
A D V I S O R Y

Date: 1-20-2010

Imported Drywall

Following the 2003 to 2005 hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, rebuilding or remodeling of structures was needed. Some of the materials used for this remodeling included drywall procured from the Republic of China. Over time, materials outgassing from this drywall were believed to be responsible for corrosion of copper-containing products. These include pipe work in air conditioners, flat screen televisions and computer monitors, electrical connections, and appliances such as electric stoves. A majority of the reports of damage were from Virginia, Florida, and Louisiana, areas where considerable amounts of construction were and are still being undertaken. Nationwide, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received over 2,357 reports of possible incidents related to damage/destruction of copper-containing items by exposure to vapors emitted from imported drywall. Of these reported incidents, some 1,596 or 68% reported health effects. Public Health has learned from CPSC that to date there have been 73 Alabama reports of possible structural problems, with 60 of those reporting possible health effects.

Based on a recently completed study of 51 homes in 5 states, CPSC continues to search for homes exhibiting corrosion and is actively seeking private individuals and businesses to contact the CPSC and report potential problems. CPSC is now moving forward to develop protocols to identify homes with a corrosive environment and the effectiveness of remediation methods. Further studies will examine health concerns expressed by some persons who live or work in buildings with problem drywall.

Should you suspect that you have potential structural problems within your residence or place of business that may be linked to the presence of this material, we encourage you to report this to the [CPSC](#).

- Homeowners who believe they may have imported drywall should immediately report to CPSC by calling 800-638-2772 or logging on to the above website.
- Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access the phone number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.
- To read the technical research reports or for more information, visit the [Drywall Information Center](#).