

## FOREWORD

PanelGuide gives the panel user and specifier guidance and information on the use of wood-based panels in an authoritative and comprehensive manner.

PanelGuide covers all the main types of wood-based panel:

- ◆ plywood (including blockboard and laminboard)
- ◆ particleboard (chipboard, flaxboard, cement-bonded particleboard)
- ◆ oriented strand board (OSB)
- ◆ fibreboard (hardboard, mediumboard, softboard)
- ◆ medium density fibreboard (MDF)

PanelGuide gives information on the properties of each of these products and guidance on their application in a range of end-uses, separated into construction and non-construction, including the following:

### Construction

suspended floors  
floating floors  
raised access floors  
overlays  
roofs – flat, pitched  
wall sheathing  
formwork  
cladding, fascias and soffits  
architectural mouldings  
internal linings, partitions  
doorskins

### Non-construction

furniture  
industrial uses  
shopfitting  
packaging  
transport  
agricultural

PanelGuide explains the current legislation (UK and European) affecting the use of wood-based panels in the UK construction industry and the design/decision making process involved in selecting a panel for a specific end use.

PanelGuide is aimed at construction professionals (specifiers, designers, building engineers, architects), panel manufacturers, distributors and users. It is intended to be used as a reference source for all types of wood-based panel, giving information quickly and in a simple and concise form as and when it is required. The information can be read on screen, printed out or cut and pasted into other documents. This allows text or drawings to be utilised in the production of the user's own specification documents. However when used out of context from PanelGuide then PanelGuide shall be acknowledged as the source.

This is Version 3 (V3) of PanelGuide and supersedes Version 2. The main changes are to bring the document up to date with changes in codes and standards, in particular changes with respect to MDF classifications and structural design codes and standards.

In the UK where an EN (European Norm) replaces a BS (British Standard) the ENs are published as BS ENs. For the purpose of PanelGuide all BS ENs will be referenced as EN. Where there is a reference to BS this refers to a standard that is only a British Standard. All standards will also be undated.

This guide is prepared as a collaborative project between the Wood Panel Industries Federation, National Panel Products Division (A division of the Timber Trades Federation), TRADA Technology Limited and the Building Research Establishment Limited.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the advice given, the project partners cannot accept liability for loss or damage how so ever caused arising from the use of the information supplied.

Contact details for the partners are shown below.

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