

## Material Safety Data Sheet

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### SECTION 1: PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

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<b>Product Name:</b>	Alpine MDF Alpine MDF LFE Alpine MDF MR Alpine MDF HMR XP Alpine MDF E0 Alpine MDF E0MR	<b>CAS #:</b>	-
<b>Generic Name:</b>	Wood panel product	<b>Formula:</b>	mixture
<b>Chemical Name:</b>	-	<b>Hazard Label:</b>	-
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	ALPINE MDF Industries Pty Ltd ABN: 37 064 766 301	<b>Telephone:</b>	03 5721 3522
<b>Address:</b>	P.O. Box 804 Wangaratta Vic 3676	<b>Facsimile:</b>	03 5721 3588
		<b>Internet Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.alpinemdf.com.au">www.alpinemdf.com.au</a>
		<b>Email Address:</b>	enquiries@alpinemdf.com.au

**Appearance and odour:** These products are manufactured as pressed boards ranging in thickness from 3 mm to 33 mm. They are made from wood particles/fibres which are bonded together with resin. Newly manufactured board and freshly cut surfaces may have a pine odour.

**Uses:** Construction of furniture and cabinets and/or general purpose building boards.

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## SECTION 2: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

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### NOT CLASSIFIED AS HAZARDOUS ACCORDING TO ASCC CRITERIA

### NOT CLASSIFIED AS A DANGEROUS GOOD BY THE CRITERIA OF THE ADG CODE

<b>UN No.</b>	None Allocated	<b>DG Class</b>	None Allocated
<b>Subsidiary Risk(s)</b>	None Allocated	<b>Packing Group</b>	None Allocated
<b>Hazchem Code</b>	None Allocated	<b>EPGN</b>	None Allocated

### OVERVIEW

**Dust Hazard:** Occupational exposure to wood dust from any timber product has been classified as hazardous according to the criteria of the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC). Inhalation of excessive amounts of dust may cause temporary upper respiratory irritation and/or congestion; and irritation of the eyes and skin. Repeated inhalation of wood dust increases the risk of nasal cancer and may increase the risk of lung fibrosis.

**Formaldehyde** gas may be released under some conditions particularly when the boards are heated and laminated, or cut by laser cutting machines. However, in well ventilated storage areas and workplaces, the concentration of formaldehyde is unlikely to exceed the World Health Organisation Standard of 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for the general environment (30 minute average concentration) and it will be well below the NOHSC Occupational Exposure Standard of 1.2 mg/m<sup>3</sup> TWA.

Wood dust may be produced from machining the product, and formaldehyde gas may be produced from heating processes.

**Explosion Hazard:** Wood dust may ignite at temperatures greater than 204°C/400°F, and high concentrations-in-air (>60g/m<sup>3</sup>) may spontaneously explode.

### Potential Health Effects

#### Acute (short term) Health Effects:

**Swallowed:** Unlikely under normal conditions. Swallowing the dust may cause abdominal discomfort.

**Eye:** Wood dust and the resin may be irritating to the eyes resulting in redness and watering.

**Skin:** Skin contact with wood dust and the resin may result in skin itching and redness, and dermatitis in some people.

**Inhaled:** Inhalation of wood dust and resin may be irritating to the nose, throat and lungs.

**Chronic (long term) Health Effects:** Repeated exposure over many years to uncontrolled wood dust increases the risk of nasal cavity cancer. Inhalation of wood dust may also increase the risk of lung fibrosis (scarring). There are also increased risks of respiratory and skin sensitisation from wood dust and resin resulting in asthma and dermatitis respectively.

Wood dust has been evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as group 1, carcinogenic to humans.

Formaldehyde has been evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as group 1, carcinogenic to humans, and the current European Union (EU) classification under the Dangerous Substances Directive as category 3 (C3) carcinogen leading to a risk phrase R 40 (Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect).

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**SECTION 3: INGREDIENTS**

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Ingredient Name	CAS #	%	Exposure Limits NOHSC[1003(1995)]
Wood particles or fibres from plantation softwoods	-	>70%	Not applicable for intact products.
Urea formaldehyde resin	9011-05-6	<20%	
Melamine urea formaldehyde resin	25036-13-9	<20%	
Paraffin wax	8002-74-2	<1%	

Ingredient Name	CAS #	%	Exposure Limits NOHSC[1003(1995)]
<b>Dust from this product contains:</b>			
Soft wood dust	-	>80%	There is no specific Exposure Standard for dust from wood panel products, but the following should apply:  (i) wood dust (softwood): Time-Weighted Average TWA 5.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ; Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL) 10.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup> . Measured as inspirable particulates. sen - sensitising to skin and respiratory tract  (ii) formaldehyde: TWA 1.0 ppm (1.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ); STEL 2.0 ppm (2.5 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ). sen - sensitiser; Cat 3 (possible human) carcinogen.
Cured binder	-	<20%	
<b>&lt; Company &gt; recommendation:</b> Keep exposures as low as practicable with the aim of keeping dust exposures below 1.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup> measured as inspirable dust.			
<p><b>Note:</b> The ingredients are bonded together under heat and pressure. The process cures the resin but small amounts of formaldehyde from the resin may be released from the finished product. The finished product contains less than 0.01% free formaldehyde by weight.</p> <p>The proportion of paint on coated products is less than 1 % of the board mass.</p> <p>Potential exposures to dust will occur only when power tools or wood working machinery is used on the product such as planing, sawing, drilling or sanding, or in poorly maintained workshops.</p>			

