Technical Bulletin

Fire Rated HIGH PRESSURE LAMINATES



Nevamar® Fire Rated Laminate is designed for interior horizontal and vertical applications where a decorative surface must resist combustion and inhibit smoke production. Fire Rated laminate, Type NK, retains the durability, ease of cleaning and appearance (including color) of standard Nevamar[®] laminate. (Nevamar[®] Fire Rated laminate is classified in the U.S. and Canada by Underwriters Laboratory, Inc. under File R4642 and has the U.S. Coast Guard approval for Marine Applications for Interior Finishes.)

Product Composition

Nevamar[®] Fire Rated laminate is manufactured in a flat press by combining decorative papers saturated in melamine resin with phenolic-impregnated kraft layers at pressures exceeding 1000 psi (6.9 MPa) and temperatures approaching 300°F (150°C). Special additives are incorporated into the laminate to impart fire-retardant properties. The panels are trimmed to size and the backs are sanded to facilitate bonding. The thickness of the laminate is determined by the number of kraft layers used. The laminating process combines the durability of melamine resins with the aesthetics of decorative papers creating a surfacing material that has been the standard for many years.

Finish Options

Please refer to HPL Finishes Chart on the web site to confirm available finishes for this product.

Typical Uses

Fire Rated laminate is suited for hospitals, schools, airports, hotels, and any other public building where strict fire codes apply.

Product Description

Please note postforming is not available in Fire Rated Grades. Fire Rated Grades are only made with brown core.

Standard Nominal Sizes

Туре		Thickness	Width	Length	Colors
NK61	(in.)	0.056	36, 48, 60	96, 120, 144	All solids, patterns & woodgrains
	(mm)	1.5	914, 1219, 1524	2438, 3048, 3658	
NK51	(in.)	0.049	36, 48, 60	96, 120, 144	All solids, patterns & woodgrains
	(mm)	1.2	914, 1219, 1524	2438, 3048, 3658	
NK32	(in.)	0.031	36, 48, 60	96, 120, 144	All solids, patterns & woodgrains
	(mm)	0.8762	914, 1219, 1524	2438, 3048, 3658	
NKD	(in.)	0.125-1.0	36, 48, 60	96, 120, 144	All solids, patterns & woodgrains
	(mm)	3.175-25.40	914, 1219, 1524	2438, 3048, 3658	
NKB8	(in.)	0.049	36, 48, 60	96, 120, 144	Brown Backer
	(mm)	1.2	914, 1219, 1524	2438, 3048, 3658	
NKB0	(in.)	0.031	36, 48, 60	96, 120, 144	Brown Backer
	(mm)	0.8762	914, 1219, 1524	2438, 3048, 3658	

Nevamar[®] Fire Rated laminate is offered standard in brown core (black core is available with specific minimum quantities). Other widths and thicknesses of Fire Rated laminate are available upon request.

Fabrication Tips

When working with Nevamar[®] Fire Rated laminate, these techniques will produce a quality application.

- Proper conditioning of the laminate, substrate, and backing sheet minimizes possible warping, shrinking, or expansion of assembled panels. Ideally, all components should be conditioned at 70°F to 75°F (21°C to 25°C) and 45 to 50 percent relative humidity for 48 hours prior to assembly.
- Always bond laminate to a suitable substrate such as inorganic cement board, UL listed fire retardant particleboard, UL listed fire retardant MDF, or metals. It should not be glued directly to plaster walls, gypsum wallboard, or concrete.
- 3. Maximum performance is gained by using a firerated adhesive.
- The use of Fire Rated backing sheets is recommended to minimize warpage. The thickness of the backing sheet should be relatively equal to the thickness of the decorative laminate on the face of the assembly.
- 5. All saw blades and router bits used for cutting should be carbide tipped. Feed rate should be slow and tool speed should be high.
- All edges of laminate should be filed smooth with file direction towards substrate to help prevent stress cracks and to minimize chipping.
- Inside corners of cutouts for electrical outlets, sinks, etc., should have a minimum radius of 1/8" (3 mm) and be filed smooth. This reduces the likelihood of stress cracks.
- 8. When fasteners must be used, it is advisable to first drill an oversized hole through the laminate. This reduces the likelihood of stress cracks.
- 9. All work must be designed, assembled, and installed in compliance with pertinent local fire codes.
- 10. Fire Rated laminate is not offered in postforming grades.
- All laminate is intended for interior use only, and should not be exposed to extreme humidity, continuous sunlight, or temperatures above 275°F (135°C) for extended periods of time.
- 12. Nevamar[®] Fire Rated laminate must be used as listed, i.e. adhesive and substrate cannot be changed.

Fire Test Data

High pressure decorative laminate is frequently used in installations governed by local fire codes. Burning characteristics of laminate are greatly influenced by the adhesive and substrate utilized. Listed below are typical flame spread index and smoke developed values for Nevamar[®] Fire Rated laminate.

