

ATTACHMENT A

Voluntary Product Stewardship Programs

- o In September 1994, OPPT signed a voluntary Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA) with industry (National Particleboard Association) for a pilot study of formaldehyde exposure testing in newly-constructed single family housing.
- o Exposure testing of the type carried out in the study is aimed at resolving significant technical issues that have importance for the Agency's ongoing TSCA regulatory investigation of formaldehyde-emitting pressed wood products and their impact on indoor air quality.
- o This undertaking was unique for OPPT in that it involved the development and negotiation of OPPT's first CRDA under the Technology Transfer Act of 1986. Under the CRDA, EPA and industry worked together cooperatively on the pilot study, with EPA providing its technical expertise in conducting field exposure studies, and industry providing the resources – including \$460,000 in direct payments to EPA – and related testing services.
- o The study was aimed at demonstrating the feasibility of a test protocol that could be used in a larger, follow-on testing effort to collect data that is needed by EPA to evaluate the impact of emissions from pressed wood building materials on indoor formaldehyde concentrations in newly-constructing housing.
- o The final report on the pilot study was completed in March, 1996. OPPT is currently preparing a Federal Register notice which will announce the public availability of the final report and describe EPA plans for obtaining a peer-review of the report which will provide EPA with important perspectives for considering the future course of the formaldehyde exposure testing initiative and the TSCA regulatory investigation.