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**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET 108**  
**Formica® Industrial Laminates**

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

**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 or organisation.

Product name:	Formica® Industrial Laminates
Other Names:	Formica® Switchpanel industrial laminate, Formica® SV4 industrial laminate, Formica® P1 industrial laminate, Formica® PX1 industrial laminate, Formica® GP1 industrial laminate
Manufacturer's Product Code:	Not Applicable
UN number:	None Allocated
Dangerous goods class & Subsidiary Risk:	None Allocated
Hazchem code:	None Allocated
Poisons schedule number:	None Scheduled
Use:	Electrical switchboard panels, domestic meter boards, busbar supports, electric arc shielding, and industrial switch gear components.

**Physical Description/Properties:**

Appearance	The products are manufactured as high pressure laminates, in sheet form and ranging in thickness from 0.8 mm to 50 mm. They are made from layers of resin impregnated paper which are bonded together under heat and pressure.
Boiling Point: (°C)	Not Determined
Melting Point: (°C)	Not Determined
Vapour pressure:	Not Determined

Specific gravity (H <sub>2</sub> O = 1)	1.3-1.4
Flashpoint:	Not Applicable
Flammability Limits:	Not Applicable
Solubility in water:	Negligible
Auto-ignition temperature (°C):	>200 degrees Celsius
Odour Threshold:	Newly manufactured and freshly cut surfaces may have a faint resin odour.

### Early Fire Hazard Indices to AS 1530.3

Ignitability index:	10	Spread of flame index:	0-6
Heat evolved index:	5	Smoke developed index:	4-5

### Ingredients:

Chemical Name:	CAS Number:	Proportion:
Paper	None	60-75%
Phenol formaldehyde urea resin or Phenol formaldehyde resin	25104-55-6 9003-35-4	)<35% )
Melamine formaldehyde resin	9003-80-1	<3%
Plasticiser	None	<3%

### Notes:

The above ingredients are bound together under heat and pressure. The process 'cures' the resin which bonds with the other substances.

Phenol formaldehyde resin is used in place of phenol formaldehyde urea resin in P1, PX1 and GP1 laminates.

## HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

**Note:** In its intact state this product is not classified as a hazardous substance by Worksafe Australia. Exposures to dust produced from machining the laminates may result in the following health effects:

### Health Effects

#### Acute:

**Swallowed:** Unlikely to occur but swallowing the dust may result in abdominal discomfort.

**Eye:** The dust may be irritating to the eyes causing discomfort and redness.

**Skin:** The dust may irritate the skin, resulting in itching and occasionally a red rash. During handling, sharp edges may cut the skin.

**Inhaled:** The dust may irritate the nose, throat and lungs, especially in people with upper respiratory tract or chest complaints such as asthma.

**Chronic:** Repeated exposures over many years to uncontrolled dust from these laminates may increase the risk of irreversible health effects including

allergic dermatitis, asthma, chronic nose or throat irritation or lung scarring in some people.

Formaldehyde has been evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as group 2A, probably carcinogenic to humans.

## First Aid

- Swallowed:** Give water to drink. If abdominal discomfort occurs seek medical attention
- Eye:** Flush with flowing water for at least 15 minutes, and if symptoms persist seek medical attention.
- Skin:** Wash with mild soap and running water. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist. For cuts, clean wound and apply antiseptic dressing
- Inhaled:** Leave the dusty area.
- Advice to Doctor:** Treat symptomatically.

## PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

### Exposure Standards:

The Worksafe Australia Exposure Standards, published in May 1995 for formaldehyde and cellulose are:

Cellulose (paper fibre): 10 mg/cubic metre time-weighted average (TWA)

Formaldehyde: 1.0 ppm (1.2 mg/cubic metre) time-weighted average (TWA)  
2.0 ppm (2.5 mg/cubic metre) short term exposure limit (STEL).  
Sen - sensitiser; Category 2 carcinogen (probable human carcinogen).

Keep exposures as low as practicable with the aim of maintaining respirable dust levels below 1.0 mg/cubic metre (TWA).

### Engineering Controls:

All work with these laminates should be carried out in such a way as to minimise the generation of, and exposure to dust.

Under factory conditions, sawing, drilling, sanding etc. should be done with equipment fitted with exhaust devices capable of removing wood dust, at source.

Hand power tools should be fitted with dust bags and used in well ventilated areas.

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

### Personal Protection:

#### Skin Protection:

Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers are recommended to prevent skin irritation. After handling laminates, wash with mild soap and water. Do not scratch or rub the skin if it becomes irritated. Wash work clothes regularly and separately from other clothes. Comfortable work gloves (AS 2161) should be worn.

#### Eye Protection:

Industrial safety glasses or non fogging goggles (AS/NZS 1336) should be worn when machining.

**Respiratory Protection:**

A class P1 or P2 replaceable filter or disposable half face-piece respirator should be worn when machining. Respirators should comply with AS/NZS 1716 and be selected, used and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1715.

**Flammability:**

These laminates are flammable but difficult to ignite. Fine airborne dust can ignite so 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.

**SAFE HANDLING INFORMATION****Storage and Transport:**

The laminates should be stored in well ventilated areas away from sources of heat, flame or sparks. No special transport requirements are considered necessary.

**Spills and disposal:**

Off-cuts 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 from the laminates should be cleaned up by vacuuming or wet sweeping.

**Fire/explosion hazard:**

Burning or smouldering laminates or dust can generate carbon dioxide and other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material. Use water or dry foam fire extinguishers and avoid breathing smoke from burning or smouldering material. Dry dusts in high concentrations can be explosive.

**Smoking and Other Dust:**

Inhalation of airborne particles from other sources in the work environment, including those from cigarette smoke, may increase the risk of contracting the lung disease associated with exposure to dust from this product. The Laminex Group recommends that all work and storage areas be smoke free zones and other airborne contaminants be kept to a minimum.

**CONTACT POINT**

For further information on this product, please contact the following:

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