

USE OF SIX SIGMA TOOLS FOR PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENT IN A
CARB 2 WORLD

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ABSTRACT

The North American composite panel industry, as well as panel producers in the rest of the world, made the transition to meeting the California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards beginning with Phase 1 in 2009 and continuing through Phase 2 implementation beginning in 2011. The phase 2 levels, when taken in context represent one of the most stringent, if not the most stringent, formaldehyde standards in the world. This presented challenges to not only the panel producers, but also the resin manufacturers. New products and process improvement in resin manufacturing were required to make this transition and to provide the panel producer with resin products that continued to meet performance criteria as well as ensure conformance with the emission standard.

Momentive Specialty Chemicals has incorporated the use of Six Sigma tools throughout both the resin development and resin manufacturing process and we present some of the challenges of CARB compliance and the tools used to address those challenges as well as continuing improvement activities.