

ABET LAMINATI



Unlimited Selection

**ENVIRONMENTAL
PRODUCTS & INFORMATION**



Some of the 20,000 poplar trees ABET LAMINATI has planted near its factory in Bra, Italy

Tefor[®] – 100% recycled

ABET LAMINATI's Tefor[®] is a hardwearing, water-resistant 100% recycled and recyclable surfacing material which is easy to clean and maintain.

Tefor[®] is a decorative surfacing material made from recycled polypropylene and laminate powder; the latter is the waste generated from the manufacturing process of HPL (High Pressure Laminate) in accordance with standard EN438. It can either be extruded or calendared. It is a thermoplastic not a High Pressure Laminate.

Tefor[®] has a chemical composition that offers resistance to water absorption with clear advantages in moist environments. **Tefor[®]** can be used for a host of interior light duty, design driven applications including retail shelving, backsplashes, automotive market and vertical cladding. Tefor can be used in injection pressing processes and can also be enhanced by surfacing it with textiles or plastic film.

It has been successfully laminated to both fabrics and plastics and comes in thicknesses between 1.0mm and 4.0mm while a standard sheet size is 3050 x 1300mm. It is available in seven standard colours with custom colours available to order.

Tefor[®] applications include any decorative surface with low abrasion requirements. Tefor[®] does not have the abrasion resistance of HPL but it does have higher impact strength. The composition of these materials gives **Tefor[®]** high impact, chemical resistance and other favourable properties.



Tefor is available in seven standard colours with other colours available to order (depending on quantity).



Tefor is manufactured from recycled polypropylene and waste laminate powder from the manufacture of High Pressure Laminate.

Environmental Statement

ABET LAMINATI is one of the world's largest manufacturers of High Pressure Decorative Laminates. The company is Europe's leader and operates internationally, supplying regularly to over 70 countries.

The Company's development plan includes extensions to its current plants, boosting today's industrial area of 250,000m² and thereby making it possible to increase production from the current 180,000m² of laminate each day.

However, **ABET LAMINATI's** growth is not just a question of quantity. Growth means cultural sensitivity and openness. Growth means awareness of environmental concerns and this is reflected in the installation of one of the most advanced waste purification systems developed by state of the art international technology. Growth is taking on and accepting new responsibilities for the environment while continuing to explore new territories.

New technologies make possible considerable savings of energy and resources. In the production of high-pressure laminates, water vapour is obtained in the liquid state at a temperature of about 150°C. Once used, instead of being lost to the environment, Abet has invested in equipment to store it in a high temperature water reservoir to be re-utilised in subsequent working cycles. Even the water needed for the successive cooling cycle is cooled each time in specially developed towers instead of being continuously replaced from new sources.

ABET LAMINATI research concentrates on the search for solutions that can cut to an absolute minimum the environmental impact of the products it puts on the market. That is why no Print HPL product contains asbestos, lead or other heavy metal and the décor papers are manufactured only using clean pigments. This is not only a guarantee on non-toxicity for those using them but also a guarantee that they will not cause pollution when disposed of or dispersed into the

environment. All paper used in the production of Print HPL is obtained exclusively from renewable sources.

The development of new environmental responsibilities is also an opportunity for growth for **ABET LAMINATI**. One of the Company's largest investment projects in recent years was dedicated to the construction of a waste treatment system that adopts catalytic oxidation processes. It is technologically the most advanced system available and the first to be adopted in Europe.

ABET LAMINATI research concentrates in particular on the search for solutions that minimise the environmental impact of its products. The most recent and encouraging results are those of Tefor, the first recyclable material. Abet Laminati produces it from the wastes of its high-pressure laminate.

The **ABET LAMINATI** policy is to assess continually the environmental impact of its products and production and work to reduce any environmentally negative aspect to an absolute minimum.

All Print High Pressure Laminate is produced in Italy. The energy consumption for the manufacture of 1m² of Print decorative laminate (0.9mm) is approximately 40MJ. Raw materials of 1.8 kg weight are required to produce 1 m² of decorative laminate.

