



Technical Bulletin # 115

RE: Unacceptable substrate: Lauan (luan) plywood.

DATE REVISED: January 7, 2005

Attention All Affiliates, Distributors and C-Cure product users:

There are concerns being expressed as to the suitability of Lauan (luan) plywood in ceramic tile installations. Please be advised that Lauan plywood at any thickness is unapproved as a substrate to receive tile or cementitious backer units (CBU). Ceramic tile, stone and/or cementitious backer unit installations utilizing any Luan specie product will not be warranted by C-Cure.

Lauan is a hardwood species containing extractives (sugars) which adversely affect the "cure" of mastic adhesives, and Portland cement products including thinset mortar and underlayments. Lauan specie products are not manufactured under any recognized grading rules or controlled measures. Lauan is not recognized in the US by any major model building code or organization and does not carry a grade stamp or have any known structural design value. Performance characteristics including moisture stability are unknown.

The American Plywood Association (APA) does not provide compliance assurance for any products utilizing the Lauan species. The APA's recommendations for subfloor and underlayment under ceramic tile installations are consistent with the Tile Council of America TCA. Approved plywood substrates to receive ceramic tile or cementitious backer units (CBU) must be APA approved Exterior and Exposure 1 grades only (See ANSI A108 AN-3.4 Wood Subfloors).

To insure standardized *structural* plywood performance to specific end users in the Construction industry, the APA uses a Panel Performance Rating System. This rating gives the exact structural specifications of the plywood panel. To identify an APA Approved Performance Rated Plywood Panel, look for the APA trademark on the back and or side of the sheet.

The PS 1 and PS 2 Voluntary Product Standard grade conformance, where applicable, is given in the lower portion of the APA trademark. This trademark performance grading system, is recognized throughout the construction industry by the following model building code organizations: (BOCA), Building Officials and Code Administrators International, (ICBO) International Conference of Building Officials and (SBCCI) Southern Building Code Congress International.

Reference Documents:

C-Cure Product Information Sheets
APA Res. & Commercial Design/Const. Guide
ANSI A108 AN-3.4 Wood Subfloors

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Notice: The information in this bulletin is presented in good faith, but no warranty, express or implied, is given nor is freedom from any patent in as much as any assistance furnished by C-Cure with reference to the safe use and disposal of its products is provided without charge, C-Cure assumes no obligation or liability therefore, except to the extent that any such assistance shall be given in good faith.