

## IMPACT OF THERMALLY FUSED MELAMINE ON FLAME SPREAD PERFORMANCE

Unless otherwise stated, Arauco North America Inc. and Arauco Canada Limited (“Arauco”) does not certify the rating for specific flame spread rating with its sale forms or documentation for its particleboard or MDF in industrial or laminated<sup>1</sup>

Untreated<sup>2</sup> particleboard and MDF have been tested for flame spread by several manufacturers, and the results met the **Class III or C** rating. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”), in their Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (Section 3280.203), accepts particleboard 3/8 inch and thicker as having a flame spread rating of 76 to 200 for general use in mobile homes.

The American Wood Council (“AWC”) of the American Forest and Paper Association (“AF&PA”) has published information in their "Design for Code Acceptance" series (DCA1)<sup>3</sup> relating to Flame Spread Performance of Wood Products. Table 1 of the DCA1 places particleboard and MDF in the Class III or C rating. Likewise, Table 2 places factory finished products (i.e., printed or with overlays) containing untreated particleboard and MDF substrates in the Class III or C flame spread rating.

Arauco internal flame spread testing of the fire-retardant PB and MDF products with and without thermally fused melamine surfaces has determined that there is not a statistically significant change to the flame spread results when thermally fused melamine papers basis weights 60 – 120g/m<sup>2</sup> are laminated onto raw particleboard or MDF. Arauco makes no claims or guarantees regarding this information.

Arauco particleboard and MDF treated with fire-retardant<sup>4</sup>(FR) additives are certified by Intertek Testing Services, Inc. to have a **Class A or Class I** flame spread rating. In addition, TFL (melamine) applied to Arauco’s fire-rated particleboard at the Albany, OR laminating facility is classified by Underwriters Laboratories to have a **Class A or Class I** flame spread rating<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition: TFM (thermally fused melamine), decorative paper overlay, wet coated- i.e./ Rezcote-paint or direct print

<sup>2</sup> Untreated is defined as: without a fire-retardant additive.

<sup>3</sup> For an official and complete version of the DCA1 Please visit: [www.awc.org](http://www.awc.org).

<sup>4</sup> Trade names: Duraflake® FR, Premier FR®, VESTA FR Particleboard

<sup>5</sup> 4 ASTM E-84 Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials and CAN/ULC – S102 Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials and ASTM E2768 Extended ASTM E84 Standard Test Method for Extended Duration Surface Burning.

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