

AUSTRALIAN WOOD PANELS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

PO BOX 158, COOLANGATTA, QLD 4225

T (07) 5523 1588 F (07) 5523 1589 E info@woodpanels.org.au



THE GOOD WOOD — MDF/PARTICLEBOARD

Sept 2004

## WOOD DUST: YOU CAN BREATHE EASY

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) is an engineered wood product, manufactured from fine pine fibre compacted together with a formaldehyde-based resin.

MDF and Particleboard made to Australian standards are classified as Low Formaldehyde Emission (LFE) products. This means they contain and emit formaldehyde below the workplace exposure limit set by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission of 1ppm or 1.2mg/m<sup>3</sup>.

MDF is a uniform density panel having a fine, smooth surface that is ideal for shaping and routing. The surface of MDF is free of knots and grains, which makes finishing easier.

MDF mouldings are precision milled and generally produced from moisture resistant grade MDF ensuring mouldings that offer a high degree of dimensional stability.

MDF can be easily painted, cut, machined and cleanly drilled without splintering or chipping making it a popular choice for the final fit-out and fixing stages of new homes and commercial constructions.

According to the Victorian Workcover Authority there is "no distinction between dust generated from wood and fibreboard or particleboard such as MDF. This decision is based on a comprehensive study conducted in the United Kingdom by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). It concluded that the ill-health effects associated with dust exposure arising from the machining of MDF are no different from those effects arising from machining other forms of wood".

If in doubt, people wanting more information about the safe handling of wood panel products should consult the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or for those with access to the Internet log on to [www.woodpanels.org.au](http://www.woodpanels.org.au)

AWPA TEST CENTRE



TESTING ALL AWPA MEMBERS  
MDF AND PARTICLEBOARD