Flame spread index and smoke developed values were determined by ASTM E-84, "Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials." This method is also designated by other agencies as follows:

UL723	Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
ANSI 2.5	American National Standards Institute
NFPA 255	National Fire Protection Association
UBC 42-1	Uniform Building Code
CAN/ULC S102-M	Surface Burning Characteristics

ASTM E-84/UL723

Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

Туре	Sample Configuration	Flame Spread Index	Smoke Developed Values		
NK61	Unbonded	55 - 70	95 - 130		
NK51	Unbonded	25	95 - 120		
NK32	Unbonded	24 - 40	100 - 170		
NKD	Unbonded	10	95		
NKB0	Unbonded	25 - 40	100 - 170		
NKB8	Unbonded	25	95 - 120		
NK61	Bonded* to Inorganic Reinforced Cement Board	20	5		
NK51	-	5	5		
NK32	-	5	5		
NKB0	-	5	5		
NKB8	-	5	5		
NK61	Bonded* to 1/2" Fire Rated Plywood	50	35 - 85		
NK61	Bonded* to 3/8" Fire Rated Particleboard	15	55		
NK51	-	15	60		
NK32	-	25	90 - 160		
NKB0	-	25	90 - 160		
NKB8	-	15	60		

*Bonded with Cascophen G1131/Cascoset G1131B 2 part Resorcinol glue. All work should be designed, assembled, and installed in compliance with pertinent local fire codes.

CAN/ULC-S102-M

Laminated Plastic Surface Burning Characteristics

Туре	Sample Configuration	Flame Spread Index	Smoke Developed Values		
NK61	Unbonded	75	130		
NK51	Unbonded	25	120		
NK32	Unbonded	45	170		
NKD	Unbonded	30	90		
NKB0	Unbonded	45	170		
NKB8	Unbonded	25	120		
NK61	Bonded* to Inorganic Reinforced Cement Board	20	5		
NK51	-	5	5		
NK32	-	5	5		
NKB0	-	5	5		
NKB8	-	5	5		
NK61	Bonded* to 1/2" Fire Rated Plywood	55	85		
NK61	Bonded* to 3/8" Fire Rated Particleboard	15	55		
NK51	-	15	60		
NK32	-	25	160		
NKB0	-	25	160		
NKB8	-	15	60		

*Bonded with Cascophen G1131/Cascoset G1131B 2 part Resorcinol glue. All work should be designed, assembled and installed in compliance with pertinent local fire codes. Cascophen G1131/Cascoset G1131B are products of Momentive, Columbus, Ohio.

Technical Information

Physical Properties

Codes and Certifications

- Classified in U.S. by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., under File R4642 Nevamar[®] Type NK32, NK51, NK61, NKI3, NKI5, NKI6, EK32, EK51, EK61, EKI3, EKI5, EKI6, NKH3, EKH3, NKB0, NKB8, NKB6, EKB0, EKB8, EKB6.
- Classified in accordance with Standard CAN/ULC-S102-M by Underwriters Laboratories Inc., under File R4642, Nevamar[®] Types NK32, NK51, NK61, NKI3, NKI5, NKI6, EK32, EK51, EK61, EKI3, EKI5, EKI6, NKH3, EKH3, NKB0, NKB8, NKB6, EKB0, EKB8, EKB6.
- 3. Classified in accordance with Standard ANSI/UL723 by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., and Standard CAN/ULC-S102-M under File R27586 Building Units. Nevamar[®] types NKD and EKD.
- 4. United States Coast Guard / IMO FTP Code:

 <u>Approval Number</u>
 <u>Type</u>

 164.112/A78/0
 NK32, EK32, NKI3, NKH3, EKI3, EKI3

 164.112/A92/0
 NK51, EK51, NKI5, EKI5

 164.112/A93/0
 NK61, EK61, NKI6, EKI6
- 5. The City of New York, Dept. of Buildings, Materials and Equipment Acceptance Division approval code is as follows: NK32, NK51, and K61: MEA 345-92-M.

TYPE		NEMA LD 3-2005 TEST METHOD	TYPICAL NEVAMAR VALUES NK61	NEMA STD. SGF	TYPICAL NEVAMAR VALUES NK51	NEMA STD. HGF	TYPICAL NEVAMAR VALUES NK32	NEMA STD. VGF
Thickness	(in.)		0.059 ± 0.005	0.059 ± 0.005	0.048 ± 0.005	0.048 ± 0.005	0.032 ± 0.005	0.032 ± 0.005
	(mm)		1.5 ± 0.12	1.5 ± 0.12	1.2 ± 0.12	1.2 ± 0.12	0.8 ± 0.12	0.8 ± 0.12
Appearance		3.1	Complies		Complies		Complies	
Light Resistance		3.3	Slight Effect	Slight Effect	Slight Effect	Slight Effect	Slight Effect	Slight Effect
Cleanability		3.4	10	20 (max.)	10	20 (max.)	10	20 (max.)
Stain 1 - 10			No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Stain 11 - 15			No Effect	Moderate Effect	No Effect	Moderate Effect	No Effect	Moderate Effect
Boiling Water Resistance		3.5	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
High Temperature Resistance		3.6	No Effect	Slight Effect	No Effect	Slight Effect	No Effect	Slight Effect
Ball Impact Resistance	(in.)	3.8	60	55 (min.)	50	45 (min.)	25	20 (min.)
	(mm)		1524	1400 (min.)	1270	1150 (min.)	635	508 (min.)
Dimensional Change		3.11						
Machine Direction	(%)		0.25	0.50 (max.)	0.25	0.25	0.40	(0.70 (max.)
Cross Direction	(%)		0.70	0.90 (max.)	0.70	0.70	0.80	1.20 (max.)
Wear Resistance	(cycles)	3.13	1000 w/ARP	400 (min.)	1000 w/ ARP	400 (min.)	1000 w/ ARP	400 (min.)

