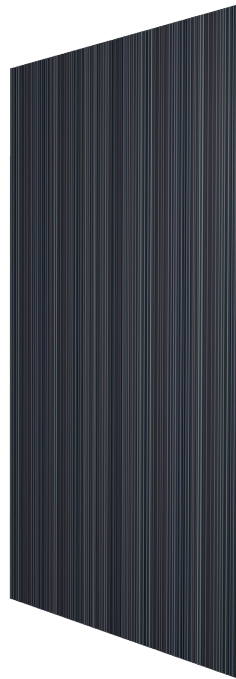


### Laminate Panelling



Information described within this document is relevant to the composition of -

- Wetwall Laminate Panels

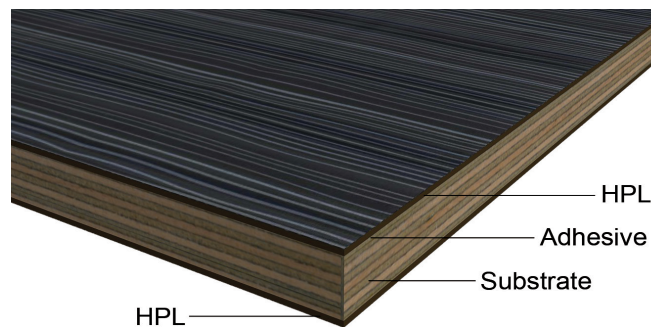
Helps to provide advice for their handling, processing, use, and disposal. Wetwall Laminate Panels are not classified as a hazardous substance and therefore they do not require special marking or a description by a safety data sheet.

Technical Information is provided for:

1. Description and composition
2. Storage and Transportation
3. Handling and Machining of HPL Elements
4. Environmental and Health Aspects in Use
5. Maintenance
6. HPL Elements in Fire Situations
7. Energy Recovery
8. Waste Disposal
9. Technical Data
10. Care and Cleaning Recommendations

Note: this document should be read in conjunction with any care leaflet / booklets provided with the panels.

## Laminate Panelling



### 1.0 Description, composition and uses

For the purpose of this product data sheet, Wetwall Laminate Panels are defined as composite boards consisting of E1 quality wood based substrates (Plywood or MDF) faced both sides with HPL, bonded normally with PVAc adhesives. The components must comply with the following standards:

- High pressure laminates (HPL): EN 438
- Wood based substrates: Plywood: EN 636-3
- Wood based substrates: MDF EN 622-5
- Adhesives: EN 204

#### 1.1 Decorative surfacing material – HPL

The laminates referred to are melamine surfaced high pressure decorative laminates (HPL), supplied in sheet form in a variety of sizes, thickness and surface finishes. Laminates basically consist of paper and thermosetting synthetic resin, paper comprising more than 60 % of the product.

#### 1.2 Substrate

Wood based substrates are produced by pressing wood in various forms (fibres, chips or veneers) with thermosetting bonding agents. They comprise a quality with a minimum formaldehyde emission potential (measured according to EN 120), meeting the requirements of national regulations, and are therefore officially accepted for indoor use.

#### 1.3 Adhesive

Normally the HPL is bonded to the substrate using water based PVAc adhesives forming an inert glue line.

#### 1.4 Backing laminate - HPL

The backing laminate is a non-decorative compensator with the same characteristics as the decorative face laminate.

### Intended Uses / Areas of Application

Due to their functionality Wetwall Laminate Panels are generally used in bathrooms, kitchens and offices, but also for shop fitting solutions and commercial applications.

### 2.0 Storage and Transportation

Horizontal, flat storage in enclosed dry areas (approximately 20 °C and between 55 - 65 % relative humidity) to exclude warping or dimensional changes due to climatic conditions.

**NOTE: Vertical storage is NOT recommended.**

For transportation, Wetwall Laminate Panels are classified as a non-hazardous product; therefore no labelling is required.

## Laminate Panelling

### 3.0 Handling and Machining of HPL Elements

The usual safety requirements of fabrication and machining should be observed when handling Wetwall Laminate Panels, including the correct choice of tooling. Because of the possibility of sharp edges protective gloves should always be worn when handling HPL Elements.

The contact with dust from Wetwall Laminate Panels does not present any special problems, however a small percentage of personnel may be sensitive or even allergic to machining dust in general. Exposure to inhalation of wood dust must be controlled in accordance with limits specified in the national regulations. Work areas should be well ventilated.

### 4.0 Environmental and Health Aspects in Use

The decorative surfaces of HPL laminated elements are cured and therefore chemically inert. HPL formaldehyde emission level is far below the limit for wood based materials. Due to their very low permeability, HPL bonded to wood based substrates act as a barrier against possible formaldehyde emissions coming from the substrates. There is no migration affecting food and, consequently, the HPL surface is approved for contact with foodstuffs.

The decorative surfaces are resistant to common household solvents and chemicals, and have therefore been used for many years in applications where cleanliness and hygiene are important.

The non-porous surface is easy to disinfect with hot water, steam and common types of disinfectants used in hospitals and other commercial facilities.

Wetwall Laminate Panels are an article and not a chemical substance and therefore REACH does not apply.

### 5.0 Maintenance

As HPL surfaces do not suffer from corrosion and oxidation, they do not need any further surface protection (lacquers or paints).