## SECTION 4: FIRST-AID MEASURES

<b>Swallowed:</b>	If dust is swallowed, give water to drink. Seek medical attention if any abdominal discomfort.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Irrigate eyes thoroughly with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. If symptoms persist seek medical attention.
<b>Skin:</b>	Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water. Remove clothing if contaminated with dust.
<b>Inhaled:</b>	Leave the dusty area.
<b>First-aid facilities:</b>	Provide eye-wash facilities.
<b>Notes to doctor:</b>	Treat symptomatically.

## SECTION 5: FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

<b>Unusual Fire / Explosion Hazards:</b>	Wood dusts may form explosive mixtures with air. Burning or smouldering boards or dust, and boards cut by laser cutting machines can generate carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrogen cyanide and other pyrolysis products which are irritating to the respiratory tract. Avoid breathing smoke from laser cutting machines and from burning or smouldering materials. Full protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus should be worn for fire fighting. Extinguish fire with water, foam, carbon dioxide or dry chemical.
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**THE INTACT PRODUCT AND DUST MUST NOT BE BURNT IN BARBECUES, COMBUSTION STOVES OR OPEN FIRES IN THE HOME, AS IRRITATING GASES ARE EMITTED.**

### Flammable Properties and Explosive Limits

<b>Flash Point:</b>	not applicable	<b>Lower Explosive Limit (LEL):</b>	not applicable
<b>FP Test Method:</b>	not applicable	<b>Upper Explosive Limit (UEL):</b>	not applicable
<b>Flame Classification:</b>	not determined	<b>Auto ignition Temperature:</b>	> 220°C
<b>Flame Propagation:</b>	not determined	<b>Decomposition Temperature:</b>	not applicable

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## SECTION 6: ACCIDENTAL SPILL AND RELEASE MEASURES

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**Spills/Disposal:** Off-cuts and general waste material should be placed in containers and disposed of at approved landfill sites or incinerated in accordance with local authority guidelines. Burning cannot be used as a means of disposal without specific local authority and EPA approval.

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## SECTION 7: HANDLING AND STORAGE

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**Handling/Storage:** No special transport or storage requirements are considered necessary. The boards should be stored in well ventilated areas away from source of heat, flames or sparks.

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## SECTION 8: EXPOSURE CONTROL AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

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**Summary:** Keep exposures as low as practicable with the aim of maintaining airborne dust levels below 1.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup> time-weighted average (TWA), measured as inspirable dust. All work with wood panels products must be carried out in such a way as to minimise exposure to dust. Under factory conditions, machining, sawing, drilling, routing, laser cutting or sanding of the wood must be done with equipment fitted with local exhaust ventilation devices capable of removing dust and smoke at source. Work areas should be kept clean by regular vacuuming or wet sweeping.

**Ventilation:** Local exhaust ventilation should be provided at areas of cutting to remove airborne dust. General dilution ventilation should be provided as necessary to keep airborne dust below the applicable exposure limits and guidelines. The need for ventilation systems should be evaluated by a professional industrial hygienist, while the design of specific ventilation systems should be conducted by a professional engineer.

**Special Considerations for Repair/Maintenance of Contaminated Equipment:**

Use personal protective equipment as discussed above. Where possible, vacuum all equipment before repair/maintenance to remove excessive dust.

**Eye:** Non-fogging dust resistant safety goggles or glasses conforming with Australian and New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 1336:1997 *Recommended practices for occupational eye protection* should be worn if there is a risk of dust getting into the eye, such as when using power tools.

**Skin:** Wear standard duty gloves conforming with Australian Standards AS 2161.1 2000 *Industrial safety gloves and mittens*, loose comfortable clothing, and boots. Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers are recommended if skin itching occurs. Wash skin with mild soap and water after working with these products. Wash work clothes regularly and separately from other clothes.

**Respiratory:** Avoid breathing dust. Wear a P1 or P2 particulate disposable or cartridge dust mask (respirator) conforming with Australian and New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 1715:2009 *Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices*, and AS/NZS 1716:2003 *Respiratory protective devices* when exposed to dust. These Standards should be followed in the selection, fit-testing, use, storage and maintenance of the dust masks.

**Smoking:** Inhalation of airborne particles from other sources, including those from cigarette smoke, may increase the risk of lung disease. All storage and work areas should be smoke free zones and other airborne contaminants be kept to a minimum.