Print decorative laminate is used in the construction and furniture industry, usually bonded to a substrate such as chipboard or MDF. Waste either from the fabrication or demolition can be incinerated or disposed of in landfill. When incinerated high pressure laminate produces residual products comparable to the incineration of wood. The energy content of 1 kg of laminate is 20 MJ/kg, compared to the average of 13 MJ/kg for ordinary wood. In a landfill site, laminate is slowly degradable when combined with household or industrial waste.



ISO 14001

ABET Ltd is delighted to announce achievement of the coveted ISO 14001 certification. ISO 14001 was first published in 1996 and specifies the actual requirements for an environmental management system. It applies to those environmental aspects over which the organization has control and can be expected to have an influence.

This Standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to:

- implement, maintain and improve an environmental management system
- assure itself of its conformance with its own stated environmental policy (those policy commitments of course must be made)
- demonstrate conformance
- ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations
- seek certification of its environmental management system by an external third party organisation
- make a self-determination of conformance.

Environmental considerations

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY RAW MATERIALS

Much of the papers used in the manufacture of Print HPL Laminate are obtained from raw materials (cellulose) sourced from sustainable forests. Many of **ABET LAMINATI's** paper suppliers comply with the regulations of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Chain of Custody. This is the mark that certifies products from forests managed in a correct and responsible manner, according to strict environmental, social and economic standards, together with other International Certification Systems on Forest Management. All these bodies aim to guarantee independent valuation criteria according to strict environmental, social and economic principles, besides supporting sustainable forest management the world over, in the firm belief that the rational and monitored use of wood will not impoverish forests but will favour their conservation in terms of recycling and replacement.



phenolic resins (e.g. methyl) to water-based resins many years before environmental regulations came into force. This is certainly a less cost-effective option but considered fundamental to improving environmental conditions, both inside production facilities as well as for external emissions. Through careful management of the manufacturing

process, **ABET LAMINATI** utilizes only raw materials which are free from halogens, methanol, pentachlorophenol, heavy metals and asbestos fibres.

In order to increase safety levels in the production of phenolic resins, the company chose to work with reduced capacities and decidedly lower temperatures than the process standards, notwithstanding the consequent reduced plant productivity. The risk of the occurrence of events that could damage the surrounding environment has been reduced to virtually zero.

ABET LAMINATI chose to make the transition from alcohol-based

AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

The quality of air emitted into the atmosphere is constantly monitored and rigorously tested according to the various regulations in force.

ABET LAMINATI was the first Italian company in its field to install large catalytic combustion facilities for air treatment. These state of the art facilities maximize the breakdown of any pollutants in exhausts, with the lowest energy consuming technologies available at the time of investment. The company is also bound by the Kyoto Protocol, the international environment treaty signed in the Japanese city in 1997



on the occasion of the COP3 Conference. Adherence to this document requires a serious commitment to work towards a significant reduction of pollutants in emissions.

ABET LAMINATI has achieved CO2 emissions that are significantly lower those very stringent quotas. Also along these lines approximately 20,000 poplars have been planted around the factory. The poplar possesses high ecological properties and its small leaves mean that it purifies the air of carbon dioxide.

REDUCING WATER CONSUMPTION

Due to man's treatment of the environment, over the last 50 years, fresh water ecosystems have undergone profound changes, unfortunately disturbing age old equilibriums. In order to economise on the use of this essential asset, **ABET LAMINATI's** plant has been equipped with closed



cycle cooling towers that allow for a reduction in consumption estimated at around 90%.

The processed waters are entirely reused in the production cycle, without discharges, thanks to a closed cycle system.

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70 Roding Road, London Industrial Park, London E6 6LS
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7473 6910 • Fax: +44 (0)20 7476 6935
Email: sales@abet.ltd.uk or sales@abet.ie
Web: www.abetuk.com or www.abet.ie