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A Report to
MERINO Industries Inc.
from
North Carolina State University
Wood Products Laboratory
on
**NEMA LD3-2005
Laminate Tests**

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IMPORTANT

- These tests were conducted according to the procedures described in NEMA standards LD3-2005 except where noted.
- The NEMA LD3-2005 test procedures and standards were designed for high pressure decorative laminates, and their use with other products may produce misleading or irrelevant results.
- We do not certify a manufacturer's laminate. We report only on the results of a given sample of laminate which has been submitted to our laboratory.
- The name of the University is not to be used in any type of advertising or promotional efforts.
- We have undertaken high pressure decorative laminate testing as an independent testing laboratory largely as a service to the laminate manufacturers and the furniture industry. However, our main purpose is that of education and research, which means that we cannot always respond quickly to requests for testing.

Merino Industries Inc submitted one sample of a grey, solid color, 0.7mm thick standard grade HPDL for testing according to the test methods in NEMA LD3-2005. The following tests were requested:

LD3-2005

- 3.1 Appearance
- 3.3 Light Resistance
- 3.4 Cleanability/Stain Resistance
- 3.5 Boiling Water Resistance
- 3.6 High Temperature Resistance
- 3.8 Ball Impact Resistance
- 3.9 Dart Impact Resistance
- 3.10 Radiant Heat Resistance – coil method
- 3.10 Radiant Heat Resistance – strip method
- 3.11 Dimensional Change
- 3.12 Dimensional Stability
- 3.13 Wear Resistance
- 3.15 Blister Resistance

Results of the tests follow. A summary table of test results is appended.

TEST RESULTS

3.1 APPEARANCE

TEST RESULTS

3.1.4 Visual Inspection for type A, B, C defects

	type A defects	type B defects	type C defects
sample # 1	0	0	0

3.1.5 Warpage – height of highest corner

	height of highest corner (mm)
sample # 1	37

3.1.6 Broken Corners – number / distance to corner

	number	size (mm)
sample # 1	0	

3.1.7 Squareness – difference in cross-corner lengths

	Squareness (mm)
sample # 1	1

3.1.8 Edge Straightness – mm deviation per meter of edge

	Straightness (mm/m)
sample # 1	< 0.5mm/m

3.3 LIGHT RESISTANCE

TEST CONDITIONS

black panel temp	70C
wet bulb depression	11C
conditioning water	20C
calibration at	420nm
irradiance rate	1.09 W/m ² (1.10 ± 0.03)
total irradiance	285.1 kJ/m²

TEST RESULTS

	Light Resistance =
sample # 1	NO EFFECT

No Effect = no visible color or gloss change under the specified viewing conditions

Slight Effect = difficult to perceive change in color or gloss visible only at certain viewing angles or directions

Moderate effect = difficult to perceive change in color or gloss visible at all viewing angles or directions

Severe Effect = easily perceived change in color or gloss, or permanent change/damage to the decorative surface

3.4 CLEANABILITY/STAIN

TEST RESULTS

Sample #	Cleanability	Stain Resistance <i>(reagents not listed = no effect)</i>
sample # 1	11	moderate effect – reagent 12 no effect – reagents 1-11,13-15

reagent #	stain reagent
1	Distilled water
2	50:50 SD-3A ethyl alcohol:water
3	Acetone
4	Household ammonia (non-sudsing)
5	10% Citric acid solution
6	Vegetable cooking oil
7	Freshly prepared coffee
8	Freshly prepared tea
9	Tomato catsup
10	Plain prepared yellow mustard
11	Povidone iodine (10%)
12	Permanent Marker Pen
13	#2 pencil
14	Wax crayon
15	Shoe polish (black paste)

Cleaning steps: *(see NEMA LD3 2000 for full descriptions)*

1. tap water -- removed = (0)
2. BCS + sponge w/1 kg weight -- 25 cycles -- rinse w/ tap water --removed = (1)
3. BCS + baking soda +brush -- 25 cycles -- rinse w/ tap water --removed = (2).
4. cotton ball + nail polish remover -- rub \leq 2 minutes-- rinse w/ tap water --removed = (3)
5. cotton ball w/ bleach --2 minutes-- rinse w/ tap water --removed = (4).
6. if reagent remains visible = (5).

