

**Current revision—Revision 2: August 2015**

## 1. Identification of the substance/ preparation and Company

Product name: Caberwood MDF Light, Standard, Moisture Resistant and Deep Route Grades

Product type: Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Product description:

Dry processed fibreboard having moisture content of less than 20% at the forming stage, and having a density  $\geq 450 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . These boards are essentially produced under heat and pressure with the addition of a synthetic adhesive.

Application:

Building, furniture components, decorative fixtures and fittings, for dry internal and moisture resistant applications. See product literature.

Company:

Norbord EU Ltd.  
Station Road  
Cowie, Stirling  
Scotland  
FK7 7BQ

Tel: (+44)(0)1786 812 921

In case of emergency: (+44)(0)1786 812 921 (office hours)

Ask for Health & Safety or Technical Manager

## 2. Hazards identification

Physical hazard: Non-classifiable

Health hazard: Non-classifiable

No risk phrases required

## 3. Identification/ information on ingredients

No materials identified for this purpose as specified in section 5(3) of 'The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002.

## 4. First aid

Inhalation: Inhalation of MDF dust can only occur during processing. If inhalation of dust causes adverse effects, remove to fresh air. If discomfort persists, seek medical advice.

Skin: In case of irritation from dust generated from processing of MDF, wash with water.

Eyes: If particles enter the eyes during processing, immediately flush eyes with plenty of water. Seek medical attention if irritation persists.

## 5. Fire Fighting

Non-flammable at room temperature, but will burn. In case of fire, soak (flood) with water. For large fires, fire fighters should wear full emergency protective equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus.

Wood waste, or dust may present a fire or explosion hazard- good housekeeping practises must be followed.



## 6. Accidental Release Measures

MDF does not represent a hazard in sheet form. However dust generated from processing MDF should be contained, carefully collected and removed.

## 7. Handling and Storage

### a) Manual Handling:

In sheet form, MDF can present a manual handling risk due to its physical dimensions and weight. Good lifting practice should be followed.

Note: A 2440 mm by 1220 mm (8' x 4') sheet of 18 mm (3/4") standard MDF weighs approximately 40 kg (88 lbs).

### b) Storage:

Keep away from heat, sparks, flame and other ignition sources. Store at room temperature. Keep away from moisture. Take care during removing packaging, especially steel banding.

### c) Stacking:

- The ground should be flat and even with a minimum of sloping, maximum 2°.
- Ground should be strong enough to withstand the weight of the packs and the machinery. It should be well consolidated and not affected by adverse weather conditions such as rain.
- Clear any obstacles such as waste timber or unused bearers from the stacking area as they make stacks unstable.
- Stacks outside may be affected by wind make sure the stack is secure; if possible construct the stack so that a small cross section is facing the prevailing wind. Securely attach any protective sheeting. Bearers need to be straight and identical in length.
- Vertically stacked packs should be of the same size or reduce in size up the stack, avoid overhangs. Further information is available on HSE information sheet 'Safe stacking of sawn material and board materials'

## 8. Exposure Controls/ Personal Protection

### Health:

The following health problems are among the effects that have been associated with exposure to wood dust.

- Skin disorders
- Obstruction in the nose and rhinitis;
- Asthma
- a rare type of nasal cancer

### a) Exposure Controls:

During processing, adequate ventilation and/ or extraction should be provided to minimise airborne dust.

Whenever possible, fit dust extraction equipment even when using hand-held machines.

### b) Personal Protection:

Dust will be created during processing; use appropriate respiratory protection equipment. Wear gloves and overalls as required to prevent skin contact. Wear eye protection to prevent dust particles from entering eyes.

Wear the correct clothing and use other safety equipment as necessary.



## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

Appearance: Wood sheets in various dimensions  
Odour: None under ambient conditions

## 10. Stability and Reactivity - Considered stable and inert in sheet form

a) Materials to avoid:  
Reducing and oxidising agents.

b) Conditions to avoid:  
Heating and ignition sources and damp atmospheres.  
Thermal decomposition products may include:  
CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, aldehydes (including formaldehyde, HCHO) particulate matter and other organic compounds.

c) Other Hazards:  
Processing of MDF will generate wood dust. Appropriate protection from inhalation of the dust is recommended. See section 8; also refer to 'Safe collection of wood waste: Prevention of fire and explosion.' WIS32 HSE Books 1997 and 'Safe handling of combustible dusts' HSG103 HSE books 1994.

## 11. Toxicological Information

In bulk wood is unlikely to give rise to toxicological effects; the hazardous forms that may give rise to health risks are dust and sap, latex or lichens associated with the wood.

a) Immediate Hazards:

Inhalation: Dust generated during processing may cause irritation of the nose and throat.  
Skin: Dust generated during processing may cause irritation.  
Eyes: Dust generated during processing may cause irritation.

MDF is largely composed of softwood bound together usually with a urea formaldehyde or melamine urea formaldehyde resin. When it is machined, very fine dust is produced. Just like "natural" wood dust this is a potentially hazardous substance and it must be controlled. For example wood dust can cause skin disorders and asthma. Hardwood dust in particular can, very rarely, cause nasal cancer - and as such is classified as a carcinogen in Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations. The evidence that softwood dust can cause cancer is less conclusive. It is not classified as a carcinogen in the UK. However, all wood can cause irritation and we draw your attention to the guidance given in HSE woodworking sheet no 30 Toxic woods.

Under COSHH Regulations, softwood dust has a maximum exposure limit (MEL) of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (8 hr TWA)- this is the relevant limit for controlling exposure to MDF dust. Exposure must be reduced as far as is reasonably practicable below this limit - usually with properly designed and maintained dust extraction equipment fitted to woodworking machines. 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. If possible MDF should be machined in a well-ventilated workplace, for example outside.



Formaldehyde also has a MEL of 2 parts per million (PPM). Formaldehyde vapour can irritate the eyes, and nasal linings. It can be quite irritating to unaccustomed or susceptible persons. Studies to date indicate that persons machining MDF are not exposed to formaldehyde vapour at levels that adversely affect health. Exposure levels measured by HSE and other investigators have always been well below the MEL. Free formaldehyde levels from particleboards are closely monitored and controlled. The current levels are E1 less than or equal to 9 mg/100g (0,009 %) of board and E2 greater than 9 mg/100g but less than or equal to 25 mg/100g of board (>0.009% □0.025%, this is tested using EN 120 as the test standard.

## b) Delayed Hazards:

Skin eczema can take up to 15 weeks to develop for persons susceptible to dust irritation.

## 12. Ecological Information

Mobility	The dust from processing is highly mobile especially when airborne.
Degradability	Biodegradable as for wood.
Bio accumulative potential	Not determined.
Aquatic toxicity	Toxicity to bacteria, algae and higher marine organisms not tested.

## 13. Disposal Considerations

Manufacturing waste must be disposed of as a controlled waste. Special consideration should be given to containing dust to prevent spillage during transit.

## 14. Transport Information

UK Supply Classification	Non-classifiable
UK Carriage Classification	Non-classifiable
UK Conveyance Classification	Non-classifiable
UN Number	None

## 15. Regulatory Information

a) Label Information:	
UK Supply Classification	Non-classifiable
UN Number	None

## b) Other Regulations:

This Material Safety Data has been compiled in accordance with 'The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002.

Transport, storage, use and disposal of the material should be in accordance with the following additional legislation/publications, where applicable: COSHH Regulations 1994 SI 3246 and Amendments Environmental Protection Act 1990 Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1992 SI 2839 EH40 Occupational Exposure Limits. Note: This list may not be exhaustive and users should satisfy themselves that they comply with all the relevant and latest issue national legislation.

## Other Information

- Clean up every day
- Clean up frequently using vacuum cleaning equipment with high-efficiency filters. Don't use compressed airlines for cleaning down machines, work pieces or clothing and don't use brushes to sweep up - they create dust clouds.
- Dispose of waste carefully.