### 6.0 Fire Situations

As wooden materials are used as substrates Wetwall Laminate Panels have fire characteristics similar to other wood based products. For their use as building materials, they must be classified according to national fire performance regulations.

Due to incomplete burning, as with many organic materials, hazardous substances are to be found in the smoke.

In dealing with fires in which Wetwall Laminate Panels are involved the same firefighting techniques should be employed as with other wood based building materials.

### 7.0 Energy Recoveries

On account of their high calorific value (15 - 18 MJ/kg) HPL Elements are ideal for thermal recycling. When burnt completely, they produce water, carbon dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, similar to the burning process of any other organic wood based materials.

Well controlled burning processes are achieved in modern, officially approved industrial incinerators. Ashes of this process can be brought to controlled waste disposal sites.

### 8.0 Waste Disposal

HPL Elements can be brought to controlled waste disposal sites according to current national and/or regional regulations.

**Laminate Panelling****9.0 Technical Data****9.1 Physical/chemical characteristics**

- 9.1.1 Physical state Solid sheets
- 9.1.2 Density  $\geq 0,6$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>
- 9.1.3 Solubility Insoluble in water, oil, methanol, diethyl ether, n-octanol, acetone
- 9.1.4 Melting point HPL do not melt
- 9.1.5 Calorific value 15 - 18 MJ/kg
- 9.1.6 Heavy Metals Do not contain toxic compounds of antimony, Heavy metals, barium cadmium, chromium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium.

**9.2 Stability and reactivity data**

- 9.2.1 Stability Stable: they are not considered to be reactive or corrosive.
- 9.2.2 Hazardous reactions None
- 9.2.3 Material incompatibility Strong acids or alkaline solutions will stain the surface

**9.3 Fire and explosion data**

- 9.3.1 Ignition temperature Approx. 330 °C
- 9.3.2 Flash point None
- 9.3.3. Auto-ignition None
- 9.3.4 Thermal decomposition Possible above 160 °C. Like wood, toxic gases may be emitted, e.g. carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, depending upon the burning conditions (temperature, amount of oxygen, etc.).
- 9.3.5 Flammability Not considered to be flammable. They will burn only in a fire situation, in presence of open flames.
- 9.3.6 Extinguishing media Considered as Class A combustible material. Carbon dioxide, water spray, dry chemical foam can be used to extinguish flames. Water dampens and prevents rekindling. Wear self breathing apparatus and fire protective clothing.
- 9.3.7 Explosion hazards Machining, sawing, sanding and routing produce dust. Safety precautions and adequate ventilation must be observed to avoid airborne dust concentration.
- 9.3.8 Explosion limits Dust levels should be kept below 60 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
- 9.3.9 Protection against In the case of fire HPL Elements shall be treated as wood based explosion and fire materials.

**9.4 Electrostatic behaviour**

Minimises the generation of charge by contact-separation or rubbing with another material. It does not need to be earthed. HPL surface resistivity is between 10<sup>9</sup> – 10<sup>12</sup> ohms and a chargeability of V < 2 kV according to CEI IEC 61340-4-1 so that HPL are considered as antistatic material.

**9.5 Storage and transport**

Classified as non-hazardous for transportation purposes and there are no specific requirements.

## Laminate Panelling

### 9.6 Machining

Use gloves to protect from sharp edges and safety glasses to prevent eyes injury. No special working equipment is necessary, except protections to minimise dust exposure.

### 9.7 Disposal considerations

Waste material should be handled according to local regulations. Burning is permitted in approved industrial incinerators.

### 9.8 Health information

Not considered to be dangerous for humans and animals. There is no evidence of toxicological effects and eco-toxicity. HPL surfaces are physiologically safe and approved for use in contact with foodstuffs according to EN 1186.

9.8.1 Working areas General dust regulations are applicable.

9.8.2 Formaldehyde emission < 3,5 mg/h m<sup>2</sup> (tested according to EN 717-2) < 0.05 ppm (tested according to EN 717-1 (WKI chamber method)).

### 10.0 Care and cleaning recommendations

Due to their resistant and hygienic, dense surface, Wetwall Laminate Panels do not require any special form of care. The surfaces are generally easy to clean. As a general rule, dirt and spilled substances such as tea, coffee, wine etc. should be cleaned immediately as the cleaning effort increases if they are left to dry. When necessary, cleaning should be done with non-aggressive agents. Cleaning agents must in particular not contain any abrasive components, as they may adversely affect the gloss level or scratch the surface. Due to everything from light and fresh to severe and stubborn stains being possible in daily uses, which are caused by the most varied substances, correct cleaning is an important matter. The following instructions should be observed in daily use:

- Laminate surfaces should not be used as a cutting surface as this can also leave cutting marks on highly resistant laminate surfaces.
- Spilled liquids should always be cleaned up immediately, especially in the areas around cut-outs and joints as prolonged exposure to some substances may cause a change in the gloss appearance of the laminate surface.

These recommendations apply especially to matt and gloss laminate surfaces. These have a distinctive look and feel, but have a greater tendency to show wear and tear.

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All information is based on the current state of technical knowledge, but it does not constitute any form of guarantee.

It is the personal responsibility of the users of the products, described in this information leaflet to comply with the appropriate laws and regulations.