



FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS

The harmonised standard for **Wood Based Panels in Construction, EN13986**, sets the minimum safety parameters which allow such products to be placed on the construction market in any European member state.

Formaldehyde emission levels which are permitted under this standard are E1 and E2 restricted. E1 is the lower emission level. Obviously the lower the emission level the better, as formaldehyde is dangerous to health. Plywood from Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Chile, Uruguay and Finland can meet E1 level but Chinese plywood generally exceeds this level and would be emission level E2.

Plywood should be clearly marked with whichever level it meets. The level should also be clearly stated on documentation.

The EN 13986 is currently under review in Brussels and the aim is to push permitted levels down to E1 or below. However kindly note that E2 level is still currently allowed but we recommend it only for exterior usage. For interior applications we would recommend plywood from the above-mentioned countries with E1 level of formaldehyde.

The latest up-date on the standard is that attempts are being made to put a limit on the E2 level of formaldehyde, therefore manufacturers in China have the responsibility to test the levels of formaldehyde in their plywood.

Will keep you informed of any future changes to the formaldehyde level under the Construction Products Directive, EN 13986.