

The Laminex Group  
90 - 94 Tram Road  
DONCASTER VIC 3108  
Telephone: 03 9848 4811  
Facsimile: 03 9848 8158

Date last updated: 19/09/2002

## **MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET NO. 203**

**STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE:** In its intact state this product is not classified as a hazardous substance according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.

Wood dust from this product is classified as a hazardous substance according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.

## **LAMINEX - DECORWOOD**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is issued by The Laminex Group in accordance with Worksafe Australia Guidelines. As such, the information contained herein must not be altered, deleted or added to. The Laminex Group will issue a new MSDS when there is a change in product specifications and/or Worksafe Australia guidelines / regulations. The Laminex Group will not accept any responsibility for any changes made to its MSDS in content by any other person.

## **COMPOSITION & INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS**

<b>Chemical Entity</b>	<b>CAS No.</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
Wood Particles	None	High > 60%
Urea formaldehyde resin	9011-05-6	Med 10 - 30%
Melamine / urea formaldehyde resin	25036-13-9	Very Low < 1%
Paraffin wax	8002-74-2	Low < 10%
Decorative Paper	None	Very Low < 1%

Notes: The above ingredients are bound together under heat and pressure. The process "cures" the resin, but small amounts of formaldehyde may be released from the finished product. The finished product contains less than 0.01% free formaldehyde.

No other hazardous materials are present in this product at concentrations above the cut off levels as Noted in the List of Designated Hazardous Substances, NOHSC:10005 (1994) or as defined in the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances NOHSC: 10008(1994).

**AICS status:** All components of the finished product are listed on the AICS

## **HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**

### **Emergency Overview:**

When first manufactured, the unsealed surfaces of these boards may release formaldehyde gas in concentrations up to approximately 0.5 ppm. The concentrations will be highest when the boards are stored in confined, poorly ventilated spaces. When the boards are sealed with paint, varnish or other surface decorative finishes, the potential for the release of formaldehyde will be greatly reduced with concentrations not exceeding 0.1 ppm.

When the boards are cut, drilled or sanded, etc. dust will be given off. The known health effects of the constituents of the boards are as follows:

**Wood 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 wood dust, both hardwood and softwood, may increase the risk of nasal and paranasal sinus cancers.

**Cured Resin:**

The cured resin is inert and not likely to contribute to health effects.

**Paraffin Wax:**

The wax vapour may be irritating to the nose and throat, eyes and skin if the board is heated to 120°C or more.

**Formaldehyde:**

Formaldehyde gas and dilute solutions 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.

On the basis of sufficient evidence the inhalation of formaldehyde gas caused nasal cancer in experiments with rats, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) assessed formaldehyde in 1982 as "Group 2A - probably carcinogenic to humans".

Exposure to the dust, gas and vapour from the boards may result in the following health effects:

**Acute:**

Swallowed: Unlikely to occur, but swallowing the dust would result in abdominal discomfort.

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

Skin: The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the skin, resulting in itching and occasionally a red rash. Allergic dermatitis may occur.

Inhaled: The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the nose, throat and lungs, especially in people with upper respiratory tract or chest complaints. Asthma may occur.

**Chronic:**

Repeated exposures over many years to uncontrolled dusts from these boards may result in allergic dermatitis, asthma, or chronic nose or throat irritation in some people. The risk of nasal or paranasal sinus cancers may be increased. But if the work practices noted in this MSDS are followed, and exposures to airborne dusts are kept low, no chronic health effects are anticipated.

**FIRST AID MEASURES**

Swallowed: Drink a glass of water.

Eye: Flush with flowing water for at least 15 minutes, and if symptoms persist seek immediate medical attention.

Skin: Wash with mild soap and running water.

Inhaled: Leave the dusty area.

**ADVICE TO DOCTOR:** Treat symptomatically.

## FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

These boards are flammable but difficult to ignite. Avoid a build up of dust and 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.

Early fire hazard properties (as stated in AS 1530 Part 3):

Ignitability Index:	13	Spread of Flame Index:	6
Heat Evolved Index:	6	Smoke Developed Index:	4

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

Burning of smouldering boards or wood dust can generate carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrogen cyanide and other pyrolysis products which are irritating to the respiratory tract. Dry wood dust in high concentrations can be explosive. Avoid breathing smoke from burning or smouldering materials. Firefighters to wear breathing apparatus.

