
Dekoratívni visokotlačni laminati (HPL) - Plošče na osnovi duromernih smol - 2.
del: Ugotavljanje lastnosti

High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) - Sheets based on thermosetting resins
(usually called laminates) - Part 2: Determination of properties

Dekorative Hochdruck-Schichtpressstoffplatten (HPL) - Platten auf Basis härtbarer Harze
(Schichtpressstoffe) - Teil 2: Bestimmung der Eigenschaften

Stratifiés décoratifs haute pression (HPL) - Plaques à base de résines
thermodurcissables (communément appelées stratifiés) - Partie 2 : Détermination des
propriétés

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: prEN 438-2

ICS:

83.140.20 Laminatne plošče Laminated sheets

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on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) - Part 2:
Determination of properties**

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propriétés

Dekorative Hochdruck-Schichtpressstoffplatten (HPL)
- Platten auf Basis härtpbarer Harze (Schichtpressstoffe)
- Teil 2: Bestimmung der Eigenschaften

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European foreword

This document (prEN 438-2:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 249 “Plastics”, the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

This document is currently submitted to the CEN Enquiry.

This document will supersede EN 438-2:2016+A1:2018.

prEN 438-2:2026 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 438-2:2016+A1:2018:

- terms and definitions have been updated;
- a correctional factor to “Clause 10 Resistance to surface wear” has been added;
- the requirements with other parts in the EN 438 series have been aligned.

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*

1 Scope

This document specifies the methods of test for determination of the properties of high-pressure decorative laminates as defined in Clause 3. These methods are primarily intended for testing the sheets specified in EN 438-3, EN 438-4, EN 438-5, EN 438-6, EN 438-8, and EN 438-9.

The precision of the test methods, specified in this document, is not known because inter-laboratory data are not yet available. When inter-laboratory data will be obtained, precision statements will be added to the test method at the following revision. For those test methods having an end point determination based on subjective judgement, it is not meaningful to make a statement of precision.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 204, *Classification of thermoplastic wood adhesives for non-structural applications*

EN 312, *Particleboards — Specifications*

EN 316, *Wood fibre boards — Definition, classification and symbols*

EN 438-1, *High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 1: Introduction and general information*

EN 438-6:2016, *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 ISO 178, *Plastics — Determination of flexural properties (ISO 178)*

EN ISO 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing (ISO 291)*

EN ISO 2813, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of gloss value at 20°, 60° and 85° (ISO 2813)*

EN ISO 3668, *Paints and varnishes — Visual comparison of the colour of paints (ISO 3668)*

EN ISO 4892-1, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 1: General guidance and requirements (ISO 4892-1)*

EN ISO 4892-2:2013, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 2: Xenon-arc lamps (ISO 4892-2:2013)*

EN ISO 4892-3, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 3: Fluorescent UV lamps (ISO 4892-3)*

EN ISO 6506-1, *Metallic materials — Brinell hardness test — Part 1: Test method (ISO 6506-1)*

EN ISO 12945-2, *Textiles — Determination of fabric propensity to surface pilling, fuzzing or matting — Part 2: Modified Martindale method (ISO 12945-2)*

EN ISO 12947-1, *Textiles — Determination of the abrasion resistance of fabrics by the Martindale method — Part 1: Martindale abrasion testing apparatus (ISO 12947-1)*

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EN ISO 21920-2, *Geometrical product specifications (GPS) — Surface texture: Profile — Part 2: Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters (ISO 21920-2)*

EN ISO 21920-3, *Geometrical product specifications (GPS) — Surface texture: Profile — Part 3: Specification operators (ISO 21920-3)*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic - Determination of hardness - Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*

ISO 48-7, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic - Determination of hardness - Part 7: Apparent hardness of rubber-covered rollers by Shore-type durometer method*

ISO 105-A02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02: Grey scale for assessing change in colour*

ISO 209:2024, *Wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys — Chemical composition*

ISO 9370, *Plastics — Instrumental determination of radiant exposure in weathering tests — General guidance and basic test method*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 438-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

rub

one revolution of the two outer drives of the Martindale tester

3.2

cycle

completion of all the translational movements tracing a Lissajous figure comprising 16 rubs

Note 1 to entry: This comprises of 16 revolutions of the two outer drives and 15 revolutions of the inner drive of the Martindale tester.

3.3

Lissajous figure

figure created by movement which ranges changes from a circle gradually narrowing ellipses, until it becomes a straight line, from which progressively widening ellipses develop, in a diagonally opposite direction before the pattern is repeated

4 Assessment of appearance

4.1 Principle

Laminates shall be inspected for surface appearance under standardized conditions of lighting and viewing.

4.2 Apparatus

4.2.1 Horizontal inspection table, of height approximately 700 mm and large enough to accommodate the largest sheets to be inspected.

4.2.2 The light source shall provide a diffused illumination of $(1\,200 \pm 400)$ lx over the whole area of the largest sheets to be inspected. This may be either diffused daylight or diffused artificial daylight.

When artificial daylight is used, it shall have a correlated colour temperature of 5 000 K to 6 500 K. Both of them shall be in accordance with EN ISO 3668.

A convenient distance of the lights from the inspection table is approximately 1,5 m.

4.3 Test specimen

The specimen shall be the laminate under test, as supplied by the manufacturer.

