## State of Connecticut

GEORGE JEPSEN ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

March 9, 2015

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED & FACSIMILE

Robert M. Lynch President and CEO

E. Livingston Haskell, Esq. General Corporate Counsel & Secretary

Lumber Liquidators 3000 John Deere Road Toano, VA 23168

Facsimile: 302-636-5454

RE: <u>Laminate Lumber – Report of Formaldehyde</u>

## Dear Gentleman:

It has come to my attention through public reports that certain laminate flooring manufactured in China and sold by Lumber Liquidators in the United States may contain levels of formaldehyde that violate federal and other government standards. These reports also raise serious questions about whether Lumber Liquidators mislabeled these products in a way that led consumers to believe that they were compliant with legal standards.

Because you have six retail locations in Connecticut, we are deeply concerned that Connecticut consumers may be purchasing, or may have in the past purchased, flooring containing harmful and unlawful levels of formaldehyde. To address our concerns I ask that you respond to the following:

- (1) State whether Lumber Liquidators has sold laminate flooring manufactured in China in your Connecticut stores and identify any such store;
- (2) For each store identified in response to query '(1)' state the name of the flooring product, when such flooring was sold and the amount sold;

- (3) State whether Lumber Liquidators intends to discontinue the sale of such flooring in Connecticut, including to Connecticut consumers through the internet;
- (4) Explain any protocols Lumber Liquidators has in place to test laminate flooring products for formaldehyde levels;
- (5) To the extent that Lumber Liquidators performed testing for formaldehyde levels please provide the results of such testing of any laminate flooring sold in Connecticut;
- (6) Explain what Lumber Liquidators intends to do with any flooring in stock in Connecticut that violates applicable formaldehyde standards;
- (7) State whether Lumber Liquidators intends to assume financial responsibility for the testing of flooring purchased or installed in consumers' homes in which there is reason to believe excessive formaldehyde levels exist and, if so, please provide details. If Lumber Liquidators does not intend to assume such responsibility, please explain why not;
- (8) State whether Lumber Liquidators intends to compensate consumers who have purchased or had installed flooring containing excessive formaldehyde levels for costs, including costs for removal, disposal and replacement of flooring materials. If so, please provide details. If Lumber Liquidators does not intend to provide such compensation, please explain why not;
- (8) Provide exemplars of all laminate flooring labels, packaging, advertisements or other marketing materials for all laminate flooring sold in Connecticut that contains statements by Lumber Liquidators regarding compliance with any state or federal standards;
- (8) State whether Lumber Liquidators intends to take any other investigative or corrective action in connection with flooring violating applicable formaldehyde standards.

If Lumber Liquidators intends to discontinue sales of any flooring, please identify the flooring by model name and lot number and the date and method of discontinuance. Also, please provide copies of any complaints Lumber Liquidators has received from Connecticut residents regarding formaldehyde and laminate flooring.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please provide a written response to this letter by March 16, 2015. Should you have any questions you may contact Assistant Attorney General Thomas Saadi at 860-808-5443 or Thomas.saadi@ct.gov.

Very truly yours,

George Jepsen Attorney General