polytec

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Technical Data Sheet

High Pressure Laminate (HPL)

Important Notice

Porta Products 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. Porta Products Pty. Ltd. will issue a new SDS when there is a change in product specifications and/or Safe Work Australia guidelines/restrictions. Porta Products 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: High Pressure Decorative Laminates, HPL, (Compact and Benchtop Laminates).

Use: Decorative surfacing of furniture, toilet partition, benchtops, walls, ceilings, floors and doors.

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
Kraft paper	None	< 70 %
Phenol Formaldehyde (PF) resin	9003-35-4	< 35 %
Melamine Formaldehyde (MF) resin	9003-08-1	< 15 %
Decorative paper	None	< 2 %
Plasticisers	25322-68-3	< 1 %

Note: The above ingredients are bound together under heat and pressure. The process cures the resin, and bonds all the layers of papers to form a flat sheet.

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.

Eye 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 laminates 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 laminate dust in high concentrations-in-air and at the temperatures >204°C (>40g of dust per m^3 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_2, foam or dry chemical fire extinguishers and avoid breathing smoke from burning or smouldering material. Prevent contamination of drains or waterways.

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 alternately burnt in an approved furnace or incinerator, in accordance with disposal authority guidelines.

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

Dust from the laminates 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 laminates 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^3	ppm	mg/m^3
Wood dust (soft wood)	–	5	–	10
	It is also listed as a sensitiser.			
Formaldehyde	1	1.2	2	2.5
	It is also listed as a sensitiser. Category 2 carcinogen (probable human carcinogen).			
Paraffin wax (fume)	–	2	–	–
	Keep exposures as low as practicable with the aim of maintaining inspirable wood dust levels below 1.0 mg/m^3(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 products are manufactured as high pressure laminates ranging in thickness from 0.5mm to 30mm. Compact Laminate is essentially thick sheet of HPL and also known as "Solid Phenolic". They are made from layers of phenol formaldehyde resin impregnated papers surfaced with decorative papers impregnated with melamine formaldehyde resin that are bonded together under heat and pressure.
Odour	Newly manufactured laminates and freshly cut surfaces may have a 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)	1.1 – 1.5
Flammability Limits	Not Applicable.
Autoignition Temperature (°C)	Does not auto ignite in its intact state.

EARLY FIRE HAZARD INDICES TO AS/NZS 1530.3	
Ignitability Index	10 – 14
Spread of flame index	0 – 8
Heat evolved index	2 – 6
Smoke developed index	2 – 4

Average Specific Extinction Area for HPL as per AS/NZS 3837 : 62.6 m^2/kg

Classified as Group 1 in accordance with specification C1.10 section 4 of BCA.

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:

Laminate Dust: Dust and splinters may cause irritation of the nose and throat, eyes and skin. Some woods may also be sensitisers, and some people may develop allergic dermatitis or asthma. Inhalation of laminate dust may increase the risk of nasal and para nasal sinus cancer. Laminate 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 sensitisers 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 Sensitiser 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. Porta Products 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 laminate dust may increases the risk of nasal cavity cancer. Inhalation of laminate dust may also increase the risk of lung fibrosis (scarring). There are also increased risks of respiratory and skin sensitisation from laminate 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 barbeques, combustion stoves or open fires in the home as irritating gases may be evolved.

Legislation: Dispose of in accordance with relevant local government legislation.

14. Transport Information

Not classified as a dangerous good by the criteria of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (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.

HPL: High Pressure Laminate.

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer.

M: Moles per litre, a unit of concentration.

MF: Melamine Formaldehyde.

mg/m³: Milligrams per cubic metre.

PF: Phenol 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.

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Contact

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