

27 July 2001

Mr Steve Heron  
H.H. Robinson  
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83-87 Dover St  
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### Safety Review of High Pressure Laminate

Dear Mr Heron,

JCON International has conducted a review of High Pressure Laminates (HPL) to determine whether it requires a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) prior to use in Australia.

HPL are decorative laminates that are formed by impregnating cellulose sheets with thermosetting resins. These materials are then bonded together at high temperature (typically above 120 °C), and at high pressure (at least 7 MPa).

Once the resins have been subjected to high temperature and pressure, they form irreversible bonds through cross-linking. This produces a stable, non-reactive material that is widely used as decorative panelling.

HPL have been assessed by the International Committee of Decorative Laminates Industry (ICDLI) in Germany and they have found that "*HPL are not classified as hazardous substances and therefore do not require a special marking nor a description by a safety data sheet*".<sup>1</sup> They further recommend that no labelling is required for storage and transportation. Finally, while handling HPL, the ICDLI recommends that protective gloves are worn due to the possibility of sharp edges and that the usual precautions be taken to minimise exposure to dust.

JCON International has compared the Product Data Sheet with the requirements of relevant Victorian Legislation and found that the relevant section is Section 24, Sub-section 3 (c) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. That states that:

(3) A person who manufactures, imports or supplies any substance for use at a workplace shall--

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<sup>1</sup> International Committee of Decorative Laminates Industry, "Product Data Sheet for High Pressure Laminates", July 2000

(c) take such action as is necessary to ensure that there will be available in connection with the use of the substance at the workplace adequate information about the results of any relevant tests which have been carried out on or in connection with the substance and about any conditions necessary to ensure that it will be safe and without risks to health when properly used.

The provision of the Product Data Sheet prepared by the ICDLI satisfies this requirement.

JCON International also reviewed the requirements of the Dangerous Goods Act and the Occupational Health and Safety (Hazardous Substances) Regulations. These place certain requirements on importers and suppliers of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances respectively.

JCON International has determined that High Pressure Laminates (HPL) are not classified as Dangerous Goods or as Hazardous Substances according to the requirements of the relevant acts and regulations. Consequently, HPL can be stored, transported and handled in Victoria without an MSDS.

If you have any questions please contact me on (03) 9279 3901.



Chris Connelly  
Director