4.4 Procedure

Place the laminate, decorative face uppermost, on the inspection table. Wipe it free of any loose contamination with a soft cloth, using a suitable cleaning agent if necessary. Inspect it from the distance required by the relevant part of this document for defects such as smudges, smears, fingerprints, scratches, foreign particles, damage or any other form of blemish evident within the decorative surface. In case of cut to size panels of high-pressure decorative alternative core laminate(s), the inspection shall be performed on the edges too. The evaluation of the total area of spot-type defects in square millimetres and of the total length of hair-like defects in millimetres may be carried out with the help of the Tappi Size Estimation Chart or with an equivalent system¹⁾. In case of dispute the inspection shall be carried out by three observers using the Tappi Chart or an equivalent system.

The inspector shall use normal vision, corrected if necessary. In cases of doubt or dispute, three observers shall be required for the visual assessment. All observers shall have good colour vision. In case of three observers, the reported rating for the test surface shall be the average to the nearest nominal value.

4.5 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) reference to this document;
- b) name, type and nominal thickness of the product;
- c) size of the laminate under test;
- d) viewing distance;
- e) total area of spot-type defects in square millimetres;
- f) total length of hair-like defects in millimetres;
- g) any deviation from the specified test method;
- h) date of the test.

5 Determination of thickness

5.1 Principle

The thickness of a laminate is measured using a micrometer or a dial gauge indicator.

¹⁾ Dirt size estimation chart (transparency) to evaluate the surface defects size. The chart product 0109DIRTT is recommended by both ISO/TC 219 and CEN/TC 134, and is available from TAPPI, Technology Park, P.O. Box 105113, Atlanta, GA 30348-5113, USA, www.tappi.org.

5.2 Apparatus

Thickness gauge, (ratchet-type micrometer or dial gauge indicator), having two flat parallel measuring surfaces of diameter 6 mm and capable of being read to 0,01 mm. When the thickness of a decorative laminate is being measured, the two surfaces shall exert a pressure of 10 kPa to 100 kPa upon each other.

5.3 Test specimen

The specimen shall be the laminate under test, as supplied by the manufacturer.

5.4 Procedure

Check the gauge for accuracy and then determine the thickness of the laminate to the nearest 0,01 mm. The thickness shall be measured at the centre of at least one edge, at a distance of at least 20 mm from the edge of the sheet.

5.5 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) reference to this document;
- b) name, type and nominal thickness of the product;
- c) all values measured;
- d) any deviation from the specified test method;
- e) date of the test.

6 Determination of length and width

6.1 Principle

Measuring the length and width of the laminate using a metal tape or rule.

6.2 Apparatus

Steel tape or rule, of sufficient length to measure the greatest dimension of the laminate, and graduated to allow a reading accuracy of 1 mm.

6.3 Test specimen

The specimen shall be the laminate under test, as supplied by the manufacturer.

6.4 Procedure

Apply the steel tape or rule (see 6.2) to each edge of the laminate in turn, on a line approximately 25 mm from and parallel to the edge. Measure the length on each edge to the nearest 1 mm.

6.5 Expression of results

The arithmetical means of the pairs of length and width measurements shall be calculated and expressed to the nearest 1 mm as the length and width of the laminate.

6.6 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) reference to this document;

- b) name, type and nominal thickness of the product;
- c) length and width values;
- d) any deviation from the specified test method;
- e) date of the test.

7 Determination of edge straightness

7.1 Principle

Applying a metal straightedge to the edge of the laminate and measuring the deviation of the sheet edge from the metal straightedge using a steel rule.

7.2 Apparatus

7.2.1 Metal straightedge, of 1 000 mm length and having a maximum straightness deviation of 0,1 mm over 1 000 mm.

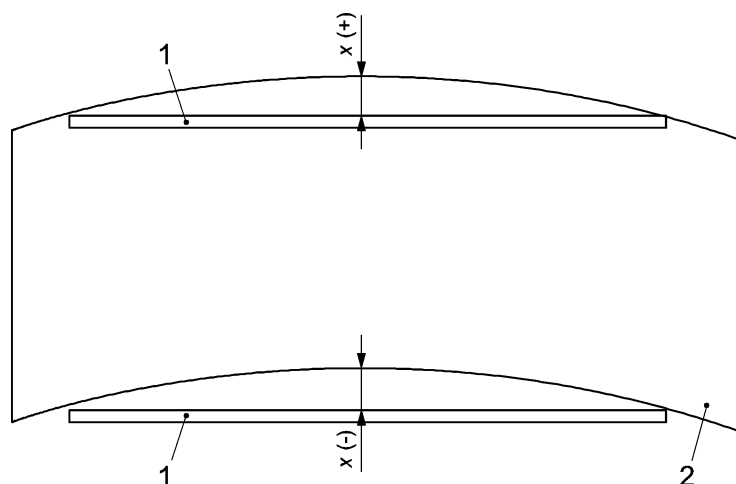
7.2.2 Steel rule, graduated in 0,5 mm divisions.

7.3 Test specimen

The specimen shall be the laminate under test, as supplied by the manufacturer.

7.4 Procedure

Apply the metal straightedge (see 7.2.1) to each edge of the laminate in turn, and use the steel rule (see 7.2.2) to measure the maximum deviation of the edge of the laminate from the metal straightedge (x in Figure 1) to the nearest 0,5 mm as specified in Figure 1.



Key

- 1 metal straightedge
- 2 laminate
- x maximum deviation

Figure 1 — Edge straightness measurement