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**SECTION 9: PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

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<b>Boiling Point (°F/°C):</b>	not applicable
<b>Evaporation Rate (Butyl acetate = 1):</b>	not applicable
<b>Melting Point:</b>	not applicable
<b>pH:</b>	not applicable
<b>Saturation in Air (%):</b>	not applicable
<b>Solids Content:</b>	not applicable
<b>Specific Gravity (Water = 1):</b>	0.5 - 0.85
<b>Vapor Density (Air = 1):</b>	not applicable
<b>Vapor Pressure:</b>	not applicable
<b>Viscosity:</b>	not applicable
<b>Volatile by Volume (%):</b>	not applicable
<b>Water Solubility (%):</b>	insoluble

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## SECTION 10: STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

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<b>Reactivity:</b>	This product is not reactive.
<b>Hazardous Decomposition Products:</b>	Thermal-oxidative degradation of this and other wood products produces irritating and toxic smoke and gases. These include carbon monoxide, aldehydes, carbon particles, and organic acids.

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## SECTION 11: TOXICOLOGICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA

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Any health hazards associated with these products have been evaluated on the basis of the individual ingredients, and these hazards should be assumed to be additive. The hazards described in this document have been evaluated based on a threshold of 1.0% for all hazardous ingredients and 0.1% for all carcinogens.

**Acute Effects:** The dust, which may be generated during manual or mechanical cutting, drilling, sanding or other abrading processes, and the smoke generated by heating or laser cutting, may cause temporary irritation of the eyes and upper respiratory system. The symptoms are expected to subside after exposure has stopped and are not expected to cause any long term effects. Allergic skin and lung reactions have been reported with exposure to various wood panels dusts due to the chemicals presented in wood and cured resin. These rashes resemble other allergic skin reactions caused by plants, and usually heal rapidly.

**Chronic Effects:** The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) evaluated dusts from both hardwood and softwood in 1995 and concluded that: "there is sufficient evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of wood dust. There is inadequate evidence in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of wood dust. Wood dust is carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)".

The IARC also evaluated formaldehyde in 1995 and concluded that: "There is *limited evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of formaldehyde; there is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of formaldehyde; and that overall, formaldehyde is *probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A)*". The IARC again evaluated formaldehyde in June 2004 and the final findings published in 2006<sup>3</sup> concluded that: "There is *sufficient evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of formaldehyde. There is sufficient evidence in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of formaldehyde*" with the overall evaluation being: "Formaldehyde is carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)".

Whilst this wood panel product contains less than 0.01% free formaldehyde, people using the product may be exposed to low concentrations of formaldehyde if the boards are heated (as in laminating), are cut by laser cutting machines, and/or if dust particles



come in contact with the moist mucous membranes lining the upper respiratory tract.

Extensive literature searches and research carried out by Independent occupational and environmental health specialists has not indicated any risks over and above those associated with wood dust without binder. This research includes the 1999 formaldehyde risk assessment carried out by US scientists in collaboration with the US EPA and Health Canada.

The risk assessment concludes that if a non-smoking worker were exposed to 0.004 ppm of formaldehyde continuously for 80 years, and also to 0.1 ppm for 40 years at work, then the predicted additional risk of respiratory tract cancer would be 4.1 per 1,000,000,000. The controls needed for minimising the potential for formaldehyde exposure from this product will be the same as those for control of dust exposures. These risk assessments and conclusions are in no way altered by the reclassification of formaldehyde to Group 1 by the IARC.

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## SECTION 12: ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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**Ecotoxicity:** This product should be used only for its designated purposes.

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## SECTION 13: DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

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**Summary:** This product is not regulated as a hazardous waste by Australian environmental authorities. Local authority guidelines should be followed in the disposal of waste products and dust.

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## SECTION 14: TRANSPORT INFORMATION

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**Transportation:** This product is not regulated as a dangerous good. No special transport requirements are necessary.

### NOT CLASSIFIED AS A DANGEROUS GOOD BY THE CRITERIA OF THE ADG CODE

<b>Shipping Name</b>	None Allocated	<b>Packing Group</b>	None Allocated
<b>UN No.</b>	None Allocated	<b>Hazchem Code</b>	None Allocated
<b>DG Class</b>	None Allocated	<b>EPG</b>	None Allocated
<b>Subsidiary Risk(s)</b>	None Allocated		

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**SECTION 15: REGULATORY INFORMATION**

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Alpine MDF Pty Ltd has assessed this product in accordance with the criteria of the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission: NOHSC:1008(2004) and the Hazardous Substances Information System, the assessment is that occupational exposure to dust, smoke or fume from this product is hazardous according to the criteria of the NOHSC.

No special State or Commonwealth regulations apply. The product is not listed in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons.

*Wood dust - (certain hardwoods such as beech and oak), and Wood dust - softwood* is listed in the Safe Work Australia 'Hazardous Substances Information System.'

*Formaldehyde* - is listed in the Safe Work Australia 'Hazardous Substances Information System.'

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**SECTION 17: OTHER INFORMATION**

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**Date of Last MSDS Revision: August 2014**

**Data Sources:** . IARC *Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans*.  
Volume 62: Wood dust and formaldehyde. IARC, Lyon, France. 1995.

IARC *Press Release No 153, 15 June 2004*. IARC, Lyon, France.

IARC *Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans*.  
Volume 88 (2006) Formaldehyde, 2-Butoxyethanol and 1-tert-Butoxypropan-2-ol.