

## LPM Low Pressure Melamine - MDF Panels / Safety Data Sheet

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Australian Panels Pty. Ltd. issues this Safety Data Sheet (SDS), in accordance with Safe Work Australia guidelines. As such the information contained herein must not be altered, deleted or added to. Australian Panels Pty. Ltd. will issue a new SDS when there is a change in product specifications and/or Safe Work Australia guidelines/restrictions. Australian Panels Pty. Ltd. will not accept any responsibility for any changes made to its SDS in content by any other person or organisation.

## 1 IDENTIFICATION

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**Product Name** Polytec Low Pressure Melamine panels, Laminated Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF).

**Use** Construction of furniture, cabinets and doors, genreal purpose building boards.

## 2 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Not classified as hazardous according to ASCC Criteria.

Dust from the dry product is classified as a hazardous substance according to the criteria of Safe Work Australia.

**UN Number** None Allocated.

**Hazchem Code** None Allocated.

**Packing Group** None Allocated.

**Dangerous Goods Class** None Allocated.

**Poisons Schedule Number** None Allocated.

## 3 COMPOSITION AND INFORMATION OF INGREDIENTS

INGREDIENT	CAS No.	CONTENT
Plantation soft wood	None	> 80 %
Melamine Urea Formaldehyde (MUF) resin	25036-13-9	< 20 %
Decorative paper	None	< 2 %
Paraffin wax	8002-74-2	< 1 %

**Note:** Melamine Urea Formaldehyde is used in MDF boards. The above ingredients are bound together under heat and pressure. The process cures the resin, but small amount of formaldehyde from the resin may be released from the finished product. Formaldehyde content in the finished product complies with the Australian Standard (AS/NZS 1859.2) E0 requirement when tested to AS/NZS 4266.16 (Desiccator test).

## 4 FIRST-AID MEASURES

**Ingestion** Unlikely to occur. Give water to drink. If abdominal discomfort occurs, seek medical attention.

**Inhalation** If inhaled, remove from the contaminated area. Apply artificial respiration if not breathing.

**sEye Contact** Flush with flowing water for at least 15 minutes, and if symptoms persist, seek medical attention.

**Skin Contact** Wash with mild soap and running water. Remove clothing contaminated with wood dust.

**Advice to Doctor** Treat symptomatically.

## 5 FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

**Flammability** These boards are flammable but difficult to ignite. Fine airborne dust can ignite so avoid a build-up of dust, keep all storage, and work areas well ventilated. Avoid sources of radiant heat and flame; and avoid sparks and sources of ignition in all electrical equipment, including dust extraction equipment. People must not smoke in storage or work areas.

**Fire & Explosion** Dry wood dust in high concentrations-in-air and at the temperatures >204°C (>40g of dust per m<sup>3</sup> of air) may spontaneously explode. Burning or smouldering boards or dust can generate carbon dioxide and other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material, which are irritating to the respiratory tract.

**Extinguishing** Wear full protective equipment including Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) when combating fire. Use water, CO<sub>2</sub>, foam or dry chemical fire extinguishers and avoid breathing smoke from burning or smouldering material. Prevent contamination of drains or waterways.

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## 6 ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**Spills and Disposal** Off-cuts, general waste material and protective plastic film should be placed in containers and disposed of at approved landfill sites, or burnt in an approved furnace or incinerator, in accordance with disposal authority guidelines.

DO NOT BURN in barbecues, combustion stoves or any open fires in home as irritating gases are emitted.

Dust from the boards should be cleaned up by vacuuming or wet sweeping.

## 7 HANDLING AND STORAGE

**Handling** Before use carefully read the product label. Use of safe work practices are recommended to avoid eye or skin contact and inhalation. Observe good personal hygiene, including washing hands before eating. Prohibit eating, drinking and smoking in contaminated areas.

**Storage** The panels should be stored in well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat, flame or sparks.

## 8 EXPOSURE CONTROLS AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

**Exposure Standard** The Safe Work Australia Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants, published in December 2019 are as follows:

SUBSTANCE	EXPOSURE STANDARD			
	TWA		STEL	
	ppm	mg/m <sup>3</sup>	ppm	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Wood dust (soft wood)</b>	–	5	–	10
	It is also listed as a sensitiser.			
<b>Formaldehyde</b>	1	1.2	2	2.5
	It is also listed as a sensitiser. Category 2 carcinogen (probable human carcinogen).			
<b>Paraffin wax (fume)</b>	–	2	–	–
	Keep exposures as low as practicable with the aim of maintaining inspirable wood dust levels below 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (TWA).			