6. MIL-STD-1623E, "Fire Performance Requirements and Approved Specifications for Interior Finish Materials and Furnishings (Naval Shipboard Use)." Nevamar[®] NK61 complies with this standard.

- MIL-P-17171E (SH), "High Pressure Decorative Laminate." Nevamar[®] NK51 and NK61 comply with Type IV.
- American National Standards Institute/National Electrical Manufacturers Association (ANSI/NEMA), LD 3-2005, "High- Pressure Decorative Laminate." Nevamar[®] Type NK32, NK51, and NK61 comply. NK32 complies with VGF, NK51 complies with HGF and NK61 complies with SGF.
- Federal Aviation Administration for Transport Category Airplanes Part 25.853 (a). Nevamar[®] NK32 and NK51 comply.
- 10. UL GREENGUARD
- 11. UL GREENGUARD Gold

Care and Maintenance

Nevamar[®] decorative laminate provides a durable surface that is easy to maintain using ordinary care. To maintain the laminate's lasting beauty, cleaning with a solution of warm water and liquid dishwashing detergent is all that should be required in most cases.

Stains may be removed with most non-abrasive household cleaners such as FORMULA 409[®], GLASS PLUS[®] or WINDEX[®] with AMMONIA D[®]. Light scrubbing with a soft bristled brush may be necessary to remove stains from the depth of the structure on some textured surfaces.

If the stain persists, use a paste of baking soda and water and apply with a soft bristled brush. Light scrubbing for 10-20 strokes should remove most stains. Although baking soda is a low abrasive, excessive scrubbing or exerting too much force may damage the decorative surface, especially if it has a gloss finish.

Stubborn stains that resist any of the above cleaning methods may require the use of undiluted household bleach. Apply the bleach to the stain and let stand no longer than 1-1/2 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry. This step may be repeated if the stain appears to be going away and the color of the laminate has not been affected. WARNING: Prolonged exposure of the laminate surface to bleach will cause discoloration.

Many commercially available products contain substances that may damage or discolor a laminate surface. ABRASIVE CLEANERS SHOULD NOT BE USED. Particular care should be used with any products labeled CAUTION or WARNING. Any questions or concerns should be referred to the product's manufacturer or call 877-726-6526. Do not allow harsh materials to remain in contact with the laminate surface. Examples of these are as follows:

- Toilet bowl cleaners
- Chlorine bleach
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Coffee pot cleaners
- Oven cleaners
- Hard water stain removers
- Drain cleaners
- Fruit and berry juice
- Metal cleaners and polishes
- Tub and tile cleaners

Limited Warranty

Subject to the limitations set forth below, Panolam Industries International Inc. (Panolam) expressly warrants that our products are reasonably free of defects in material and workmanship, and when properly handled and fabricated will conform, within accepted tolerances, to applicable manufacturing specifications as set forth in our technical brochure. This warranty shall extend to the original buyer for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of shipment of this product by Panolam, and shall not be assignable by the original buyer. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from accident, misuse, alteration, abuse or lack of reasonable care.

Due to the variety of uses and applications to which this product may be put, and because the manufacturer has no control over the end products fabricated, the warranty set forth above is exclusive and in lieu of all warranties, expressed or implied, in fact or by operation of law or otherwise, or arising by course of dealing or performance, custom or usage in the trade, including, without limitation, the implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability, and Panolam shall have no obligation or liability to any person or entity in connection with or arising from the furnishing, sale, installation or repair, use or subsequent sale of any product supplied by it.

Our maximum liability arising out of the sale of the products or their use, whether based upon warranty, contract, tort or otherwise, shall not exceed the actual payments received by us in connection therewith.

Formula 409 is a registered trademark for The Clorox Company of Oakland, CA 94612; Glass Plus is a registered trademark for The Dow Chemical Company of Indianapolis, IN 46268-0511; Windex is a registered trademark for S.C. Johnson & Sons INC. of Racine, WI 53403-5011.

In no event shall we be liable for special, incidental or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, arising hereunder or from the loss of profits, or loss of use damages, sales of the products.

Headquarters

Panolam Industries International, Inc.

One Corporate Drive, Suite 725 Shelton, CT 06484 **1-877-726-6526** www.panolam.com



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