

HKCAS SC-15
Issue No. 3
Issue Date: 21 May 2024
Implementation Date: 21 May 2024
Page 1 of 4

# HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 15

## Accreditation of US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI Third-Party Certifiers Certifying Production of Composite Wood Products for Compliance with EPA TSCA Title VI Formaldehyde Emission Standards

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This criteria document serves to clarify and supplement the requirements of HKCAS 023 for the accreditation of US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI Third-Party Certifiers (TPCs). This document shall be read in conjunction with the current issue of HKCAS 023, relevant HKAS and HKCAS supplementary criteria documents and the latest 40 CFR Part 770. This criteria document is applicable to certification bodies seeking accreditation under HKCAS for recognition by EPA as an EPA TSCA Title VI TPC pursuant to 40 CFR 770.7(c).
- 1.2 To serve as an EPA TSCA Title VI TPC, a certification body shall comply at all times with the requirements set out in the latest 40 CFR Part 770 'Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products' and it shall be accredited by an EPA-recognised product accreditation body.
- 1.3 HKAS is a recognised product and laboratory accreditation body under the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program. After the certification body has been accredited by HKAS to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 under HKCAS with a scope of accreditation that includes composite wood products and the latest 40 CFR Part 770 'Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products', it may apply to EPA for recognition.
- 1.4 HKAS Executive will notify EPA immediately in writing and update the HKAS website of any action it takes against a HKCAS accredited certification body participating in the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program that adversely affects the accreditation status of that certification body relating to the Program, such as suspension or termination of accreditation, reduction of scope of accreditation, and imposing conditions on accreditation.

HKCAS SC-15
Issue No. 3
Issue Date: 21 May 2024
Implementation Date: 21 May 2024
Page 2 of 4

## **2 SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION**

- 2.1 HKAS provides accreditation under HKCAS for certification bodies seeking recognition from EPA to become an EPA TSCA Title VI TPC pursuant to 40 CFR 770.7(c).

## **3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 The term ‘shall’ is used throughout this document to indicate those provisions which are mandatory.

## **4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 4.1 A certification body accredited by HKAS for the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program shall comply at all times with the requirements set out in the latest 40 CFR Part 770 ‘Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products’ which is available from the EPA website ‘<https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde>’. In case the certification body has failed to comply with any provision of the latest 40 CFR Part 770, it shall notify both EPA and HKAS Executive within 72 hours of the time the certification body identifies the deficiency. The notice shall include a description of the steps taken to address the deficiency.
- 4.2 The certification body shall allow HKAS Executive to examine all records and documents for verification of compliance with the requirements of the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program.
- 4.3 On request, the certification body shall accept EPA to observe its assessments conducted by HKAS in relation to the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program.
- 4.4 The certification body shall authorise HKAS Executive to share with EPA information and copies of assessment documentation in relation to the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program, such as assessment schedule, assessment reports, observation and action records, corrective action plans and evidence of actions taken.
- 4.5 The certification body shall notify HKAS Executive within 30 days of any changes in personnel qualifications, procedures, or laboratories used in relation to the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program.

HKCAS SC-15
Issue No. 3
Issue Date: 21 May 2024
Implementation Date: 21 May 2024
Page 3 of 4

- 4.6 The certification body shall notify HKAS Executive of any changes to its status as an EPA-recognised TPC.

## **5 IMPARTIALITY**

- 5.1 The certification body shall act impartially when performing activities under the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program.
- 5.2 The certification body shall not have a financial interest in a panel producer, fabricator, laminated product producer, importer, designer, distributor or retailer of composite wood products.
- 5.3 The certification body shall ensure that its management personnel and personnel involved in the review and certification decision-making process for composite wood products are not involved in activities within the same or separate legal entity that may compromise the impartiality of its certification decision-making process, such as advocacy or consulting activities.
- 5.4 The certification body shall ensure that personnel of the same or separate legal entity involved in activities such as advocacy or consulting are not involved in the management of the certification body, the review, or the certification decisions.
- 5.5 The certification body shall ensure that its management personnel and personnel certifying composite wood products sign a conflict of interest statement attesting that they will receive no financial benefit from the outcome of the certification.

## **6 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

- 6.1 The certification body shall be or have a contract with a laboratory that is accredited by a laboratory accreditation body recognised by EPA under the EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 with a scope of accreditation including 40 CFR Part 770 'Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products' and the formaldehyde test methods ASTM E1333-14 and ASTM D6007-14, if used.
- 6.2 The certification body shall have competent personnel to conduct audit inspections of composite wood products and properly train and supervise

HKCAS SC-15
Issue No. 3
Issue Date: 21 May 2024
Implementation Date: 21 May 2024
Page 4 of 4

auditors to inspect composite wood products in conformity with ISO/IEC 17020:2012 as required under ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Cl 6.2.1 and Cl 6.2.2.

- 6.3 The certification body shall have demonstrated experience in the composite wood product industry with at least one type of composite wood product and document the specific product(s) the certification body is competent to certify.
- 6.4 The certification body shall have demonstrated experience in performing or verifying formaldehyde emissions testing on composite wood products, including experience with test methods ASTM E1333-14 and ASTM D6007-14, if used, and experience in evaluating correlation between test methods. If the certification body has demonstrated experience with test method ASTM D6007-14 only, it must be subcontracting testing with a laboratory that has a large chamber as required and demonstrate its experience with ASTM 1333-14.

## **7 PROCESS REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1 The certification body shall meet requirements stipulated in 40 CFR 770.7(c)(4) and 770.20.