

Environmental Statement

Abet Laminati is one of the world's largest manufacturers of High Pressure Decorative Laminates. It is the European leader and operates on international markets, supplying regularly to over seventy countries.

The Company's development plan includes extensions to its current plants boosting today's industrial area of 250,000sq.m., and making it possible to increase daily production from the present 180,000sq.m. of laminates.

But for *Abet Laminati* growing is not just a question of quantity. Growing means cultural sensitivity and openness. Growing means awareness of environmental concerns, which is reflected in the installation of one of the most advanced waste purification systems developed by state of the art international technology. Growing is taking on and accepting new responsibilities for the environment while continuing to look for new territories to explore.

New technologies make possible considerable savings on energy and resources. In the production of high-pressure laminates, water vapour is obtained in the liquid state at a temperature of about 150 C. Once used, instead of being lost onto the environment, Abet have invested in equipment to store it as a high temperature water reservoir and it is reutilised in subsequent working cycles. Even the water needed for the successive cooling cycle is cooled each time in specially developed towers instead of being continuously replaced from new sources.

Abet Laminati research concentrates on the search for solutions that can cut to an absolute minimum the environmental impact of the products its puts on the market. That is why no Print HPL product contains asbestos, lead or other heavy metal and the décor papers used are manufactured only using clean pigments. This is not only a guarantee on non-toxicity for those using them, but also a certainty that they will not cause pollution when disposed of or dispersed into the environment. All paper used in the production of Print HPL is obtained exclusively from renewable sources.

The development of new environmental responsibilities is also an opportunity for growth for *Abet Laminati*. One of the Company's largest investment projects in recent years was dedicated to the construction of a waste treatment system that adopts catalytic oxidation processes. It is technologically the most advanced system available, the first to be adopted in Europe.

Abet Laminati research concentrates in particular on the search for solutions that minimise the environmental impact of its products. The most recent and encouraging results are those of Tefor, the first recyclable laminate material. *Abet Laminati* produce it from the wastes of its high-pressure laminate. Tefor currently is used mainly for the interiors of car bodywork and for modular packaging.

Abet Laminati policy is to continually assess the environmental impact of its products and production and work to reduce any environmentally negative aspect to an absolute minimum. Abet Limited is working towards EN14001 and expect to be certified by the end of 2008.

All Print High Pressure Laminate is produced in Italy. The energy consumption at the manufacture of 1m² of Print decorative laminate (0.9mm) is approximately 40MJ. Raw materials of 1.8 kg weight are required to produce 1 m² of decorative laminate.

Print decorative laminate is used in the construction and furniture industry, usually bonded to a substrate such as chipboard or MDF. Waste either from the fabrication or demolition can be incinerated or disposed of in landfill. When incinerated high pressure laminate produces residual products comparable to the incineration of wood. The energy content of 1 kg of laminate is 20 MJ/kg, compared to the average of 13 MJ/kg of ordinary wood. Laminate is slowly degradable combined with household or industrial waste in a landfill site.