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NEWS ALERT

CHINESE DRYWALL: REMOVE IT SAYS CPSC & HUD

Asbestos/Lead
Consulting

On April 2, 2010 the Consumer Product Safety Commission and HUD issued interim remediation guidance recommending the removal of Chinese Drywall (CDW) in affected homes. In addition, CPSC/HUD recommended the replacement of electrical wiring, outlets, circuit breakers, gas service piping, fire suppression systems, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in affected homes due to CDW corrosive properties. Odors and corrosion is associated with the release of **hydrogen sulfide gas** in quantities up to **100x's greater** compared to non-Chinese drywall samples.

Mold
Water
Damage

The problem gained public attention 2 years ago when homeowners began noticing a foul odor coming from their walls. Black discoloration was also observed on copper electrical wiring and air conditioning evaporator coils. CDW problems were first reported in AET's February 2009 Newsletter and again in April 2009 and June 2009. Over 3,000 homeowners in 37 states have now reported to have been affected, including alleged health complaints of nose/throat irritation, headaches, coughing and nose bleeds.

IAQ/IH

OSHA/EPA
Compliance

Reportedly the problems coincide with CDW installed between 2001-2008 and was most prevalent in products installed between 2005-2008. The CDW was utilized in homes constructed in the southeast from Florida to Louisiana following hurricanes. About 58% of CPSC complaints are from Florida homeowners. According to the CPSC, over 5 million sheets of CDW were imported to the US during the year 2006 alone.

Phase I/II
Soils
Groundwater

First Step: Drywall Identification

Visual Inspection

1. Determine if the home or commercial property was constructed between 2001-2008.
2. Look for markings of Chinese origin on the drywall.
3. Look for signs of blackening on copper electrical wiring and/or air conditioning evaporator coils.

Hazardous
Materials

Sampling/Analysis

4. Check for corrosive conditions at the property by placement of copper test strips. These test strips must remain in the property for 14-30 days and will discolor (by forming copper sulfide) if corrosive conditions are present.
5. Take core/bulk samples of property drywall and perform laboratory analysis for Strontium and Sulfur content. Strontium levels should not exceed 1200 ppm and Sulfur 10 ppm.
6. Take core/bulk samples of property drywall and send to a laboratory for test chamber analysis. Check for elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide, carbonyl sulfide and/or carbon disulfide gas. Corrosive characteristics on copper metal can also be performed within test chambers.

Brownfields
Disaster Damaged
Buildings

Renovation/
Demolition/
Disposal

Final Step: Drywall Removal

7. Should the drywall be determined to be CDW and the homeowner experiencing problems with CDW, drywall should be removed under controlled conditions (use isolation barriers and even negative pressure) to minimize drywall dust dispersal. Strict cleanup procedures of dust/debris should also be followed. Estimated cost of drywall removal can exceed \$100,000.00 per home. Many of these costs are being borne by the homeowners themselves. Lawsuits are pending against the Chinese drywall manufacturers and US companies who sold or installed the drywall.

Emergency
Response

Remediation
Restoration

Accredited Environmental Technologies, Inc. (AET) is experienced and can assist in the sampling and decision-making associated with CDW. More information can be found at our website (www.aetinc.biz) or by contacting Mr. Harris Brody, CIH, CHMM at our corporate office (610-891-0114) or (800-9696-AET).