



Sunday, March 01, 2015

To Our Valued Customers;

60 Minutes broadcast a report Sunday evening questioning whether or not Lumber Liquidators has knowingly been importing and selling laminate flooring that failed to meet California CARB II test standards. These standards have been instituted to regulate the level of Formaldehyde used in a product.

CBS' report says that Lumber Liquidators purchased non-compliant products and labeled them as compliant. The report says this was an effort to gain a considerable price advantage.

It is possible that the laminate flooring industry here and in China will be unfairly tarnished as a result of this report. I believe that would be a mistake. It is my opinion that the program aired this evening exposed the alleged unscrupulous business practices of one company and not the entire industry.

Here's my position and the position of the company I founded and run today.

Feather Lodge™ factories are inspected rigorously and often. I personally visit each factory multiple times per year and employ a team in China to continuously review our products. We test our products randomly and often to make sure they meet or exceed the standards we advertise.

Should you be worried if you have Featherstep Laminate Flooring?

No. Our Featherstep™ Laminate Flooring is produced using the highest quality **HDF** (High Density Fiberboard) core available. This core and our flooring meet the European Standard of E1. E1 is the symbol to indicate emission class. The emission classes denote the amount of formaldehyde released from the glue used in these wood-based materials. The classes are E1, E2, and E3, with the class E1 having the lowest amount of emission. Classes are assigned based on testing. In this scenario, a test piece of wood is subjected to moving air kept at a constant temperature inside of a testing room. The amount of formaldehyde that is released is then measured and given a value in parts per million (ppm). This value must not exceed 0.1 ppm. The California CARB II standard discussed in the 60 Minutes report requires an E0 rating. E0 is a relatively new standard and as of now required only in the state of California. E1 has been the standard in Europe and the United States for over a decade. The alleged test results reported on tonight's program, if accurate, fall well short of achieving a rating that of E0 or E1.

As a homeowner I believe you should look for flooring rated E0, E1, and CARB II for the most environmentally sound investment.

Tonight's program was informative and I applaud the investigative journalism that exposes those companies and individuals who place profit ahead of safety, integrity, and fairness.

The vast majority of laminate flooring companies in the US and in China play by the rules. That's the way it should be and that's the way I run my company.

Tom Winter
President
TP Brands International, Inc

