



*Get fair  
dinkum!*

## LET'S KEEP OUR JOBS AT HOME!

THE plywood, LVL and wood panels industry in Australia and New Zealand is valued at \$500 million and supports more than 5000 jobs.

All of this is threatened by imported products that fail to conform to Australasian standards.

Don't sacrifice quality, safety – and jobs – for cheap and dangerous substitutes.

**Get fair dinkum!** Choose only reliable products from fully-accredited members of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia – if you want ...

- \* Consistent **QUALITY**
- \* Wood products from **100% LEGAL, CERTIFIED** forests
- \* **LOWEST** emissions
- \* Structurally **SAFE** material
- \* The **BEST** products **GUARANTEED** to Australasian Standards

Contacts for EWPPAA members on the back page of this brochure



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GUARANTEED

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# SECURITY for industry and for jobs

THE plywood, LVL and wood panels industry in Australia and New Zealand is valued at \$500 million and supports more than 5000 jobs on both sides of the Tasman.

In Australia, the union movement has called for a Buy Australia campaign. Business groups have supported new government measures designed to improve the chances of businesses winning government and private sector contracts and a slice of the government's stimulus spending measures.

## The GOLD standard

Through product innovation, consistent quality and the strictest adherence to Australasian building codes and compliance, the engineered wood products industry is committed to a 'buy home-grown' business belief that supports job protection and creation – vital in times of economic crisis.

Members of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia have continuously, over a long history, provided the building and construction sectors with a 'gold standard' for certified products, a standard unmatched by overseas competitors.

"Our job is to make sure our members know what the building sector wants and are geared up to make the most of opportunities available," says EWPAA general manager Simon Dorries.



"We believe our members can be highly competitive on timeliness, capability, quality and whole-of-life costs – measures designed to capture government and private sector contracts."

An industry-driven organisation, the EWPAA remains fiercely independent of government support and is voluntarily funded by veneer, plywood and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) manufacturers in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Their range of products include the traditional interior, exterior and marine plywood, modern engineered wood products such as structural plywoods for formwork, residential and commercial flooring, wind and earthquake bracing and feature cladding, and LVL and I-beams for both commercial and residential structures.

These are backed by the highest grade standards: AS/NZS2269 Structural Plywood; AS/NZS2270 Interior Plywood and Blockboard; AS/NZS2271 Exterior Plywood and Blockboard; AS/NZS2272 Marine Plywood; and AS/NZS4357.0 Structural Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL).



## QUALITY CONTROL and CERTIFICATION

THE EWPAA Quality Control Program and Product Certification Scheme was directly accredited at the highest level by the Joint Accreditation System – Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) as a product certification program.

JAS-ANZ is the peak accreditation body appointed by the governments of Australia and New Zealand.



A major market research study has found that manufactured products that qualify to Australasian standards provide a strategic advantage in the marketplace, whether at home or overseas.



Australian-New Zealand engineered wood products are all about innovation, global quality, great value – and safety .. for workers who build with the products, and the consumer.

The EWPAA strictly maintains certification schemes that guarantee their members' factories comply with the Australian standards covering formaldehyde levels, along with a range of other aspects.

## A sound GUARANTEE

The EWPAA maintains two NATA-accredited laboratories – to test for formaldehyde emissions and for full range of structural and physical properties. Bond quality from all member plywood and LVL mills is tested daily by the EWPAA laboratories with other properties tested on a monthly basis. The schemes are accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australian and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ).



EWPAA has initiated a national consumer campaign to identify and promote low-emission Australasian products, an initiative supported by the Housing Industry Association and the Furniture Industry Association of Australia.

Thousands of adhesive labels have been distributed to wood panel suppliers and joinery component producers carrying a 'piece of mind' assurance that EWPAA members' engineered wood and panel products have been independently tested and certified for low emission.

EWPAA carries out laboratory tests for formaldehyde emissions from all certified products manufactured in the Australasian region. All EWPAA-certified structural plywood and Type A exterior plywood have an emission class of E0 with a maximum emission of 0.50mg/L. In fact, the average formaldehyde emission for all structural and Type A exterior plywood products produced by EWPAA certified mills is only 0.14mg/L or one-third the permitted level and approximate to the natural formaldehyde emission from timber.

