INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 4586-3

> Second edition 2018-07

High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL, HPDL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) —

Part 3:

Classification and specifications for laminates less than 2 mm thick and intended for bonding to supporting substrates

Stratifiés décoratifs haute pression (HPL, HPDL) — Plaques à base de résines thermodurcissables (communément appelées stratifiés) —

Partie 3: Classification et spécifications des stratifiés d'épaisseur moins de 2 mm d'épaisseur et destiné pour le collage de support





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Contents Page Foreword. Introduction 1 2 Normative references1 3 4 Material types.......2 5 Requirements 2 5.1 General.... 5.2 Numerical classification system ______2 Alphabetical classification system......3 5.3 5.4 Requirements 4 6 6.1 Compliance 4 6.2 Inspection requirements ______5 6.2.1 General.....5 6.2.2 Colour and pattern5 6.2.3 6.2.4 6.2.5 Visual inspection5 6.3 6.4 Test requirements ______6 General requirements6 6.4.1Additional requirements for Type P laminates......8 6.4.2 6.4.3 Annex A (informative) Addendum to Table 5 relating to test method for resistance to scratching 10 Annex B (informative) Addendum to 6.4.3, relating to fire performance11 Annex C (informative) Addendum relating to electrostatic properties13

Bibliography.....

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 11, *Products*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4586-3:2015), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

correction of errors due to typographical, formatting, and omission issues.

A list of all parts in the ISO 4586 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

High-pressure decorative laminates are characterized by their qualities, durability, and functional performance. High-pressure laminate sheets are available in a wide variety of colours, patterns and surface finishes. They are resistant to wear, scratching, impact, moisture, heat, and staining; and possess good hygienic and anti-static properties, being easy to clean and maintain.

In an effort to harmonize ISO 4586 with other high-pressure decorative laminate standards, multiple methods may be published that demonstrate similar properties. In these instances, the same test method title is given and is annotated as either "Method A" or "Method B". This is the case in the following tests: Edge squareness — 8/9, Dry heat — 17/18 Dimensional stability at elevated temperatures — 19/20, Dimensional stability at ambient temperature — 21/22, Staining — 30/31, Lightfastness — 32/33, Formability — 38/39, and Blistering — 40/41. In these instances, either method may be utilized in testing. Compliance to both methods is not required. While these tests are similar they are by no means identical and results of one method do not necessarily correspond to the results of the accompanying test. In these situations, it is intended that specific parts of ISO 4586 for performance requirements be consulted. Each specific method has performance requirements particular to that method for individual grades of high-pressure decorative laminate.

This document has been harmonized with EN 438-3 whenever possible.

In addition, Annex C provides information on electrostatic properties and is included as a convenient reference to answer common questions.

High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL, HPDL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) —

Part 3:

Classification and specifications for laminates less than 2 mm thick and intended for bonding to supporting substrates

1 Scope

This document applies to high-pressure laminates (HPL) less than 2 mm thick normally intended for bonding to supporting substrates to produce HPL composite panels and establishes a classification system for high-pressure decorative laminates according to their performance and main recommended fields of application, including materials with special characteristics, for example formability or defined reaction to fire. This document also specifies requirements for the properties of the various types of laminates covered by this classification system.

ISO 4586-2 specifies the methods of test relevant to this document. ISO 4586-4 through ISO 4586-8 are reserved for other types of HPL materials.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1183-1, Plastics — Methods for determining the density of non-cellular plastics — Part 1: Immersion method, liquid pyknometer method and titration method

ISO 4586-2:2018, High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL, HPDL) — Sheets based on thermosetting resins (usually called laminates) — Part 2: Determination of properties

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

3 1

high-pressure decorative laminate

HPL

HPDL

sheet consisting of layers of cellulosic fibrous material (normally paper) impregnated with thermosetting resins and bonded together by the *high-pressure process* (3.2)

Note 1 to entry: This is a general definition of high-pressure decorative laminate(s). More specific product definitions can be found in ISO 4586-3 to ISO 4586-8.

3.2

high-pressure process

simultaneous application of heat (temperature ≥ 120 °C) and high specific pressure (≥ 5 MPa), to provide flowing and subsequent curing of the thermosetting resins to obtain a homogeneous non-porous material with increased density ($\geq 1,35$ g/cm³), and with the required surface finish

3.3

surface layer

upper decorative layer consisting in one or more sheets of fibrous material (usually paper) impregnated with aminoplastic thermosetting resins (usually melamine based resins) or other curable resins or other decorative design surfaces such as metal foils, wood-veneers, and textiles, etc. which are not necessarily treated with thermosetting resin

3.4

core layer

fibrous material (usually paper) impregnated with thermosetting resins (usually phenolic based resins) or other curable resins, possibly reinforced by metal layer(s) or metal mesh(es) and others which are not necessarily treated with thermosetting resin

4 Material types

- 4.1 Type S Standard grade decorative laminates.
- **4.2** Type P Postformable decorative laminates, similar to type S but can also be formed at elevated temperature.
- **4.3 Type F Decorative laminates with improved fire retardance**, similar to types S or P but also meeting special requirements of specified fire tests which may vary according to the application (e.g. construction, marine, transport) and the country of use (see <u>6.4.3</u> and <u>Annex B</u>).

5 Requirements

5.1 General

Two different HPL classification systems are commonly used and both have been included in this document as alternatives.

