



TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

1 - IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRODUCT AND OF THE COMPANY/UNDERTAKING

Identification of the substance or preparation:

Name: GRAVOSTRAT

Company/undertaking identification:

Registered company name: GRAVOTECH MARKING SAS.

Address: 56, avenue Jean Jaurès.10600.La Chapelle Saint Luc.France.

Telephone: +33 (0)3 25 41 65 65. Fax: +33 (0)3 25 79 04 25.

e-mail : info@gravograph.fr

<http://www.gravograph.com>

Emergency telephone: +33 (0)1 45 42 59 59.

Association/Organisation: INRS / ORFILA <http://www.centres-antipoison.net>.

Use of the substance/preparation:

Decorative High Pressure Laminates

2 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

This information describes the composition of GRAVOSTRAT and gives advice for their handling, processing, use, and disposal. It covers all HPL grades as described in EN 438. GRAVOSTRAT are not classified as hazardous substances and therefore they do not require a special marking nor a description by a safety data sheet.

3- DESCRIPTION

The materials referred to are high pressure decorative laminates (HPL) according to the European Standard EN 438 and to ISO 4586.

GRAVOSTRAT

GRAVOSTRAT are sheets consisting of layers of cellulose fibrous material (normally paper) impregnated with thermosetting resins and bonded together in a high pressure process. The process, defined as a simultaneous application of heat ($\approx 120\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) and high specific pressure ($\approx 5\text{ Mpa}$), provides flowing and subsequent curing of the thermosetting resins to obtain a homogenous non-porous material ($> 1,4\text{ g/cm}^3$) with the required surface finish.

Basically more than 60 % of the GRAVOSTRAT consist of paper and the remaining 30 to 40 % consist of cured phenol-formaldehyde resin for core layers and melamine formaldehyde resin for the surface layer.

Both resins belonging to the group of thermosetting resins are irreversibly interreacted through cross linked chemical bonds formed during the curing process producing a nonreactive, stable material with characteristics which are totally different from those of its component parts.

4- STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

Storage and transportation should be carried out in accordance with the General Processing Recommendations for GRAVOSTRAT; no special precautions need to be taken.

For transportation, GRAVOSTRAT is classified as a non-hazardous product; no labelling is required.

5- HANDLING AND MACHINING OF GRAVOSTRAT

The usual safety requirements of fabrication and machining should be observed with regard to dust extraction, dust collection, and fire precautions.

Because of the possibility of sharp edges protective gloves should always be worn when handling laminates. The contact with dust from GRAVOSTRAT does not present any special problems, however a small percentage of personnel may be sensitive or even allergic to machining dust in general.

6- ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ASPECTS IN USE

Decorative laminates are cured and therefore chemically inert.

GRAVOSTRAT formaldehyde emission level is far below the limit for wood based materials. Due to their very low permeability GRAVOSTRAT bonded to wood based substrates act as a barrier against possible formaldehyde emissions coming from the substrates.

There is no migration affecting foodstuffs and, consequently, GRAVOSTRAT are approved for contact with foodstuffs.

The decorative surfaces are resistant to common household solvents and chemicals and have therefore been used for many years in applications where cleanliness and hygiene are important.

The non-porous GRAVOSTRAT surface and edges are easy to disinfect with hot water, steam and all types of disinfectants used in hospitals and other commercial facilities.

7- MAINTENANCE, CARE AND CLEANING

As GRAVOSTRAT do not suffer from corrosion and oxidation, they do not need any further surface protection (lacquers or paints).

All decorative GRAVOSTRAT surfaces can be cleaned with a soft soap. Hard contamination are usually removed by means of solvents. Don't use any abrasive agents (e.g. scouring powder).

8- GRAVOSTRAT IN FIRE SITUATIONS

Laminates are difficult to ignite and have properties that retard "spread of flame", thus prolonging evacuating time. Due to incomplete burning, as with many organic material, hazardous substances are to be found in the smoke. However, HPL are capable of meeting the best performance for organic surfacing materials specified in the French standard NFF 16101 (= at least class F2 for smoke density and toxicity). In dealing with fires involving laminates the same fire fighting techniques should be employed as with other wood based building materials.

