

Date: January 1, 2010

RE: Flame Spread of Hardwood Plywood

The American Forest & Paper Association, Inc. has conducted numerous tests on a variety of wood products, all in accordance with test method ASTM E-84. The findings from these tests are published in the *Design for Code Acceptance*, "Flame Spread Performance of Wood Products." That document lists test results for 69 configurations of hardwood plywood and decorative panels in two tables. Of these, only one specimen developed a flame spread that reached but did not exceed 200. Among the remaining 68, the values generated from these tests ranged from 75-191, with most under 160.

The most commonly accepted flame spread rating system in use today is set forth by the **National Fire Protection Association, Life Safety Code, NFPA 101**. The NFPA classifies flame spread in the following manner:

Class A	0 to 25 Flame Spread	0 to 450 Smoke Developed
Class B	26 to 75 Flame Spread	0 to 450 Smoke Developed
Class C	76 to 200 Flame Spread	0 to 450 Smoke Developed

These ratings for both Flame Spread and Smoke Developed are based on arbitrary values of 0 for asbestos cement board and 100 for solid red oak flooring.

The above referenced *Design for Code Acceptance* thus concludes, "as can be seen from these examples, *most tested wood products have a flame spread index less than 200*, making them acceptable under current building codes for a wide range of interior finish uses." As the published values also show, no panel product tested exceeded a flame spread value of 200, which falls within the range for Class C as outlined above.

To view the entire AF & PA document, follow the link:
<http://www.awc.org/Publications/dca/dca1/DCA1.pdf>.

Should you require information specific to a particular item or construction, testing by an independent laboratory may be arranged. In addition to the cost of panels to be tested, there is a fee charged by the lab for the actual test.

Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ang Schramm

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Technical Services
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