**Engineering Controls** All work with these boards should be carried out in such a way as to minimise the generation of, and exposure to dust. Under factory conditions, sawing, drilling, sanding etc. should be done with equipment fitted with exhaust devices capable of removing wood dust, at source. Hand power tools should be fitted with dust bags and used in well-ventilated areas. Work areas should be well ventilated. They should be cleaned at least daily, and dust removed by vacuum cleaning or wet sweeping method. It is recommended that all work and storage areas are smoke free and other airborne contaminants be kept to a minimum.

### PERSONAL PROTECTION

**Skin Protection** Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers are recommended to prevent skin irritation. After handling boards, wash with mild soap and water. Do not scratch or rub the skin if it becomes irritated. Wash work clothes regularly and separately from other clothes. Comfortable lightweight leather or equivalent work gloves (AS 2161) should be worn.

**Eye Protection** Dust resistant safety glasses or non-fogging goggles (AS/NZS 1336/1337) should be worn when machining.

**Respiratory Protection** A Class P1 or P2 replaceable filter or disposable half face-piece particulates respirator should be worn when machining. Respirators should comply with AS/NZS 1716 and be selected, used and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1715.

## 9 PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Appearance** The boards are manufactured as pressed boards ranging in thickness from 3mm to 33mm. They are made from plantation wood fibres or flakes, which are bonded together with resin (glue). The product is surfaced with a decorative paper impregnated with resin.

**Odour** Newly manufactured and freshly cut surfaces may have a paint, pine, and resin odour.

**Boiling Point (°C)** Not Applicable.

**Vapour Pressure (MPa)** Not Applicable.

**Flash Point (°C)** Not Applicable.

**Solubility in Water** Negligible.

**Melting Point (°C)** Not Applicable.

**Specific Gravity (water=1)** 0.6 – 0.8.

**Flammability Limits** Not Applicable.

**Autoignition Temperature (°C)** Does not auto ignite in its intact state.

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**EARLY FIRE HAZARD INDICES TO AS 1530.3**

<b>Ignitability Index</b>	12 – 14
<b>Spread of flame index</b>	5 – 7
<b>Heat evolved index</b>	4 – 6
<b>Smoke developed index</b>	3 – 5

**10 STABILITY AND REACTIVITY**

**Chemical Stability** Stable under recommended conditions of storage.

**Conditions to Avoid** Avoid heat, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources.

**Material to Avoid** Incompatible with oxidising agents (e.g. nitrates) and acids (e.g. hydrochloric acid).

**Hazardous Decomposition Products** May evolve toxic gases (carbon/nitrogen oxides, ammonia, formaldehyde, hydrocarbons) when heated to decomposition. May also evolve hydrogen cyanide.

**Hazardous Reactions** Polymerization is not expected to occur.

**11 TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION****HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION**

Formaldehyde gas may be released under some conditions. However, in well-ventilated storage areas and workplaces, the concentration of formaldehyde is unlikely to exceed the World Health Organisation standard of 0.1 ppm for the general environment and it will be well below the Safe Work Australia occupational Exposure Standard of 1.0 ppm. Wood dust will be given off from machining the product, and gas and vapour may be produced from heat processing. The known health effects from wood dust and formaldehyde are as follows:

**Wood Dust** Dust and splinters may cause irritation of the nose and throat, eyes and skin. Some woods may also be sensitizers, and some people may develop allergic dermatitis or asthma. Inhalation of wood dust may increase the risk of nasal and para nasal sinus cancer. Wood dust has been evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as group 1, carcinogenic to humans.

**Formaldehyde** Formaldehyde gas and dilute solution of formaldehyde in water are irritating to the nose and throat, eyes and skin. The solutions are also sensitizers and contact dermatitis has been reported.

Formaldehyde has been evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as group 2A, probably carcinogenic to humans. The IARC again evaluated formaldehyde in June 2004 and concluded that: "There are adequate data available from humans for an increased risk of nasopharyngeal cancer" and that formaldehyde should now be classified as Group 1, carcinogenic to humans.

Safe Work Australia has listed Formaldehyde as Sensitizer and Category 2 carcinogen (probable human carcinogen) as "those substances for which there is sufficient evidence to provide a strong presumption that human exposure may result in the development of cancer. This evidence is generally based on appropriate long term animal studies, limited epidemiological evidence or other relevant information".

