

AUSTRALIAN WOOD VENEERED BOARDS FORMALDEHYDE-SAFE

Formaldehyde is a useful ingredient in many common household products, including cleaning agents and synthetic fabrics, and is widely used as a medical disinfectant. Like most substances there is a safe level, and a level where it may be hazardous to health.

Members of the Decorative Wood Veneers Association (DWVA) use E0 and E1 boards as substrates for decorative wood veneers, and so comply with the lowest permitted levels of formaldehyde emission.

To ensure that gluing veneers to wood panels would not affect the formaldehyde classification of the substrate, the DWVA has had samples tested in a NATA-registered laboratory.

Some wood glues are formaldehyde-based, and Australian Standards limit the level of formaldehyde that can be emitted by products such as MDF, plywood and particleboard that are manufactured with these glues.

Most DWVA members use non-formaldehyde glues when laying up veneers, but even when formaldehyde glue was used to bond veneers to wood panels it did not affect the rating of the substrate.

DWVA President Rod Sharp said he was pleased to be able to reassure architects and designers that formaldehyde emission was not an issue when Australian-made veneered boards were specified.

The Australian Standards governing the manufacture of reconstituted wood-based panels provide for three levels of formaldehyde emission from newly-manufactured boards, namely E0, E1 and E2. Products manufactured to Australian Standards are required to be branded to show their formaldehyde classification.

“Natural wood veneers can be specified with confidence that the classification stamped on the substrate is unaffected when a decorative veneer is overlaid onto it by a DWVA member”, Mr Sharp said.

“Veneered board produced by DWVA members can be specified without any reservations. However, this does not necessarily apply to imported products, which

cannot be guaranteed to meet the same low emission standards” he added.

Technical information is available on the Association's information line 1300 303 982.