



Multiple applications in various fields

As a highly versatile material, with outstanding mechanical and durability properties, offering innumerable aesthetic possibilities, plywood is used in many areas:

- Construction
- Packaging
- Marine applications
- Transport
- Joinery

In conformity with the qualitative and regulatory requirements of each sector, plywood adapts perfectly to the desired achievements by guaranteeing safety, respect of the environment and saving energy.



CE marking

Guarantee for plywood



All wood-based panels intended for use in construction must be CE-marked in accordance with EN 13986.

This regulatory requirement therefore applies to plywood.

Thanks to its elevated mechanical characteristics, plywood is particularly suitable for use in structural applications (S). In this case the panels are marked CE2+. The intervention of an external organisation differentiates the marking CE2+ from the general marking. Such marking is a guarantee for the conformity of the product delivered.

CE marking is not only an obligation on the manufacturer, but it carries with it increased responsibility on the part of those engaged in the chain of distribution. In effect, it is the distributor who should offer the consumer the type of panel that suits the intended application.

It is important therefore that the distributor should be aware of the responsibilities conveyed by the product marking and of its significance.

In practice this requirement is equally applicable to all plywood - raw, coated, decoratively veneered or otherwise surface finished - intended for structural or non-structural applications in either interior or exterior environments, such as:

- interior and exterior walls and partitions
- prefabricated elements for ground floors, mezzanine floors, stairs, sloping structures or raised floors
- roofs and ceilings
- timber framework
- suspended ceilings
- interior or exterior surface finishes for walls and partitions
- surface finishes for floors and stairways
- surface finishes for ceilings
- surface finishes for roofing



What form does the CE marking of plywood take?

The information that has to accompany the CE mark varies according to the type of the product that is placed on the market: in the case of panels intended for structural (load bearing) use (which requires a CE2+ Certificate of Conformity from an independent Notified Body) this information covers a wider range of properties than for non-structural panels.

The following are some examples of particulars that should appear on the panel itself, on the label, the package or the accompanying documents:

CE xxx – CPD – yyy ZPLY 06 EN 13986
EN 636-3 S 15 mm E1 D-s2,d0

is a structural plywood intended for exterior applications (EN 636-3 S). It was made by the ZPLY company. The certificate of conformity (CE2+) has been issued by the xxx organisation, registered by the European Union, which has allocated the number yyy to the product manufactured in 2006 (06). EN 13986 is the reference standard for wood-based panels for use in construction, the thickness of the panel is 15mm, E1 is the formaldehyde emission class, and D-s2, d0 is the European reaction to fire class (this last item being optional information if the product is not intended to be incorporated in a structure covered by any specific fire regulation).

CE ZPLY 06 EN 13986 EN 636-1 G 18 mm E1

is a plywood for general (non-structural) interior use (EN 636-1 G). It may not at all be used in structural applications and does not benefit from a certificate of conformity delivered by an external organisation. This marking has to be fixed on the panel itself, on the label that is attached, on the packaging or on the commercial documents that are linked to the product. The CE marking of the panel offers the certainty that the information strictly corresponds with the identified product.



Which panel should a customer be advised to select?

All the information relating to the mechanical, physical and chemical characteristics of these six different types of plywood are to be found in the standard EN 636 'Plywood-Specifications'.

Following the application conditions, a plywood panel intended for structural use (CE2+) has to meet one of the following requirements:

- EN 636-1 « S » : plywood for interior structural use in dry conditions
- EN 636-2 « S » : plywood for structural interior or protected exterior use in humid conditions
- EN 636-3 « S » : plywood for structural use in exterior conditions

For general non-structural use only:

- EN 636-1 « G » : plywood for general (non-structural) interior use in dry conditions
- EN 636-2 « G » : plywood for general (non-structural) interior or protected exterior use in humid conditions
- EN 636-3 « G » : plywood for general (non-structural) use in exterior conditions

The term "general" symbolised by "G" is likely to be replaced by the term "non-structural" abbreviated as "NS" following a revised version of EN 636.

In circumstances where the ultimate use of a panel is not definitely known, cautionary practice dictates that the panel should be purchased on the assumption that it will be used for a structural purpose (in a floor, wall or roof) of which the factory production control is certified (CE2+).



Natural, warm and with an incomparable invariability of production, plywood authorizes a multitude of decorative possibilities... fully meeting the wishes of architects, decorators and designers!

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To what does this regulation correspond ?

By affixing the CE marking the manufacturer declares that the product conforms to all legal stipulations, in particular the European Construction Products Directive (CPD) and the standard EN 13986 "Wood-based panels for use in construction - Characteristics, evaluation of conformity and marking", and that it is appropriate for use in construction. It is the official guarantee that the product is suitable for a given application during a reasonably long and economically realistic service life.

The panel that is intended for use in structural applications (CE2+) can be used for all applications. Its control by the manufacturer is certified by an independent external organisation.



Is it necessary to place all the required items of the CE marking information on the product?

No! In any case this would not always be technically possible. These indications can be given on the commercial documents or on the technical information sheets that are linked to the product.

When the panel has been sold on to a further buyer in the supply chain, the information linked to the CE mark must be passed on to the new buyer in exactly the same detail as originally given by the manufacturer. This imposes an obligation on the distributor to keep a strict record of purchases and sales in order to ensure the traceability of the product at any time, particularly if it undergoes any transformation process.