Benchmark International, LLC and Fraunhofer WKI – department Quality assessment (QA) Announce New Partnership for certification services

[Benchmark International, LLC (BMH)](#) and [Fraunhofer WKI (QA)](#) are pleased to announce they have entered into a new coordinated services agreement to offer a variety of best-in-class product certification, laboratory test, third-party inspection, and compliance support services to building products manufacturers and importers located worldwide.

By way of introduction, BMH is a leading, independent product certification, inspection, and test agency with over 60 years' experience serving the wood products, concrete, and steel industries. Based in Eugene, Oregon, BMH offers a variety of internationally recognized certification and test services pursuant to U.S. Voluntary Product Standards PS 1 and PS 2, Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS), and other standards. Fraunhofer WKI (QA) is an internationally renowned research institute serving the global wood products, furniture, construction, chemical, packaging, and automotive industries. Through its quality assessment group located in Braunschweig, Germany, Fraunhofer WKI (QA) offers a variety of accredited testing, monitoring, and certification services such as CE1/CE2+, UKCA, VOC emissions, and others.

While our individual qualifications and client-centric approach to service are recognized and respected around the world, our combined capabilities uniquely position BMH and Fraunhofer WKI (QA) to offer one of the most comprehensive and cost-effective suites of product certification, inspection, testing, and compliance support services available to the marketplace. Together, BMH and Fraunhofer WKI (QA) is committed to leveraging the strength of our unique service programs, assessment capabilities, and global resources to help our clients to achieve the following objectives:

- alleviate "*audit fatigue*" by combining available services into one joint assessment that meets the requirements of multiple standards thus reducing the total time or number of assessments needed to maintain the certifications;
- reduce assessment costs and travel expenses by coordinating our individual resources including technical experts, auditors, and laboratory facilities to better serve clients located around the world;
- diversify the scope of certification services available to our clients while enabling them to mitigate potential business risk associated with working with a single certification agency.

The summary below provides a sample of selected service programs that can be bundled together into one comprehensive, efficient, and cost-effective support package. Additional services are also available.

Please contact Chris Battin (chris.battin@benchmark-intl.com) or Maik Matolin (maik.matolin@wki.fraunofer.de) if you would like more information about how BMH and Fraunhofer WKI (QA) can best serve your needs.

Summary of BMH and Fraunhofer WKI (QA) Coordinated Service Capabilities (not all inclusive)

- **U.S. Voluntary Product Standards PS 1-22 and PS 2-18**

  Applies to structural plywood & structural panels (OSB) entering the U.S. market.

- **Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS)**

  Applies to plywood, structural panels, flooring, Glued Laminated Timber (GLULAM), Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) & finger joint structural lumber entering the Japanese market.

- **VOC Green Certification Program**
  (CDPH-EHLB v1.2 2017 & ANSI/BIFMA M7.1)

  Applies to building products and furniture primarily intended for the North American market (meets LEED v4.1, CA Section 01350, Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), and other sustainability standards).

- **EN 314-2 Plywood Bond Performance**

  Applies to manufacturers seeking to verify adhesive bond performance of plywood, laminboard, and blockboard for a variety of end uses.

- **Paper & Composite Wood Sustainability Standard (CWSS)**

  BMH-proprietary sustainable manufacturing certification program available to producers of paper and composite wood products (meets KCMA ESP 01-20 requirements for sustainable product credit).

- **U.S. Lacey Act & EUDR Compliance Consulting & Support**

  BMH-proprietary suite of consulting, supply chain risk assessment, product traceability, training, and related services for manufacturers & importers seeking to mitigate risk and enhance compliance to U.S. & EU regulations.

- **Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 (CE/CE2+)**

  Applies to wood-based panels and other construction products entering the European market.

- **Regulation (GB) 2019 No. 465 (UKCA)**

  Available for construction products including wood-based panels, high-pressure laminates, structural timber, and GLULAM entering the UK market.

- **REAC-H-CHO Formaldehyde Emissions Certification**
  (Regulation (EU) 2023-1464 amending Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation)

  Applies to wood-based materials, furniture, construction products, vehicle interiors and other covered products entering the European market beginning August 6, 2026.

- **"hEN" Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Certification**

  Fraunhofer WKI's (QA) voluntary certification program in connection with harmonized European standards for wood-based panels, flooring and others. Focus is determination of formaldehyde emission.

- **Voluntary Certification Program "ED2020"**

  Fraunhofer WKI (QA) proprietary certification program pursuant to German ordinance on bans and restrictive measures for the marketing of hazardous substances, preparations, and products according to the Chemicals Act.

- **EPA TSCA Title VI, CARB ATCM 93120, & CANFER Formaldehyde Emissions Certification**

  Applies to hardwood and decorative plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard, and laminated products intended for the U.S. and Canadian markets.