









# COSHH ASSESSMENT MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

FORM

<b>Product Name(s):</b>	Medium Density Fibreboard MDF	<b>COSHH Assess. No.:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Description of Substance:</b>	Wood dust	<b>Assessed By:</b>	
<b>Workplace Exposure Limits:</b>	5 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (8hr TWA)	<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Task/Activity:</b>	Cutting, drilling or sanding of MDF		
<b>Suppliers Name &amp; Address:</b>		<b>Telephone/ Fax No's:</b>	
		<b>MSDS Attached:</b>	No

## SUBSTANCE PROPERTIES

							
Flammable/ Highly Flammable	Oxidiser	Explosive	Harmful	Toxic	Irritant	Dangerous to the Environment	Corrosive
No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No







## ROUTE OF EXPOSURE

Skin		Eyes	X	Inhalation	X
Ingestion		Cuts/ Abrasions		Injection	

## PERSONS AT RISK

Users of the product	X	Members of Public		Visitors	
Other Workers	X	Young Persons	X		

## PPE REQUIREMENTS

						<b>Other:</b>	<b>Other:</b>
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes/No	Yes/No

## ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES

General Precautions	Control Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure that the above specified PPE is worn and that all staff are informed of the risks; control measures and precautions required when working with the substance.</li> <li>➤ Minimum of an FFP2 type dust mask to be worn during sanding or machine cutting operations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure that adequate supervision is provided at all times.</li> </ul>

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First Aid/Hygiene Arrangements	Fire Precautions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wash skin thoroughly with soap and clean water</li> <li>➤ If contact is made with the eye, immediately flood the eye with plenty of clean water for at least 10 minutes and seek immediate medical attention.</li> <li>➤ Wash out the mouth with clean water where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No smoking to be permitted in the vicinity of the works.</li> <li>➤ No hot works to be allowed in the vicinity of the works.</li> </ul>

LEV Requirements	Monitoring Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure that the work area is well ventilated at all times.</li> <li>➤ LEV attachments should be used where possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Consider additional monitoring if this product is to be used within a confined space or if the duration of exposure is likely to be for long periods of the day when using powered tools.</li> <li>➤ Provide additional monitoring where young or inexperienced workers are carrying out the works.</li> </ul>

Transport Arrangements	Storage Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No special requirements for small quantities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Store in a dry, well ventilated and secure store.</li> </ul>

Spillage Procedures	Disposal Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dispose of waste as normal builders waste.</li> </ul>

Comments
<p>MDF is largely composed of softwood bound together usually with a urea formaldehyde resin. Softwood dust is not classified as a carcinogen in the UK, although there are concerns about its contribution to respiratory disease at high exposure levels. Hardwood dust, in contrast, is classified as a carcinogen.</p> <p>Under the COSHH Regulations, softwood dust has a maximum exposure limit (MEL) of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> - this is the relevant limit for controlling exposure to MDF dust. Exposure must be reduced as far as is reasonably practicable below this limit; this can usually be achieved with properly designed dust extraction equipment fitted to the woodworking machine. It is essential that such equipment is kept in good working order and maintained regularly. When using portable or hand-held tools extraction equipment often is not practicable or available, in which case a suitable dust mask should be worn, and if possible, the MDF should be machined in a well-ventilated place, for example outside.</p> <p>Formaldehyde also has a MEL of 2 parts per million (ppm). Formaldehyde vapour can irritate the eyes, nose and throat at levels below which it can be smelt (about 0.8 ppm). At 2 ppm (the MEL) it can be quite irritating to unaccustomed persons. Studies to date indicate that persons machining MDF are not exposed to formaldehyde vapour at levels that effect health. Exposure levels measured by HSE have always been well below the MEL.</p>