Cleanability = sum of reagent cleaning scores

Stain Resistance = No Effect / Moderate Effect / Severe Effect -- (reagents with cleaning score=5)

No Effect = no visible color or surface change under the specified viewing conditions

Moderate effect = difficult to perceive stain visible at all viewing angles or directions

Severe Effect = easily perceived stain, or permanent change/damage to the decorative surface

TEST DATA

		cleaning steps					cleanability score	stain
		0	1	2	3	4		
1	water						0	N
2	ethanol						0	N
3	acetone						0	N
4	ammonia						0	N
5	citric acid						0	N
6	veg. oil						0	N
7	coffee						0	N
8	tea						0	N
9	catsup						0	N
10	mustard						0	N
11	iodine						0	N
12	perm. marker	1	1	1	1	1	5	M
13	pencil	1	1				2	N
14	crayon	1	1				2	N
15	shoe polish	1	1				2	N
Cleanability							11	

cleaning steps: (cleanability score)	0 = removed with water
	1 = 20 cycles spray cleaner on sponge
	2 = 20 cycles baking soda +spray cleaner on brush
	3 = nail polish remover
	4 = bleach
	5 = not removed -- describe stain as Moderate (M) or Severe (S)
Stain Resistance	N = No Effect (=cleaning scores 0-4)
	M = Moderate Effect -- difficult to perceive stain
	S = Severe Effect -- easily perceived stain, or damaged surface
cleanability	y = NEMA LD3 cleanability score = sum cleaning score for reagents 1-15

3.5 BOILING WATER RESISTANCE

TEST RESULTS

	Boiling Water Resistance =
sample # 1	NO EFFECT

No Effect = no visible color or gloss change under the specified viewing conditions

Slight Effect = difficult to perceive change in color or gloss visible only at certain viewing angles or directions

Moderate effect = difficult to perceive change in color or gloss visible at all viewing angles or directions

Severe Effect = easily perceived change in color or gloss, or permanent change/damage to the decorative surface

3.6 HIGH TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE

TEST RESULTS

	High Temperature Resistance =
sample # 1	NO EFFECT

No Effect = no visible color or gloss change under the specified viewing conditions

Slight Effect = difficult to perceive change in color or gloss visible only at certain viewing angles or directions

Moderate effect = difficult to perceive change in color or gloss visible at all viewing angles or directions

Severe Effect = easily perceived change in color or gloss, or permanent change/damage to the decorative surface

3.8 BALL IMPACT RESISTANCE

TEST CONDITIONS

224g steel ball – 38.1mm diameter

report drop height with no surface fracture in 3 replicate drops (see LD3 for details)

TEST RESULTS

	Ball Impact Resistance (mm)
sample # 1	650

3.9 DART IMPACT RESISTANCE

TEST CONDITIONS

25g dart – 5mm diameter spherical tip

report drop height with no surface fracture prior to a series of 3 consecutive fractures (see LD3 for details)

TEST RESULTS

	Dart Impact Resistance (mm)
sample # 1	500

3.10 RADIANT HEAT RESISTANCE – COIL METHOD

average time in seconds to failure of 3 test runs

TEST RESULTS

	Average Radiant Heat Resistance (seconds)
sample # 1	141

TEST DATA

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Rep1</i>	<i>Rep 2</i>	<i>Rep 3</i>
sample # 1	<i>132</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>145</i>

3.10 RADIANT HEAT RESISTANCE – STRIP METHOD

average time in seconds to failure of 3 test runs

TEST RESULTS

	Average Radiant Heat Resistance (seconds)
sample # 1	142

TEST DATA

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Rep1</i>	<i>Rep 2</i>	<i>Rep 3</i>
sample # 1	<i>136</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>145</i>

