

INVESTIGATION OF IMPORTED DRYWALL

STATUS UPDATE, July 2010

I. Overview

This update describes new developments in the ongoing investigation of imported drywall and supplements the previous reports provided to the Committee. As of July 27, 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission” or “CPSC”) had received 3,482 incident reports related to drywall from 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. More than 90% of reports are from five states – Florida (58%), Louisiana (19%), Mississippi (6%), Alabama (5%) and Virginia (4%).

In addition to the consumer reports on drywall received by the CPSC, our outreach efforts and investigations have secured information from many other sources, including state governors, county governments, importers, builders, distributors, installers, and other parties in the drywall distribution chain. Combining the information from all sources and eliminating duplicates, our best estimate of the number of households that have registered complaints about drywall is approximately 6,300.

II. New Developments

CPSC staff presented updated information and answered questions at a July 12, 2010, public forum on problem drywall in Newport News, VA hosted by U.S. Congressman Robert Wittman, Virginia State Senator John C. Miller, Virginia State Delegate Glenn Oder and other local leaders.

III. Progress in the Investigation

We continue to investigate long term corrosion on electrical and fire safety components under our contracts with other federal laboratories. Initial results of analyses of components exposed to corrosive conditions are expected this autumn. Through this work, the Commission hopes to fine tune the Interim Identification Guidance and Interim Remediation Guidance (in conjunction with HUD), but the bulk of our scientific investigation is complete. This has been the largest Compliance investigation in agency history. To date, CPSC has spent over \$5 million to investigate the chemical nature and the chain of commerce of problem drywall, and to issue the associated identification and remediation guidance to assist impacted homeowners.