

 **CaberMDF®**

## PRODUCT SAFETY DATA SHEET

### Health and Safety Data - Version 5

Product code: CaberMDF®

#### 1 Identification of the substance / mixture and company

##### 1.1 Product identifier

Product Name: CaberMDF, Pro, Trade, Moisture Resistant and Industrial Grades

Product type: Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

##### 1.2 Product description:

Medium Density Fiberboard is an engineered panel product in which particles of wood are bonded together to form a panel. It is formed using a synthetic resin adhesive (urea formaldehyde or melamine urea formaldehyde). MDF is most commonly made from softwood chips though hardwoods are sometimes used.

##### 1.3 Application:

Building, furniture components, decorative fixtures and fittings, for dry internal and moisture resistant applications. See product literature.

##### 1.4 Company

Company: West Fraser Europe Limited  
Station Road  
Cowie, Stirling  
Scotland  
FK7 7BQ

Tel: +44 (0) 1786 812 921

##### 1.5 Emergency telephone number

Tel: +44 (0) 1786 812 921

Office hours.

Ask for Health & Safety or Technical Manager.

#### 2 Hazards identification

**Physical hazard** Non-classifiable

**Health hazard** Non-classifiable

No hazard or precautionary statements

#### 3 Identification / information on ingredients

No materials identified for this purpose as specified the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) regulations 2009 (amended 2016).

#### 4 First aid

**Inhalation** Inhalation of dust can only occur during processing. If inhalation of dust causes adverse effects, remove to fresh air. If discomfort persists, seek medical advice.

**Skin contact:** In case of irritation from dust generated from processing, wash with water.

**Eye contact:** If particles enter the eyes during processing, immediately flush eyes with plenty of water. Seek medical attention if irritation persists.

#### 5 Fire-fighting

Non-flammable at room temperature, but will burn. In case of fire, soak (flood) with water. For large fires, fire fighters should wear full emergency protective equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus. Wood waste, or dust may present a fire or explosion hazard- good housekeeping practices must be followed.

#### 6 Accidental release measures

MDF does not represent a hazard in sheet form. However dust generated from processing MDF should be contained carefully, collected and removed.

## 7 Handling and storage

- a Manual handling** In sheet form, MDF can present a manual handling risk due to its physical dimensions and weight. Good lifting practice should be followed.
- Note:** A 2440 mm by 1220 mm (8' x 4') sheet of 18 mm (3/4") standard MDF weighs approximately 40 kg (88 lbs).
- b Storage** Keep away from heat, sparks, flame and other ignition sources. Store at room temperature. Keep away from moisture. Take care during removing packaging, especially banding.
- c Stacking** The ground should be flat and even with a minimum of sloping, recommended maximum 2°.
- Ground should be strong enough to withstand the weight of the packs and the machinery. It should be well consolidated and not affected by adverse weather conditions such as rain.
- Clear any obstacles such as waste timber or unused bearers from the stacking area as they make stacks unstable.
- Vertically stacked packs should be of the same size or reduce in size up the stack, avoid overhangs. Further information is available on HSE information sheet 'Safe stacking of sawn material and board materials'.

## 8 Exposure controls / personal protection

**Health** The following health problems are among the effects that have been associated with exposure to wood dust.

Skin disorders

Obstruction in the nose and rhinitis;

Asthma

A rare type of nasal cancer

- a Exposure controls**
- During processing, adequate ventilation and / or extraction should be provided to minimise airborne dust. Whenever possible, fit dust extraction equipment even when using hand-held machines.
- b Personal protection**
- Dust will be created during processing; use appropriate respiratory protection equipment. Wear gloves and overalls as required to prevent skin contact.
- Wear eye protection to prevent dust particles from entering eyes.
- Wear the correct clothing and use other safety equipment as necessary.

## 9 Physical and chemical properties

**Appearance:** Wood sheets in various dimensions

**Odour:** None under ambient conditions

## 10 Stability and reactivity - considered stable and inert in sheet form

- a Materials to avoid:**
- Reducing and oxidising agents.
- b Conditions to avoid:**
- Heating and ignition sources and damp atmospheres.
- c Thermal decomposition products may include:**
- CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, aldehydes (including formaldehyde, HCHO) particulate matter and other organic compounds.
- d Other hazards:**
- Processing of MDF will generate wood dust. Appropriate protection from inhalation of the dust is recommended.
- Also refer to sections 5 and 8.

## 11 Toxicological information

Finished MDF panel is unlikely to give rise to toxicological effect, the hazardous form that may give rise to health risks is dust during machining or processing.

- a Immediate hazards**
- Inhalation:** Dust generated during processing may cause irritation of the nose and throat.
- Skin:** Dust generated during processing may cause irritation.
- Eyes:** Dust generated during processing may cause irritation.

MDF is largely composed of softwood bound together usually with a urea formaldehyde or melamine urea formaldehyde resin. When it is machined, very fine dust is produced. Just like "natural" wood dust this is a potentially hazardous substance and it must be controlled. Hardwood dust in particular can, very rarely, cause nasal cancer - and as such is classified as a carcinogen in Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations. The evidence that softwood dust can cause cancer is less conclusive. It is not classified as a carcinogen in the UK.

Under COSHH Regulations, softwood dust has a Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (8 hr TWA) - this is the relevant limit for controlling exposure to dust, however as hardwood may be present a WEL of 3mg/m<sup>3</sup> (8hr TWA) should be observed.

Free formaldehyde levels from MDF are closely monitored and controlled. The current levels are E1 less than or equal to 9 mg/100g (0,009 %) of board and E2 greater than 9 mg/100g but less than or equal to 25 mg/100g of board (>0.009% 0.025%, this is tested using EN 120 as the test standard.

- b Delayed hazards**
- Skin eczema can take up to 15 weeks to develop for persons susceptible to dust irritation.

## 12 Ecological information

**Mobility:** The dust from processing is highly mobile especially when airborne.

**Degradability:** Biodegradable as for wood.

**Bio accumulative potential:** Not determined.

**Aquatic toxicity:** Toxicity to bacteria, algae and higher marine organisms not tested.

## 13 Disposal considerations

The option of recycling any residues should be considered. Special consideration should be given to containing dust to prevent spillage during transit.

## 14 Transport information

**UK Supply Classification:** Non-classifiable

**UK Carriage Classification:** Non-classifiable

**UK Conveyance Classification:** Non-classifiable

**UN Number:** None

## 15 Regulatory information

**Label Information:** Non-classifiable

**UK Supply Classification:** None

**UN Number:** None

### Other Regulations:

This Material Safety Data has been compiled in accordance with the CLP regulations 2009.

Transport, storage, use and disposal of the material should be in accordance with the following additional legislation / publications, where applicable: COSHH Regulations 1994 and Amendments; Environmental Protection Act 1990; Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1992; EH40 Workplace Exposure Limits.

**Note:** This list may not be exhaustive and users should satisfy themselves that they comply with all the relevant and latest issue national legislation.

## 16 Other information

None.

Further technical information can be obtained from:

West Fraser Europe Limited  
Station Road  
Cowie, Stirling  
Scotland  
FK7 7BQ

Tel: 01786 812 921

[uk.westfraser.com](http://uk.westfraser.com)