



far east american, inc.

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PRODUCT NAMES: Imported Hardwood Plywood (Urea-Formaldehyde Bonded)

SYNONYMS: None

DESCRIPTION This panel product contains a hardwood veneer face (occasionally a decorative softwood face) bonded to wood components such as other wood veneer, particleboard, or medium density fiberboard (MDF) using urea-formaldehyde resin.

POTENTIAL AIRBORNE RELEASES The product may release small quantities of formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0) in gaseous form. Emissions decrease through time as the panels age. Manual or mechanical cutting or abrasion processes performed on the product can result in generation of wood dust.

PHYSICAL DATA

Boiling Point Not applicable

Specific Gravity (H2O = 1) <1

Vapor Density Not applicable

% Volatiles By Vol. 0

Melting Point Not applicable

Vapor Pressure Not applicable

Solubility in H2O (% by wt.) <0.1%

Evaporation Rate (Butyl Acetate = 1) Not applicable

pH Not applicable

Appearance and Odor Light to dark color. Color and odor are dependent upon wood species.

\*This fact sheet is for products that have not been finished (coated, laminated, or overlaid) or treated (for example, with preservative or fire retardant).

FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

Flash Point Not Applicable

Auto Ignition Temperature Not available (will depend upon duration of exposure to heat source and other variables)

Explosive Limits in Air See below under "Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards"

Extinguishing Media Water, Carbon dioxide, Sand

Special Fire Fighting Procedures None

Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards Sawing, sanding or machining can produce dust as a by-product, which may present an explosion hazard if a dust cloud contacts an ignition source. An airborne concentration of 40 grams of dust per cubic meter of air is often used as the LEL for wood dust.

REACTIVITY DATA

Conditions Contributing to Instability Stable under normal conditions.

Incompatibility Avoid contact with oxidizing agents. Avoid open flame. Product may ignite in excess of 400° F.

Hazardous Decomposition Products Thermal and/or thermal oxidative decomposition can produce irritating and and toxic fumes and gases, including carbon

Hazardous Polymerization monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, aldehydes, organic acids and polynuclear aromatic compounds.  
Not applicable

HEALTH EFFECTS INFORMATION

Exposure Limits:

Formaldehyde OSHA PEL-TWA 0.75 ppm  
OSHA PEL-STEL 2 ppm  
ACGIH TLV-CEILING 0.3 ppm

Wood Dust (all soft and hard woods except Western red cedar) OSHA PEL-TWA 5mg/m3  
OSHA PEL-STEL 10mg/m3  
Wood Dust (Western red cedar) OSHA PEL-TWA 2.5MG/M3  
Wood Dust (Softwood) ACGIH TLV-TWA 5mg/m3  
Wood dust (certain hardwoods such as beech and oak)

Eye Contact ACGIH TLV-TWA 1mg/m3  
Gaseous formaldehyde may cause temporary irritation or a burning sensation. Wood dust can cause mechanical irritation. Both formaldehyde and various species of wood may evoke allergic contact dermatitis in sensitized individuals.

Skin Contact Not likely to occur.

Ingestion

Inhalation:

Gaseous Formaldehyde May cause temporary irritation to eyes, nose, and throat. Some reports suggest that formaldehyde may cause respiratory sensitization, such as asthma, and that pre-existing respiratory disorders may be aggravated by exposure. Formaldehyde is listed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a probable human carcinogen. The National Toxicology Program (NTP) includes formaldehyde in the Annual Report on Carcinogen. Formaldehyde is regulated by OSHA as a potential cancer agent. In studies involving rats, formaldehyde has been shown to cause nasal cancer after long-term exposure to very high concentration (14+ppm). Far above those normally found in the workplace using this product. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) conducted an epidemiological study of industrial workers exposed to formaldehyde (published June 1986). The NCI concluded that the data provides little evidence that mortality from cancer is associated with formaldehyde exposure at the levels experienced by workers in the study.

Wood dust May cause nasal dryness, irritation and obstruction. Coughing, wheezing, and sneezing, sinusitis and prolonged colds have also been reported. Depending on species, may cause respiratory sensitization and/or irritation. Prolonged exposure to wood dust has been reported by some observers to be associated with nasal cancer. Wood dust is not listed as a carcinogen by IARC, NTP, or OSHA.

GENERALLY APPLICABLE CONTROL MEASURE

Formaldehyde: Provide adequate ventilation to reduce the possible buildup of formaldehyde gas, particularly when high temperatures occur.

Wood Dust: Avoid dusty conditions and provide good ventilation.

GENERALLY APPLICABLE CONTROL MEASURE

Ventilation: Provide adequate general and local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne contaminant concentration levels below the OSHA PELs.