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**MEMO**

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**From:** David Jaffe  
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**Date:** February 3, 2010  
**Subject:** EOC Update on Chinese Drywall

As you know, certain drywall imported from China is alleged to contain high levels of sulfur and/or other contaminants, which it is emitting or off-gassing. Since my last update there have been several new developments.

On January 28th the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which is leading the federal investigation into this problem, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, released interim guidance on how to identify homes with corrosion from problem drywall.

The guidance document was produced by a Federal Interagency Task Force, and is based primarily on the presence of metal corrosion in homes as well as other indicators of problem drywall - <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/hud10020.html>

The Task Force will also look at remediation protocols to see what cost-efficiency improvements to current remediation practices, if any, may be available, and what guidance should be issued on doing the work safely. No time table has been announced for completion of the remediation protocols.

In November the CPSC announced that a study of 51 homes found a strong association between the problem drywall, the hydrogen sulfide levels in homes that had the drywall, and corrosion in those homes. However, there is not yet any scientific evidence of chemical levels that pose a toxic hazard to occupants.

To date, the CPSC has received about 2,700 reports from residents in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico who believe their health symptoms or the corrosion of certain metal components in their homes are related to the presence of drywall produced in China. The majority of these reports continue to come from Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia.

Meanwhile, NAHB's Chinese Drywall Task Force is continuing its work with Congress and the federal agencies, acting as a resource and sharing our views on what builders and homeowners need to resolve the drywall problem.

On December 9, 2009, Task Force members Ray Kothe and John Ainslie met in Washington with members of the Congressional Contaminated Drywall Caucus. This was a follow-up to the meeting Ray, John, and Barry Rutenberg had with the Caucus members in July 2009.

They urged the Congressmen to continue pursuing avenues to help provide resources to cover the costs of remediation so that once we have the necessary information, we can work quickly to resolve this issue for affected homeowners.

They also requested that Caucus members urge CPSC to work with state and local governments to better identify the full scope of this issue. Any assistance from the federal government, in the form of an appropriation, will require valid data on the actual number of homes and homeowners affected by the drywall issue.

Our representatives also shared with the Caucus that NAHB is developing its own testing and remediation protocols. The development of these protocols is a fluid process, dependent, in part, on the availability of test homes and evolving science and technology. But we hope to have them completed by the end of March.

We may need your help to develop the testing and remediation protocols. Specifically, our consultants may need access to the homes that our members have built that have or may have corrosive drywall issues as well as homes that have no corrosive drywall issues ("control homes").

We would appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we move forward.

Finally, you and your members can stay informed about what's happening in this area by visiting our Web site at <http://www.nahb.org/chinesedrywall>. There, you'll find links to information on current legislation, federal government and state agency resources, and related organizations and research. You'll also find resources that NAHB has developed to help builders and associations understand the issue and communicate this knowledge to home owners and HBA members.

I will continue to keep you posted on further developments as they arise.