



## **ENVIRONMENT HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **Sustainability**

Briggs Sustainable Natural Real Wood Veneers come from sustainably harvested and managed forests or wood-lots in the US, Canada, Europe/the EU, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Sustainable harvest means that the amount of timber that grows back each year is greater than, or equal to, the amount harvested. Furthermore, such forests are managed in accordance with strict laws and regulations to protect biodiversity, endangered species, water quality and other environmental values.

Sustainable wood veneers have many environmental benefits:

- Low embodied energy
- Carbon storage – growing trees absorb carbon dioxide which is then “locked up” for the life of the tree and wooden products made from that tree.
- Land use and biodiversity – Sustainably managed native forests are a natural ecosystem and consequently have high biodiversity. Plantations also support a reasonable degree of biodiversity.
- Wood is a renewable resource
- Veneer is one of the most environmentally efficient and economical ways to use beautiful timbers because one cubic metre of veneer can cover more than 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> of panel surface

Supporting information on sustainability:

- USA – [“Assessment of Lawful Harvesting & Sustainability of US Hardwood Exports”](#)
- Canada – [“Canadian Forest Products: A Legal and Sustainable Choice”](#)
- EU – European Commission [“Sustainable Forest Management”](#)
- Australia – [“National Forest Policy Statement”](#)
- New Zealand – All veneer that Briggs sources from New Zealand is plantation grown or FSC

### **FSC® & PEFC™ certified veneers**

Briggs offers a large number of these veneers as independently certified to be from well-managed forests under the FSC® and PEFC™ forest management schemes. See the **eco-cert range** of FSC® and PEFC™ veneers. Briggs holds current PEFC™ and FSC® Chain of Custody certificates.

### **Formaldehyde**

Natural wood veneer in its raw state has no added formaldehyde. Formaldehyde emissions are well below Super E0 (which is 0.03 ppm). Additionally it should be noted that wood veneer is exempt from Formaldehyde emissions section of the Greenstar tools: download [Formaldehyde Statement Natural Timber Veneer](#).

### **VOC's**

Raw veneer has negligible VOC's (volatile organic compounds). Any contribution to VOC's and formaldehyde in veneered panels is not generally due to natural veneer, but due to the substrate, glues and coating. If the finished veneer panels are required to be E0 and low VOC, please specify all substrates, glues and coatings to be E0 and Low VOC.

As in all wood working operations, it is essential that adequate protection is taken against the contact and the breathing of wood dust when processing, and that normal workplace hygiene practices are followed.

*As it is not possible to cover all associated manufacturing materials, conditions, products and methods, the end-user is responsible for carrying out the necessary tests and trials to check that the veneer, coating type, fabrication methods, associated materials and cleaning products/methods are suitable for the application.*