
CE Mark on Lumin® Plywood Panels

Uruply Lumin® plywood panels are CE marked following the requirements of EN 13986:2004+A1:2015-05 - Annex ZA (2+) and referring to the technical classes outlined in EN 636:2012+A1:2015-05.

To address queries for clarification on the content of the actual CE Mark applied on its panels, induced by some unclear areas of the abovementioned standards leaving room for interpretation, Uruply has decided to provide its customers with a comprehensive position statement in this Technical Bulletin.

Reading of EN 13986 and EN 636

The current version of EN 13986 (dated 2004 with its amendment A1 dated 2015) sets out the requirements for CE marking of wood-based panels in general, and of Plywood in particular. It requires the plywood manufacturer to assign its product to one of the technical classes set out in EN 636 (dated 2012 with its amendment A1 dated 2015). To achieve this EN 13986 requires evaluating and declaring:

- in §5.3 the Bonding Quality, and
- in §5.6.5 the Durability, which in turn refers back to §5.3 – Bonding quality.

EN 13986 §5.3 requires initial type testing of Bonding Quality to EN 314-1 and determine the bonding class to EN 314-2.

The current version of EN 636 sets out the requirements on Bonding quality and Biological durability in §7, 8 & 9 respectively for the technical classes EN 636 – 1, 2 & 3, with straightforward relationships to bonding class respectively 1, 2 & 3 and suitability to use class respectively 1, 2 & 3 per EN 335-3. This means e.g. that in order to be classified EN 636-2, the plywood product shall comply with the requirements of bonding class 2 and shall have a biological durability corresponding to the risks of use class 2.

While it seems clear for technical class 1 (interior) and 2 (humid), EN 636 does not expressly state whether a product meeting the requirements of bonding quality 3 (exterior) but showing a biological durability corresponding only e.g. with the risks of use class 2 (which is the case for the vast majority of wood species) can be assigned or not to the technical class 3 (exterior). It simply states that *“most plywood will be compromised if suitable preservative treatment and/or relevant surface and edge coating is not applied and if the panels are not properly maintained and installed”*. This is where the interpretation is made possible.

In the course of the 2015 amendment of EN 636, this subject has been discussed and has led to addition of Annex B providing guidance for the application of plywood depending on the use class of biological attack, but this annex does not expressly handle the above-mentioned topic.

Position Statement

Uruply Lumin® plywood panels have been evaluated as required in EN 13986, and do meet the requirements of bonding class 3 (exterior) as confirmed in the CE Certificate of Conformity 2812-CPR-0122 delivered by ELEMENT MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY.

As a responsible manufacturer Uruply however recognised from day one that its plywood would not sustain the climatic conditions of use class 3 per EN 335-3 without further preservative treatment and/or edge and surface coating. It has therefore been clearly stated in all of the Technical Data Sheets made available to the customers that Lumin® plywood shall only be used in the conditions of Service Class 1 and 2 and Use Class 1 and 2.

On this basis, and to acknowledge the quality and performance of the bonding process the panels have been assigned to technical class EN 636-3 (exterior) and marked physically as such.

Back in 2010, the abovementioned unclear definitions in the relevant standards, combined with various public interpretations have created some confusion, generating queries and questions to this matter. The manufacturer had then reviewed all aspects of it and decided to act proactively rather than to wait for a hypothetical revision of the relevant section of the relevant standard.

Hence, since 01/01/2011, the physical CE mark on Lumin® products has been classified “EN 636-2”.

The adhesive, manufacturing process and Quality Assurance involved in manufacturing of Lumin® products has never changed since 2007 and consistently meets Bonding Class 3 under EN 314-2: Exterior conditions.

While Lumin® plywood has constantly been able to satisfy its market and customers, the abovementioned wise, safe and user-oriented decision has gradually turned into a market disadvantage compared to commonly accepted market practice.

“EN 636-3 S” CE Mark starting 16/10/2023

The manufacturer has therefore decided to realign to common market practice and amend the actual physical CE mark on its Lumin® plywood, which from 16/10/2023 onwards will again be classified “EN 636-3 S”.

This modification will be visible on the product itself as well as on the labels on the crates and on all accompanying documents such as the Construction Products Regulation Declaration of Performance Documents (DoP's). Uruply invites all of its customers to ensure they do possess the latest versions of these documents available on the manufacturer's website, and to contact its customer support if that is not the case.

The date of 16/10/2023 refers to the start date of implementation of this change, which will appear immediately on DOPs, and gradually on labels and stamps, as product is delivered to customers.

Product manufactured before the transition date, being on stock at the customers' premises or in delivery or installed, will still bear the previous “EN 636-2 S” CE mark and can continue being utilised and distributed as usual, accompanied by the relevant documentation.

Important Note

It shall be noted that **this amendment of the physical CE mark does not imply any changes in the manufacturing process itself, on the product properties, or in the bonding quality in particular, which continues meeting the highest standards of bonding class 3 (exterior) under the attestation of conformity level 2+ (also referred to as CE 2+).**

This amendment also has no impact on the actual destination and use of the panels, which were already restricted to Service Class 1 & 2 and Use Class 1&2 applications.

As stated in all of our DOPs, while glue bond satisfies to the EN 636-3 class, the exterior conditions may correspond to the biological Hazard Class 3 to BS EN 335, for which this product cannot be used without further treatment or coating.

Contact Information

Uruply staff and technical support is at your disposal for any question you may have in this matter and can be contacted as follows:

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