

Customer Briefing: Chinese Plywood Market Update

STREPLY®

The UK plywood trade has recently been discussing the way in which Chinese plywood products are presented to the UK market in terms of bonding quality. As a result, changes to plywood bonding descriptions are now being considered.

Most Chinese plywood is glued using a Melamine Urea Formaldehyde (MUF) resin, which also allows products to meet the E1 formaldehyde emissions required by UK customers. These types of bonding resins are designed for intermediate exposure to moisture rather than as a fully exterior resin.

Until recently, Chinese plywood products sold in the UK have generally been offered as meeting EN 314 Part 2 Class 2 (suitable for humid and limited exposure applications).

Product offered as meeting EN 314 Part 2 Class 2 needs to pass all the following tests:

- 1 Immersion for 24 hours in ambient water**
- 2 Immersion for 6 hours in boiling water, followed by cooling in ambient water for a minimum of 1 hour**
- 3 'Shear' test to measure retained bond strength after 1 & 2 are completed**

We believe it is fair to say that most customers are interested in parts 1 & 2 of this testing regime, covering how the product resists delamination whilst exposed to normal and boiling water. However, the third element of the test is part of the standard.

Falcon Panel Products use accredited independent UK/Internationally accredited laboratory facilities to test our Streply® products against all the requirements of EN 314 Part 2. Our test results clearly demonstrate that Streply® products will meet the requirements of both the 24-hour immersion and 6-hour boil test elements of the Class 2 standard, however they do not retain sufficient strength to consistently pass the subsequent shear test element of the test.

Therefore, as a responsible seller of quality timber products, Falcon Panel Products have decided to offer our Streply® ranges as conforming to EN314 Part 2 Class 1 Interior, rather than Class 2 Humid and Limited Exposure. It is important to note that this description change will in no way affect the quality of Streply® products currently offered to our customers, who can continue to confidently rely on the product to pass all current statutory immersion and boil tests.

Additionally, Falcon Panel Products remain committed to reintroducing an EN 314 Part 2 Class 2 Streply® product, subject to customer demand.

For more information on any aspect of this change, please contact your local Falcon Panel Products sales office, who will be pleased to assist.



Tilbury Depot	T 01375 487 300	E tilbury@falconpp.co.uk	Falcon Panel Products Ltd Clock House, Station Approach Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8AN E sales@falconpp.co.uk www.falconpp.co.uk
Nottingham Depot	T 0115 919 2000	E nottingham@falconpp.co.uk	
West Bromwich Depot	T 0121 525 8844	E westbrom@falconpp.co.uk	
Haydock Depot	T 01744 416 600	E haydock@falconpp.co.uk	
Leeds Depot	T 01113 887 2222	E leeds@falconpp.co.uk	