Plywood, particleboard and medium density fibreboard (MDF) stamped with the PAA-EWPAA grade mark is the best guarantee of a safe and dependable product.

All these products have emissions class E0 or E1 and are certified suitable for use in all residential and commercial applications.



# New resurgence in plywood as a building material

THERE is an exciting resurgence in use of 'home-grown' plywood products as a building material. This is part of a quiet revolution in residential and light commercial building practices, where the products are used creatively as exterior cladding, decorative flooring, interior wall and ceiling linings and as a lightweight but strong roofing substrate.

Against this are the increasing quantities of imported 'structural' plywood that fail to conform to Australasian standards and in many instances do not have the structural strength of true certified plywood. Some of these imported products are misrepresented by false labelling or counterfeit stamps.

EWPPAA has independently tested Asian structural plywood claiming to have Type 'A' bond in its composition. It was found to be something closer to non-structural Type 'D' with added dye colouring to make it look like a durable structural Type 'A' phenol formaldehyde."



Structural dependability .. PAA certified plywood

ability of engineered wood products could face legal action under the Trade Practices Act.

Section 52 of the Trade Practices Act prohibits conduct in the course of trade or commerce that is misleading or deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive.

Because some importers have misrepresented their plywood products, certain types of plywood have turned up in applications for which they are not suitable.

These suppliers are damaging their own market and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has put importers of panel and plywood products 'on notice' that the marketing and sale of non-compliant and un-branded material is under scrutiny.

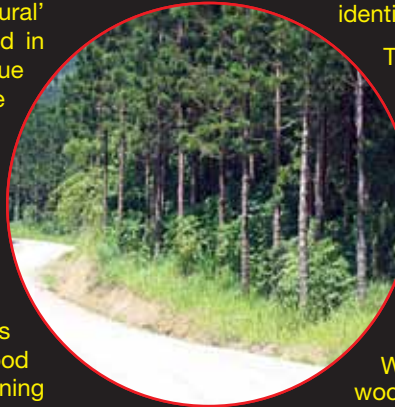


# CHAIN OF CUSTODY

ALL plywood manufactured in Australia and New Zealand originates from certified forests, either Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

In addition, much of the Australasian plywoods product range is certified for chain of custody under AFS to Australian Standard AS 4707:2006.

Chain of custody is a management system which ensures that an unbroken link exists from the certified forest to the customer; that products from certified forests can be identified; no illegal wood enters the distribution chain; and documentation identifying the origin of materials is verifiable.



This Chain of Custody Standard is intended for voluntary application by any organisation that seeks to assure its customers that the certified wood and forest products they buy are sourced from a certified forest. Its application will assist in ensuring or delivering access to domestic and international markets that seek assurances on the origin of wood or forest products from sustainably managed forests.

With the increasing availability of recycled wood based raw material in the marketplace, this CoC standard also allows organisations utilising virgin and recycled raw material to participate in CoC certification of mixed products.

Accredited, independent, third-party certification against this CoC standard provides a clear statement that wood and forest products have been produced in accordance with a set of clearly defined performance requirements, from certified forests that demonstrate renewable forest management.



The CoC standard may be used by itself or in conjunction with:

- AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000: Quality management systems—Requirements;
- AS/NZS 3843:1998 Guide 65: General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems; and/or
- AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004: Environmental management systems—Requirements with guidance for use.

Examples of the Chain of Custody certification marks are shown below.

Note: The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia is a JAS-ANZ accredited certification body for chain of custody systems.





## A path out of poverty PNG industry contributes to jobs, healthier lifestyle

THE plywood industry is contributing to the sustainable development of the forest sector in Papua New Guinea and shows what can be achieved through collaboration with industry, growers and the wider community.

EWPAA member companies in PNG are among responsible forest operations helping the poor find a path out of poverty.

The companies work within legality verification systems and are fully compliant with laws on certification and chain of custody.

