour barrier and that do not emit formaldehyde into indoor air;</p> <p>(d) articles exclusively for industrial or professional use unless formaldehyde released from them leads to exposure of the general public under foreseeable conditions of use;</p> <p>(e) articles for which the restriction laid down in entry 72 applies;</p> <p>(f) articles that are biocidal products within the scope of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*);</p> <p>(g) devices within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2017/745;</p> <p>(h) personal protective equipment within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/425;</p> <p>(i) articles intended to come into contact directly or indirectly with food within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004;</p> <p>(j) second-hand articles.</p> <p>2. Shall not be placed on the market in road vehicles after 6 August 2027 if, under the test conditions specified in Appendix 14, the concentration of formaldehyde in the interior of those vehicles exceeds 0,062 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>The first subparagraph shall not apply to:</p> <p>(a) road vehicles exclusively for industrial or professional use unless the concentration of formaldehyde in the interior of those vehicles leads to exposure of the general public under foreseeable conditions of use;</p> <p>(b) second-hand vehicles.</p>
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(\*) Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (OJ L 167, 27.6.2012, p. 1);

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*EFIC represents around 80% of the total turnover of the European Furniture Industries. In the EU, the sector employs 1 million people in about 130.000 enterprises and generates a turnover of over 100 billion Euros. The EFIC membership is composed of 19 national associations, one individual company member and several clusters. Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.efic.eu/>*

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