



GYP SUM ASSOCIATION

**Gypsum Association
January 14, 2009**

Members of the Gypsum Association have become aware of recent reports of problems with gypsum wallboard imported from China during the 2006 – 2007 gypsum wallboard demand surge.

Gypsum wallboard manufactured by members of the Gypsum Association is produced in compliance with consensus standard ASTM C1396, *Standard Specification for Gypsum Board*. Compliance with the C1396 standard is mandated by consensus model building codes in the United States.

Gypsum wallboard produced by members of the Gypsum Association is produced using both natural and synthetic ore. Natural ore is mined and quarried at locations throughout North America and is not imported from other hemispheres. The majority of synthetic gypsum used in the U.S. is a by-product primarily from the desulfurization of flue gases in fossil-fueled power plants. Gypsum Association member companies use only suitable grades of synthetic gypsum in the manufacture of gypsum wallboard. Member companies do not import synthetic ore from other hemispheres. Synthetic gypsum ore used to manufacture gypsum wallboard in the U.S. has the same chemical composition as natural gypsum ore.

According to statistics obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce and compiled by the Gypsum Association, approximately 300 million square feet of gypsum board was imported into the United States directly from China during the period 2006 – 2007. Total gypsum board use in the U.S. during the same period was approximately 65.7 billion square feet of which approximately 65.3 billion square feet were provided by North American sources. All of the gypsum board produced in the United States and Canada during 2006 – 2007 was manufactured by members of the Gypsum Association.

The Gypsum Association is in its 79th year of service as the technical, promotion, and information center of the gypsum industry. The Association, representing gypsum board manufacturing companies located throughout the United States and Canada, is located in Hyattsville, Maryland.