3.11 DIMENSIONAL CHANGE

average of 3 replicates

TEST CONDITIONS

conditioned at 50% RH 70F

wet = 93%RH 40C for 7 days

dry = convection oven at 70C for 24hrs

TEST RESULTS

	Dimensional Change	
	Machine Direction	Cross Machine Direction
sample # 1	0.53%	0.88%

3.12 ROOM TEMPERATURE DIMENSIONAL STABILITY

average of 3 replicate samples

TEST CONDITIONS

conditioned at 50% RH 70F

wet = 98%RH 70F for 4 days

dry = 10% RH at 70F for 4 days

TEST RESULTS

	Room Temperature Dimensional Stability	
	Machine Direction	Cross Machine Direction
sample # 1	0.34%	0.70%

3.13 WEAR RESISTANCE**TEST CONDITIONS**

abrasive strip correction factor = 1.078

*wear resistance is the average of initial and final points for 3 samples, adjusted by the abrasive strip correction factor, and rounded to the nearest 50 cycles***TEST RESULTS****Average Corrected WEAR RESISTANCE rounded to nearest 50 cycles**

	Average cycles
sample # 1	450

TEST DATA

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Initial Point (raw cycles)</i>	<i>Final Point (raw cycles)</i>
replicate # 1	275	550
replicate # 2	275	550
replicate # 3	275	550

3.15 BLISTER RESISTANCE

average time in seconds to failure of 3 test runs

*postforming grades only***TEST RESULTS**

	Average Blister Resistance (seconds)
sample # 1	54

TEST DATA

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Rep1</i>	<i>Rep 2</i>	<i>Rep 3</i>
sample # 1	56	53	54

TEST SUMMARY

NEMA LD3-2005 TEST			<i>Merino 0.7mm</i>	<i>NEMA LD3 VGS</i>
LD3.1	Appearance			
	3.1.4 Visual			
	Type A defects - smudges/smears/streaks/fingerprints	#A	--	0
	Type B defects - single particles 0.60mm ² or more	#B	--	0
	Type C defects - 3+, each 0.30mm ² +, w/in 300mm d circ	#C	--	0
	3.1.5 Thickness		0.683	0.7 +/- 0.10
	3.1.6 Flatness	max ht	37	120
	3.1.7 Broken Corners	#, dist. to corner	0	1 @ 25mm or 2 @ 13mm
	3.1.8 Squareness	dif. cross corner lens.	1	6
cross corner lens.		2760/2759		
3.1.9 Edge Straightness	mm dev./ m edge len	<0.5mm	1.5	
LD3.3	Light Resistance -- xenon arc	NE SL M S	NE	SL
LD3.4	Cleanability/Stain Resistance clean: sum of scores reagents 1-15 // stain: list all w/ M S water:0 25/bc.sponge:1 25/bk.sod.br:2 solv:3 ClO:4 5	cleanability sum of scores	11	20
		1-10:NE M S	NE	NE
		11-15:NE M S	12-M	M
LD3.5	Boiling Water Resistance	NE SL M S	NE	NE
LD3.6.3	High Temperature Resistance (oil)	NE SL M S	NE	SL
LD3.8	Ball Impact	impact height (3rep)	650	500
LD3.9	Dart Impact Resistance	impact height (3con.brk)	500	200
LD3.10.2	Radiant Heat Resistance (coil)	ave. 3 samp. in sec	141	80
LD3.10.3	Radiant Heat Resistance (strip)	ave. 3 samp. in sec	142	
LD3.11	Dimensional Change	ave md %	0.53%	0.70%
		ave cmd %	0.88%	1.20%
LD3.12	Dimensional Stability	ave md %	0.34%	0.60%
		ave cmd %	0.70%	1.10%
LD3.13	Wear Resistance	ave.corr.WR rounded(50)	450	400
LD3.15	Blister Resistance	ave of 3 in sec	54	--