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Ashland launches continuing education course on formaldehyde emissions from manufactured interior wood products

WILMINGTON, Del. - In response to marketplace demand, Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) recently launched a free, online learning course for architects, specifiers, interior designers and others. The course, titled "Manufactured Interior Wood Products and Formaldehyde Emissions," is intended to provide accurate and unbiased information on formaldehyde emissions from wood-bonding adhesives used to produce interior wood products. The topic has escalated in importance because formaldehyde has been formally designated as a known human carcinogen by the U.S. government and numerous other governments and governmental agencies in nearly every region of the world.

Wood products such as construction-grade plywood, decorative hardwood plywood, engineered wood flooring, oriented strand board, medium-density fiberboard and particleboard are typically manufactured with adhesives that contain formaldehyde. These products, in turn, are used to produce interior furnishings such as kitchen cabinets, assembled furniture, doors and shelving. Over time, some of the formaldehyde in the adhesive is released into the air, going from its solid form in the adhesive to a gaseous form that may present an exposure risk to humans.

"Because of the link between formaldehyde and cancer, many architects, specifiers and interior designers have expressed a need for information on formaldehyde emissions from interior wood products," said Dwight Chapman, strategic marketing manager for Ashland's Soyad™ adhesive technology. "We developed this course to help separate fact from fiction regarding this issue and familiarize participants in the course with the range of adhesive options available, including wood-bonding adhesives that neither contain nor emit formaldehyde."

Upon completion of the one-hour course, participants should be able to: discuss with clients and others the health and environmental implications of formaldehyde exposure; understand the factors that influence formaldehyde emissions from wood-bonding adhesives; compare the various wood-bonding adhesives and their impact on indoor air quality; and understand the regulatory standards and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements pertaining to wood-bonding adhesives.

The online course is hosted by AEC Daily Corporation, a U.S. Green Building Council education provider. Architects, specifiers, interior designers and others can participate in the free, one-hour course by visiting AEC Daily's website at www.aecdaily.com and typing "Ashland" in the search box. The course can also be accessed directly at: www.aecdaily.com/sponsor/ashland.

In more than 100 countries, the people of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) provide the specialty chemicals, technologies and insights to help customers create new and improved products for today and sustainable solutions for tomorrow. Our chemistry is at work every day in a wide variety of markets and applications, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care, pharmaceutical, tissue and towel, and water treatment. Visit www.ashland.com to see the innovations we offer through our four commercial units - Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials and Ashland Consumer Markets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Media Relations

Carl Heilmann

+1 (904) 256-0323

tcheilmann@ashland.com