NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

To:	Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation – State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth St, Suite 222 Sacramento, CA 95814-5502	**From:**	South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 1136 – Wood Products Coatings

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction, which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Rule 1136 regulates emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from coatings, strippers, and solvents used in the manufacture, refinishing, and maintenance of wood products, including furniture, cabinets, shutters, and other coated wood materials. Proposed Amended Rule 1136 (PAR 1136) partially implements 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) control measure CTS-01 – Further Emission Reductions from Coatings, Solvents, Adhesives, and Lubricants to phase out the use of para-Chlorobenzotrifluoride (pCBtF) and tert-Butyl Acetate (t-BAc) in primers, coatings, sealants and maskants products due to toxicity concerns. PAR 1136 proposes to: 1) maintain the existing VOC limits for wood products coatings and strippers; 2) add a prohibition schedule for pCBtF and t-BAc in wood coatings and paint strippers, including sell-through and use-through periods designed to address stranded inventory concerns; 3) add optional alternative Product-Weighted Maximum Incremental Reactivity (PW-MIR) VOC limits for the major coating categories; 4) reorganize and update test methods to improve clarity and consistency with other South Coast AQMD coating rules; and 5) add labeling requirements for wood coating materials that elect to comply with the alternative PW-MIR VOC limits. Phasing out and limiting pCBtF and t-BAc emissions in PAR 1136 will benefit workers, nearby receptors, and the public by reducing the potential risk of exposure to these toxic chemicals.

Public Agency Approving Project:	**Agency Carrying Out Project:**
South Coast Air Quality Management District	South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:
CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 1136) pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that implementation of PAR 1136 may have a significant adverse effect on the environment because the PW-MIR limits will allow facilities to eliminate the use of toxic compounds pCBtF and t-Bac without increasing ozone. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption.

Date of Project Approval: South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: June 5, 2026		
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Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:** *June 5, 2026*

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