



BSI Standards Publication

High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates)

Part 1: Introduction and general information

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 438-1:2016. It supersedes BS EN 438-1:2005 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PRI/76, Laminated sheet for decorative purposes.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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English Version

High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) - Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) - Part 1: Introduction and general information

Stratifiés décoratifs haute pression (HPL) - Plaques à base de résines thermodurcissables (communément appelées stratifiés) - Partie 1: Introduction et informations générales

Dekorative Hochdruck-Schichtpressstoffplatten (HPL) - Platten auf Basis härtpbarer Harze (Schichtpressstoffe) - Teil 1: Einleitung und allgemeine Informationen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 December 2015.

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European foreword

This document (EN 438-1:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 249 "Plastics", the secretariat of which is held by NBN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2016, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2016.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 438-1:2005.

EN 438, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates)*, consists of the following parts:

- *Part 1: Introduction and general information*
- *Part 2: Determination of properties*
- *Part 3: Classification and specifications for laminates less than 2 mm thick intended for bonding to supporting substrates*
- *Part 4: Classification and specifications for Compact laminates of thickness 2 mm and greater*
- *Part 5: Classification and specifications for flooring grade laminates less than 2 mm thick intended for bonding to supporting substrates*
- *Part 6: Classification and specifications for Exterior-grade Compact laminates of thickness 2 mm and greater*
- *Part 7: Compact laminate and HPL composite panels for internal and external wall and ceiling finishes*
- *Part 8: Classification and specifications for design laminates*
- *Part 9: Classification and specifications for alternative core laminates*

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1 Scope

This part of EN 438 gives an overview of the standard, and provides guidance in the selection and application of test methods and specifications contained in EN 438-2, EN 438-3, EN 438-4, EN 438-5, EN 438-6, EN 438-7, EN 438-8 and EN 438-9.

This European Standard is applicable to high-pressure decorative laminate(s) (HPL) produced by using a high pressure process.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 438-2, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called Laminates) — Part 2: Determination of properties*

EN 438-3, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 3: Classification and specifications for laminates less than 2 mm thick intended for bonding to supporting substrates*

EN 438-4, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 4: Classification and specifications for Compact laminates of thickness 2 mm and greater.*

EN 438-5, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 5: Classification and specifications for flooring grade laminates less than 2 mm thick intended for bonding to supporting substrates*

EN 438-6, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 6: Classification and specifications for Exterior-grade Compact laminates of thickness 2 mm and greater*

EN 438-7, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 7: Compact laminate and HPL composite panels for internal and external wall and ceiling finishes*

EN 438-8, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 8: Classification and specifications for design laminates*

EN 438-9, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 9: Classification and specifications for alternative core laminates*

EN 13329, *Laminate floor coverings — Elements with a surface layer based on aminoplastic thermosetting resins — Specifications, requirements and test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.