

COSSH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Product Safety Data - Hazard Factors

Product

Humphrey & Stretton supply the following products:

- Hardwood – moulded
- Softwood – moulded
- Plywood/Blockboard/Chipboard – Decorative and constructional
- Doors and Door Blanks
- Doorsets and General Joinery

General Background

There are no particular hazards to health caused by touch or contact with the products. Persons should take reasonable care when handling large, bulky or heavy items. Mechanical aids or team lifting should be considered for the more significantly weighted products. Gloves can be worn to protect the hand from small splinters. Splinters should be removed promptly.

Dust

Additional machining operations require control in accordance with the COSHH Regulations and the EH40 listing concerning Occupational Exposure Limits (both are available from HMSO outlets and good bookshops). Health guidance notes record that the maximum dust exposure limited is 5mg/m³ over an 8-hour time weighted average.

Some people exhibit symptoms or allergic reaction to certain types of wood dust, (running eyes, sneezing, skin irritation). Persons affected by the allergy should not be exposed to the dust. No lasting health damage if likely to result.

Formaldehyde

MDF and sheet materials can contain small amounts of formaldehyde in the resins and glues used in their manufacture. The amount of vapour released is extremely small. Normally there are no significant health hazards and good ventilation will minimise any exposure.

Control Methods

Efficient dust extraction and ventilation systems should be in place for machining and re-work routines.

Fire and Explosion

- Use water to extinguish.
- Very fine dust suspended in the atmosphere is a potential explosion risk. Smoking should not be permitted.

Personal Protective Equipment

Use dust masks and safety glasses as necessary. Overalls are recommended for machining routines. Consult competent retailer for appropriate types of equipment (respiratory filters/masks etc).

First Aid

Inhalation of dust – Take fresh air and clear nasal passages.

Eye Contact – Flush with water, seek medical advice if problems persists.