



Announcement on project “Compulsory E1” related to furniture products

EPF and EFIC are delighted to announce the recent decision of EFIC to endorse EPF’s project “Compulsory E1” that was launched on 24th September 2015 in relation to furniture products.

The goal of “Compulsory E1” is to ensure common legislation throughout Europe for the production, import and marketing of wood-based panels, and of products made from them at an emission level not higher than E1. Since 2007, all EPF members have agreed to produce particleboard, MDF and OSB of at least E1 quality. This commitment is now shared by hardboard, softboard and plywood manufacturers. 8 of 28 EU Member States already require E1 by legislation and EPF and its members are engaged in active discussions with the remaining national Ministries to draft and enact similar decrees in each European Member State. This would establish a fair and common market across Europe.

EFIC, the leading European association of furniture manufacturers in Europe, welcomes and supports this initiative. EFIC members already manufacture the vast majority of their furniture products that include wood-based panels using boards at E1 level. A harmonisation of this by law across Europe would guarantee a “level playing field” for products made in Europe and those imported from outside. In addition it would secure a certain minimum standard for all wood-based panel furniture, which would certainly benefit Europe’s consumers.

Therefore EPF, supported by EFIC, will continue to call on all National Governments where legislation does not already exist to enact a decree that requires:

- 1) The entry of wood-based panels on the national market only if they meet the requirements of European Standard EN 13986 for E1 classification (to be supported by a statement or certification)**
- 2) The manufacture, promotion and sale of furniture products that contain wood-based panels only if they are classed at least E1**

For any further questions on this topic, please kindly contact Clive Pinnington, Managing Director EPF (clive.pinnington@europanels.org) or Roberta Dessi, Secretary General EFIC (Roberta.dessi@efic.eu)

About EPF

EPF – the European Panel Federation has members in 25 countries and represents the manufacturers of particleboard, MDF, OSB, hardboard, softboard and plywood. The EU wood panel industry has an annual turnover of about 22 billion Euros, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe.

About EFIC

EFIC – the European Furniture Industries Confederation - is the voice of the jointly united European Furniture industries. EFIC was founded in 2006 by seven national federations representing the furniture industries in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey and it was later joined by Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Russia and Norway. Furthermore, Hungary, The Netherlands and France joined EFIC in 2015. EFIC now represents more than the 70% of the total turnover of the furniture industries in Europe.

EPF – 24, rue Montoyer, B-1000 Brussels
Phone : +32 2 556 25 89 - Fax : +32 2 287 08 75
info@europanels.org / www.europanels.org

EFIC - Rue Montoyer 24, BE-1000 Brussels
Phone: +32 2 287 08 86
info@efic.eu / www.efic.eu