



**FEMA**

March 12, 2010

Mr. David Halstead  
Interim Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Dear Mr. Halstead:

We are in receipt of your letter dated March 10, 2010, requesting an Individual Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to assess the impact of residential damages related to the use of problem imported drywall.


Unfortunately, we must decline your request to participate in the Joint PDA. The Joint PDA process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage resulting from an incident declarable under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 ("Stafford Act"). Conditions experienced by individuals from a consumer product safety matter, such as the degradation of imported drywall, does not constitute an emergency or major disaster incident, as contemplated under the Stafford Act.

We are aware of the reports of health problems and significant property damage blamed on the use of imported drywall throughout the country, and understand the difficulties experienced by homeowners potentially impacted by the problem drywall. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is the lead Federal agency investigating reported health and safety issues blamed on the imported drywall, and they are working closely with state law enforcement and health authorities, as well as other Federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Federal Trade Commission, among others, to investigate and assist in this matter.

We encourage you to continue working with the CPSC and its partner agencies to develop a solution for Florida's citizens, and encourage homeowners and municipalities to avail themselves of remedies announced by HUD in December 2009. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lynn Miller".

Major P. May   
Regional Administrator