The industry's credibility has been further strengthened by fresh outcomes from a project funded by the International Tropical Timber Organisation that has found member companies of the PNG Forest Industries Association are fully compliant with National laws and can demonstrate legality via certification and chain of custody systems.

Established under the auspices of the United Nations, ITTO is an intergovernmental organisation promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources. Its members represent about 80% of the world's tropical forests and 90% of the global tropical timber trade.

Almost all land in PNG is under customary or tribal ownership and forests have been seen as the basis for economic development for some time.

The PNG forest industry provides vital hard and soft infrastructure, including education and health facilities in remote areas where, unfortunately, provision of government services has been declining in recent years.

EWPAA member Rimbunan Hijau has invested around \$US300 million in PNG, employs more than 5000 people and has built the country's leading manufacturing business.

## Test cases: seven good reasons

A Sydney unit development was shut down by the NSW Work Cover Authority in a breakthrough test case against the use of imported non-compliant formply in building construction. WorkCover NSW stopped concrete pouring on the site until the formply was replaced with material that complies with the requirements of the Australian Standard and is correctly labelled for stress grade.

Imported underlayment plywoods have failed stability tests and Australian Standards for lyctid susceptibility and accepted formaldehyde levels. Random samples of plywood sheets obtained on the open market by the EWPAA were unlabelled for grade, bond type and formaldehyde emission class and there was no indication of the manufacturer or exact country of origin.

Core veneer species used in the manufacture of the underlayment plywood imported into Australia have been identified by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries as *Populus* spp, a low density hardwood frequently used by Chinese plywood manufacturers. Test results on these products showed formaldehyde emissions were extremely high (4.8mg/2). Of greater concern was the fact that the emission class was not labelled on the panel to identify it as a high emission product.

Melbourne timber merchants have reported that timber flooring failures are being increasingly attributed to the use of inferior imported underlayment plywood. An EWPAA spot survey among reputable builders reveals a very real concern that delaminating of underlay

# Plywood industry recognises innovation in building design

## Coveted trophy presentation at national awards

A NATIONAL trophy for excellence in design using plywood and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) has captured the imagination of architects and specifiers across Australia.

The Geoffery Sanderson Trophy, sponsored by the Engineered Wood Products Association, has inspired a whole new raft of entries in the annual Australian Timber Design Awards that compete in the Best Use of Plywood and LVL category.

Entries in this category reflect a strong awareness in the design community of the benefits of engineered wood products.

The Geoffrey Sanderson Trophy recognises the service given to the industry by a former president of the Plywood Association of Australasia (PAA) in 1988-89 and 1998-2003.

Master wood craftsman Robert Dunlop, who was commissioned to create the \$1500 trophy, said his work reflected all aspects of the beauty, strength and versatility of certified plywood and LVL.

"It tells the plywood story," he said.



## to choose certified plywood

material on many projects can be tracked to the use of non-certified product imported from Asia.

In New Zealand, EWPAA members have reported a number of 'near misses' where they have managed to stop a substitution of imported non AS/NZS2269 compliant plywood being used. In one case, the imported non-compliant material was used in a roof substrate application for a retirement village, a school and a police station.

Rigorous formaldehyde testing of Chinese wood panel products has confirmed the fears of the engineered wood products industry – a 'toxic time bomb' is ticking among the many thousands of containers of flat pack shelving and other furniture components imported each day by Australia's 'big box' retailers. Laboratory examination at the EWPAA's test centre (ATCA) on unlabelled random samples of Chinese flat pack furniture components has revealed formaldehyde emissions up to three times higher than the Australian-made equivalent.

CHILE'S self-styled image as an exporter of quality-trusted wood products has been tarnished by flawed plywood boards entering the New Zealand market. A big consignment of Chilean plywood used in a hoarding display project at the Eden Park sports ground in Auckland showed massive signs of delamination three months after installation. More than 550 sheets of ply – 60 of them New Zealand manufactured and the rest Chilean product – were used in the project. Well over 100 sheets of Chilean product needed major repairs, while the installed New Zealand plywood sheets remained perfect.

# LISTING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

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