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**NALFA CERTIFICATION SEAL SIGNIFIES GREEN STANDARDS FOR LAMINATE FLOORING PRODUCTS**

**WASHINGTON-** The North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA), the only trade association dedicated solely to the laminate flooring industry, has added environmental requirements to its rigorous testing for laminate flooring products. The NALFA Certification Seal will now reflect what is reasonably expected in the quality and environmental attributes of laminate flooring products.

“Due to the demand by dealers and consumers for green products and the environmentally friendly nature of laminate flooring – easy on natural resources, made from recycled wood or other wood derivatives, recyclable and free of air-damaging chemicals – it makes sense to include an environmental quality standard for laminate flooring products,” says E.C. “Bill” Dearing, president of NALFA.

The new NALFA Certification Seal emphasizes the environmentally friendly nature of the laminate flooring products.

“We feel the new certification seal design encompasses what NALFA is testing for – quality and environmental attributes,” says Dearing. “Products that pass testing earn the NALFA Certification Seal, which helps dealers and consumers sort out quality products and know which products meet green requirements.”

The organization developed the NALFA Certification Seal in 2006 to help dealers and consumers differentiate between the quality of laminate products in the market. All NALFA Certified products will display the new certification seal on the manufacturer’s Web site, product packaging, advertising and additional promotional materials.

The environmental testing includes meeting regulations for laminate flooring core board set forth by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sections 93120-93120.12, title 17, of the California Code of Regulations. Products will be measured for formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

According to the CARB regulations, the purpose is to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products that are sold, supplied, used or manufactured for sale in California. Only products that have passed this testing will be able to be sold, supplied or manufactured for sale in the state of California beginning in January 2009.

In addition to the new environmental requirements, laminate flooring products are subjected to ANSI/NALFA LF-01-2008 Product Standards. Tests include, but are not limited to: static load, thickness swell, impact resistance, light resistance, cleanability/stain resistance, wear resistance, dimensional tolerances and castor chair resistance. Products are approved in four categories: Heavy Commercial, Commercial, Light Commercial and Residential.

NALFA has been setting the standard in the laminate flooring industry for the past 12 years. For a full listing of NALFA certified products or for more information on testing standards, visit [www.nalfa.com](http://www.nalfa.com).

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