9- ENERGY RECOVERY

On account of their high calorific value (18 - 20 MJ/kg) GRAVOSTRAT are ideal for thermal recycling. When burnt completely at 700 °C, HPL produce water, carbon dioxide and oxides of nitrogen. Therefore GRAVOSTRAT comply e. g. with paragraph 6 of the economic law of circular flow (Kreislaufwirtschaftsgesetz).

Well controlled burning processes are achieved in modern, officially approved industrial incinerators. Ashes of this process can be brought to controlled waste disposal sites.

10- WASTE DISPOSAL

GRAVOSTRAT can be brought to controlled waste disposal sites according to current national and/or regional regulations.

11- TECHNICAL DATA

11.1 PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

11.1.1 Physical state Solid sheets

11.1.2 Density 1,4 g/cm³

11.1.3 Solubility Insoluble in water, oil, methanol, diethyl ether, n-octanol, acetone

11.1.4 Boiling point None

11.1.5 Evaporation rate None

11.1.6 Melting point GRAVOSTRAT do not melt

11.1.7 Calorific value 18 - 20 MJ/kg

11.1.8 Heavy Metals GRAVOSTRAT do not contain toxic compounds of antimony, Heavy metals barium, cadmium, chromium III, chromium VI, lead, mercury, selenium.

11.2 STABILITY AND REACTIVITY DATA

11.2.1 Stability GRAVOSTRAT are stable; they are not considered to be reactive or corrosive.

11.2.2 Hazardous reactions None

11.2.3 Material incompatibility Strong acids or alkaline solutions will stain the surface

GRAVOSTRAT

11.3 FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

11.3.1 Ignition temperature Approx. 400 °C

11.3.2 Flash point None

11.3.3 Thermal decomposition Possible above 250 °C. Depending on the burning conditions (temperature, amount of oxygen, etc.) toxic gases may be emitted, e. g. carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ammonia. HPL are classified safe when tested according to NF F 16 101

11.3.4 Smoke and Toxicity HPL are classified F2 when tested according NF F 16 101.

11.3.5 Flammability GRAVOSTRAT are not considered to be flammable. They will burn only in a fire situation, in presence of open flames.

11.3.6 Extinguishing media GRAVOSTRAT are considered as class A material. Carbon dioxide, water spray, dry chemical foam can be used to extinguish flames. Water dampens and prevents rekindling. Persons in fire situations should wear self breathing apparatus and fire protective clothing.

11.3.7 Explosion hazards The machining, sawing, sanding and routing of GRAVOSTRAT produce class ST-1 dust. Safety precautions and adequate ventilation must be observed to avoid airborne dust concentration.

11.3.8 Explosion limits Dust levels should be kept below 60 mg/m³

11.3.9 Protection against In the case of fire GRAVOSTRAT shall be treated as wood explosion and fire based materials.

11.4 Electrostatic behaviour It minimizes the generation of charge by contact-separation or rubbing with another material. It does not need to be earthed. Surface resistivity is between 10⁹ – 10¹² ohms and a chargeability of $V < 2$ kV according to CEI IEC 1340-4-1 so that HPL are antistatic material.

GRAVOSTRAT

11.5 Storage and transport GRAVOSTRAT are classified as non-hazardous for transportation purposes and there are no specific requirements.

11.6 Machining Use gloves to protect from sharp edges and safety glasses to prevent eye injuries. No special working equipment is necessary, except protections to minimize dust exposure in case of sheet machining.

11.7 Disposal considerations Waste material should be handled according to local regulations. Burning is permitted in approved industrial incinerators.

11.8 Health information GRAVOSTRAT are not considered to be dangerous for humans and animals. There is no evidence of GRAVOSTRAT toxicological effects and ecotoxicity. GRAVOSTRAT surfaces are physiologically safe and approved for use in contact with foodstuffs according to EN 1186.

11.8.1 Working areas General dust regulations are applicable.

11.8.2 Formaldehyde emission < 0.4 mg/h m² (tested according to EN 717-2) < 0.05 ppm (tested according to the WKI chamber method)

11.8.3 Pentachlorophenol GRAVOSTRAT do not contain PCP (Pentachlorophenol).

11.8.4 Additional remarks GRAVOSTRAT as received are solid sheets and there would not be any health hazards associated with them.