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## PROCESSING & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This information is given only as a guide. The manufacturer reserves the right to change or improve the products.

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### 1 Products

OKOUME MARINE PLYWOOD

OKOUME PLYWOOD

OKOUME ROUTING PLYWOOD

OKOUME SPECIAL PLYWOOD

OKOUME/LOTOFA PLYWOOD

RTP OKOUME PLYWOOD

SAPELLI MARINE PLYWOOD

TWIN PLYWOOD OKOUME TROPICAL

AIRCRAFT TYPE OKOUME PLYWOOD

COMBI PLYWOOD OKOUME POPLAR

COMBI PLYWOOD OKOUME TROPICAL

COMBI PLYWOOD SAPELLI OKOUME

COMBI ROUTING PLYWOOD

FLEXBOARD PLYWOOD FROMAGER

FORMAGER PLYWOOD

### 2 Physical description/properties

Plywood panels are produced with high quality rotary cut veneers, specially manufactured to provide durability and longevity. Their physical characteristics are very stable and can withstand exposure to severe weather conditions for prolonged periods of time.

There is no distinctive odour. However, newly manufactured plywood and freshly machined surfaces tend to have the odour of the wood species from which the plywood is manufactured.

Plywood is not classified as hazardous.

### 3 Emission of volatile organic compounds

The resins used in the manufacturing process are of the stable thermosetting type.

Formaldehyde emission from the panels glued with melamine (MUF) or phenolic (PF) resins is very low. Panels made with MUF are classified E1 as per EN 13986. Panels made with PF resins are both E1 as per EN 13986 and TSCA Title VI / CARB compliant.

Sealing plywood with paint, varnish or other surface finishes further reduces any emissions.

### 4 Wood dust

When the boards are machined (sawn, sanded, drilled, routed, planed, etc.) wood dust is produced. Wood dust and splinters may cause irritation of the nose and throat, eyes and skin. Some woods may also be sensitizers, and some people may develop allergic dermatitis or asthma. Inhalation of wood dust, both hardwood and softwood, may increase the risk of nasal and paranasal sinus cancers.

## 5 Transportation and Storage

During transportation, plywood panels should be placed on a clean, flat and dry supporting surface. They should be firmly fastened to avoid sliding and bending. When handling and moving the panels, take care to protect the edges.

Plywood panels should always be stored flat, in a dry place on intermediate bearers and clear of the ground. When handling, take into account the density of the wood and consequently the weight of the packs. Respect the weight limits of the fork lift trucks. When storing the panels, ensure that they are flat, level and in a dry place. When handling the panels, suitable protective gloves should be worn.

## 6 Using the panels

First of all, check that the identification written on the plywood corresponds with its intended use. Respect safety regulations when using the plywood sheets. The panels should be stabilized by storing them, for at least one week, in a place where the humidity level is similar to that where they are to be used.

Plywood can be fixed by mean of nails, screws, staples or glue. In case of nailing and screwing provision should be made fixings are not left protruding. When installing a plywood panel make sure that there is proper ventilation of the reverse side to eliminate condensation. Depending on the application it may be necessary to leave a gap to allow for expansion between each panel or at the perimeter of the construction. Before applying any type of finishing it is recommended to carry out a test of the product on a sample piece in order to verify the compatibility between the finishing substance and the plywood itself. When plywood panels are used in exterior conditions it is absolutely vital that they are installed in accordance with standard practice, sealing the plywood face and the edges with a paint, varnish or other surface finisher. Maintenance at regular intervals, is essential to ensure the longevity of the plywood panel.

The sawing and machining of wooden products produces sawdust which is highly inflammable. A concentration in the air above 40 g/m<sup>3</sup> can lead to an explosion. Ensure that no source of ignition is near the sawdust. Dust extraction equipment is to be used when cutting or machining the plywood and operators who are exposed to the fine dust are to wear a protective mask (class P3).

For high quality cutting, the reverse side of the panel should be facing the saw bench. Best cutting results are obtained when sawing is made along the wood grain.

It is recommended to carry out all cutting, machining and pre-painting operations in the workshop.

Burning or smouldering boards or wood dust can generate carbon dioxide and other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material. Dry wood dust in high concentrations can be explosive. Use water or dry chemical fire extinguishers.

## 7 Off cuts of plywood

Since neither heavy metal nor organic halogen substance is to be found in the plywood, the off cuts can be used as combustible in a wood burning furnace, wherever the regulations of the local authority permit.



### 8 Fire

Should the plywood catch fire all types of fire extinguishers can be used (water, foam, powder).

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