

CPSC Press Statement Regarding Drywall and Phosphogypsum

Responding to recent news accounts about the possibility of imported drywall containing radioactive phosphogypsum, federal and state agency radiation laboratories analyzed multiple samples of drywall obtained by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH). Twenty-one samples were analyzed from homes and manufacturers of drywall. Seventeen were obtained by CPSC from manufacturers and suppliers in multiple states, and four were obtained by FLDOH from homes exhibiting copper corrosion, odors and occupant complaints. Results of the phosphogypsum testing showed levels that do not pose a radiation safety risk to families.

FLDOH's Radiation Laboratory and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) analyzed the samples for evidence of phosphogypsum contamination. Evaluation of the analysis by a federal and state technical team of scientists from CPSC, EPA, FLDOH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, and Virginia Department of Health has concluded that the samples had no elevated levels of radioactivity. The levels were comparable to "background" levels found in soil, brick and concrete.

Federal and state scientists believe that imported and domestically-manufactured drywall associated with these samples does not pose a radiological concern to consumers. Intensive investigative efforts to find answers and solutions to the drywall issue are continuing on multiple tracks.