Exposures to wood dust produced from machining the products, and gas and vapour from heat processing with inadequate ventilation may result in the following health effects:

**HEALTH EFFECTS****Acute**

**Ingestion** Unlikely to occur but swallowing the dust may result in abdominal discomfort.

**Inhalation** The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the nose, throat and lungs, especially in people with upper respiratory tract or chest complaints such as asthma. Inhalation of airborne particles from other sources in the work environment, including those from cigarette smoke, may increase the risk of contracting the lung disease associated with exposure to dust from this product. Australian Panels Pty. Ltd. thus recommends that all work and storage areas be well ventilated, smoke free zones and other airborne contaminants be kept to a minimum.

**Eye Contact** The dust, gas and vapour may be irritating to the eyes causing discomfort and redness.

**Skin Contact** The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the skin, resulting in itching and occasionally a red rash.

**Chronic**

Repeated exposure over many years to uncontrolled wood dust may increase the risk of nasal cavity cancer. Inhalation of wood dust may also increase the risk of lung fibrosis (scarring). There are also increased risks of respiratory and skin sensitisation from wood dust and formaldehyde resulting in asthma and dermatitis respectively. If the work practices noted in this SDS are followed and exposure to airborne dust are kept to a minimum, no chronic health effects are anticipated.

**12 ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**Environment** Limited ecotoxicity data was available for this product at the time this report was prepared. Ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent this product from entering the environment.

**13 DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Waste Disposal** Reuse where possible. Not regulated as a hazardous waste by Australian environmental authorities. Off-cuts and general waste material should be placed in containers and disposed of at approved landfill sites or burnt in an approved furnace or incinerator in accordance with disposal authority guidelines. Do not burn in barbecues, combustion stoves or open fires in the home as irritating gases may be evolved.

**Legislation** Dispose of in accordance with relevant local legislation.

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## 14 TRANSPORT INFORMATION

NOT CLASSIFIED AS A DANGEROUS GOOD BY THE CRITERIA OF THE ADG CODE.

No special transport requirements are considered necessary.

## 15 REGULATORY INFORMATION

**Poison Schedule** A poison schedule number has not been allocated to this product using the criteria in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP).

**AICS** All chemicals listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS).

## 16 OTHER INFORMATION

**Respirators** In general, the use of respirators should be limited and engineering controls employed to avoid exposure. If respiratory equipment must be worn, ensure correct respirator selection and training is undertaken. Remember that some respirators may be extremely uncomfortable when used for long periods. The use of air powered or air supplied respirators should be considered where prolonged or repeated use is necessary.

**Combustible - Explosive Carbonaceous Dust** Carbonaceous/organic dusts have the potential, with dispersion, to present an explosion hazard if an ignition source exists. All equipment used to handle, transfer or store this product MUST BE cleaned thoroughly prior to cutting, welding, drilling or exposure to any other form of heat or ignition sources. If bulk stored, containers should be ventilated on a routine basis to avoid vapour accumulation (where applicable, e.g. for flocculants).

**Health Effects from Exposure** It should be noted that the effects from exposure to this product would depend on several factors including: frequency and duration of use; quantity used; effectiveness of control measures; protective equipment used and method of application. Given that, it is impractical to prepare a Chem Alert report, which would encompass all possible scenarios, it is anticipated that users will assess the risks and apply control methods where appropriate.

**Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines** The recommendation for protective equipment contained within this Chem Alert report is provided as a guide only. Factors such as method of application, working environment, quantity used, product concentration and the availability of engineering controls should be considered before final selection of personal protective equipment is made.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**CAS No.** Chemical Abstract Service number - used to uniquely identify chemical compounds.

**CNS** Central Nervous System.

**IARC** International Agency for Research on Cancer.

**LPM** Low Pressure Melamine.

**M** Moles per litre, a unit of concentration.

**MDF** Medium Density Fibreboard.

**mg/m<sup>3</sup>** Milligrams per cubic metre.

**MUF** Melamine Urea Formaldehyde.

**ppm** Parts Per Million.

**STEL** Short Term Exposure Limit. The time-weighted average maximum airborne concentration of a substance calculated over a 15 minute period.

**TWA/ES** Time Weighted Average or Exposure Standard. The maximum average airborne concentration of a substance when calculated over an eight-hour working day, for a five-day working week.

## CONTACT

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