### Fire Fighting

**Recommendations:** Use water, CO<sub>2</sub>, foam or dry chemical fire extinguishers

## ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Offcuts 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.

Dust should be cleaned up by vacuuming or wet sweeping.

## HANDLING & STORAGE

The boards should be stored in well ventilated areas away from sources of heat, flame or sparks.

No special transport requirements are considered necessary.

## PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

### Exposure Standards:

This material contains the following materials for which exposure limits have been set by Worksafe Australia as listed in "*Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment 2nd Edition October 1991*" is as follows:

**Wood dust (soft wood):** 5mg/m<sup>3</sup> time-weighted average (TWA)  
10mg/m<sup>3</sup> short term exposure limit (STEL)  
It is also listed as a sensitiser, and the Exposure Standard is under review.

**Wood dust (hardwoods):** 1mg/m<sup>3</sup> time-weighted average (TWA)  
It is also listed as a sensitiser and the Exposure Standard is under review.

**Formaldehyde:** 1.0 ppm (1.2mg/m<sup>3</sup>) time-weighted average (TWA)  
2.0 ppm (2.5mg/m<sup>3</sup>) short term exposure limit (STEL)  
It is also listed as a sensitiser and a Category 2 carcinogen.

*Worksafe Australia has defined Category 2 (probable human) carcinogens 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."*

**Paraffin Wax (fume):** 2mg/m<sup>3</sup> time-weighted average (TWA).

**Ventilation:** All work with these boards should be carried out in such a way as to minimise the generation of dust, gas and vapours.

Under factory conditions, sawing, drilling, sanding, etc. should be done with equipment fitted with exhaust devices capable of removing dust, gas and vapour at source. Hand power tools should be used in well ventilated areas so as to avoid the spread of dust, gas and vapour.

Storage and work areas should be well ventilated.

Work areas should be cleaned at least daily, and dust removed by vacuum cleaning or wet sweeping method.

**Personal Protection:**

**Clothing:** Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers are recommended if skin irritation occurs. 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 separate from other clothes.

**Glove type:** Comfortable work gloves should be worn (AS 2161).

**Respiratory Type AS1716:** A class P1 or P2 replaceable filter or disposable face piece respirator should be worn when sawing, drilling or sanding, etc.

**Eye:** Safety glasses or non-fogging goggles (AS 1337) should be worn when sawing, drilling or sanding, etc.

## PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Appearance:**

The products are manufactured as pressed boards ranging in thickness from 5mm to 40mm. They are made from wood fibres which are bonded together with resin.

**Odour:**

Newly manufactured board and freshly cut surfaces may have an odour due to residual formaldehyde from the resin binder.

Boiling point, °C: Not applicable

Vapour Pressure, mm Hg at 25°C:	Not applicable
Vapour Density:	Not applicable
Solubility in Water, g/l:	Not soluble
Specific Gravity:	0.70 - 0.85
Flash Point, °C:	Not applicable
Flammability Limits, %:	Not available
Autoignition Temperature, °C:	Does not auto-ignite

**Use:** Construction of furniture and cabinets. Moisture resistant building board

## STABILITY & REACTIVITY

**Reactivity:** Stable at normal temperatures and pressures

## ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

No data available for the product. Do not allow to enter the environment. Waste material should be collected and disposed of according to the relevant Local / State or Federal regulations

## DISPOSAL

Refer to Land Waste Management Authority

## TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Product Name:	Decorwood
UN Number:	None allocated
Dangerous Goods Class:	None allocated
Hazchem Code:	None allocated
Poisons Schedule:	Not scheduled

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Contact Point:

Mr. Brent Deale - HR Manager  
The Laminex Group  
90-94 Tram Road  
DONCASTER VIC 3106  
Telephone: 03 9848 4811  
Facsimile: 03 9848 8158

Whilst the information contained in this document is based on data which, to the best of our knowledge, was accurate and reliable at the time of preparation, no responsibility can be accepted by us for errors and omissions. The provision of this information should not be construed as a recommendation to use any of our products in violation of any patent rights or in breach of any statute or regulation. Users are advised to make their own determination as to the suitability of this information in relation to their particular purposes and specific circumstances. Since the information contained in this document may be applied under conditions beyond our control, no responsibility can be accepted by us for any loss or damage caused by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of this information