5.2 Numerical classification system

In this system the classification of a letter denoting material type (see <u>Clause 4</u>) followed by three index numbers showing the levels of performance for wear resistance, impact resistance and scratch resistance respectively.

Table 1 shows the performance levels corresponding to the index numbers.

Table 1 — Numerical classification

	First index number — Wear resistance			
Initial point(revs)	2	3	4	
Wear value (revs)	≥ 50	≥ 150	≥ 350	
	≥ 150	≥ 350	≥ 1 000	
	Second index number — Impact resistance			
Small diameter ball (N)	2	3	4	
	≥ 15	≥ 20	≥ 25	
	Third ind	lex number — Scratch resi	stance	
Scratch resistance (Rating)	2	3	4	
	2	3	4	

NOTE Index numbers 2, 3, and 4 are specified to maintain consistency with earlier editions of ISO 4586 parts. Index number 1 represents a lower quality level that does not apply to HPL as defined by the scope of this document.

5.3 Alphabetical classification system

This system uses three letters to classify laminates as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 — Alphabetical classification

First letter	Second letter	Third letter
H (Horizontal grade)	G (General purpose)	S (Standard grade)
or V (Vertical grade)	or D (Heavy duty)	or P (Postformable grade)
		or F (Flame-retardant grade)

 $\underline{\text{Table 3}}$ compares the alternative classification systems and shows how different HPL products relate to some typical applications. The list of typical applications shown for each category is for guidance only and is not intended to be comprehensive.

Table 3 — Classification system and typical applications

Performance category	Material type	Numerical classification Index numbers		Equivalent alphabetical classification	Examples of typical applications	
		Wear re- sistance	Impact re- sistance	Scratch resistance	ciassification	
Very high resistance to surface wear					HDS (Horizon- tal Heavy Duty Standard), HDF (Horizon-	Countertops, insti- tutional applications (prisons, military, barracks, etc.)
Very high resist- ance to impact	S, F or P	4	4	4	tal Heavy Duty Flame-retardant), or	20.00
Very high resistance to scratching					HDP (Horizontal Heavy Duty Post- forming)	
High resistance to surface wear High resistance to impact High resistance to scratching	S, F or P	3	3	3	HGS (Horizontal General purpose Standard), HGF (Horizontal General purpose Flame-retardant), or HGP (Horizontal General purpose Postforming)	Kitchen and office work surfaces, res- taurant and hotel ta- bles, doors and wall coverings in public areas, interior walls of public transport vehicles
Medium resist- ance to surface wear Medium resist- ance to impact Medium resistance to scratching	S, F or P	2	2	2	VGS (Vertical General purpose Standard), VGF (Vertical General purpose Flame retardant), or VGP (Vertical General purpose Postforming)	Front panels for kitchen, office and bathroom furniture, wall coverings, ceiling panels, shelves, and furniture elements

Combinations of wear, impact and scratch resistance index numbers other than those shown in <u>Table 3</u> are possible and can be specified using the numerical classification system. In such cases properties other than wear resistance, impact resistance and scratch resistance shall meet the requirements specified for type VG in <u>Table 5</u>.

5.4 Nomenclature

In addition to the abbreviation "HPL" or "HPDL" and the number of this document, materials can be specified either by the numerical classification system, or by the alphabetical classification system. For example, horizontal general purpose post-formable laminate can be specified as HPL/ISO 4586-3/P33, 3 or HPDL/ISO 4586-3/HGP.

6 Requirements

6.1 Compliance

Laminates classified in <u>Table 3</u> shall meet all appropriate requirements specified in <u>6.2</u>, <u>6.3</u> and <u>6.4</u>. This applies to both full-size sheets and cut-to-size panels.

6.2 Inspection requirements

6.2.1 General

Inspection shall be carried out in accordance with ISO 4586-2:2018, Clause 4 at a distance of 0.75~m to 1.5~m.

6.2.2 Colour and pattern

When inspected in daylight or D65 standard illuminant and again under tungsten illuminant A, there shall be no significant difference between the corresponding colour reference sample held by the supplier and the specimen under test.

Where colour and surface finish are critical, it is recommended that sheets be checked for colour and surface-finish compatibility before fabrication or installation.

6.2.3 Surface finish

When inspected at different viewing angles, there shall be no significant difference between the corresponding surface-finish reference sample held by the supplier and the specimen under test.

Where colour and surface finish are critical, it is recommended that sheets be checked for colour and surface-finish compatibility before fabrication or installation.

6.2.4 Reverse side

The reverse side of sheets shall be suitable for adhesive bonding (e.g. sanded). In the case of sanded backs, slight chatter marks are permitted.

6.2.5 Visual inspection

6.2.5.1 General

The inspection requirements specified in <u>6.2.5.2</u> and <u>6.2.5.3</u> are intended as a general guide, indicating the minimum acceptable quality for laminates. Cut-to-size panels and certain applications involving full-size sheets may call for special quality requirements which can be negotiated between supplier and purchaser. In such cases the following requirements may be used as a basis for agreement. It shall be noted that only a small percentage of sheets in a batch (the level to be agreed with the customer) shall contain defects of the minimum acceptable level.

6.2.5.2 Surface quality

The following surface defects are permissible:

Dirt, spots, and similar surface defects.

The admissible size of such defects is based on a maximum contamination area equivalent to $1.0 \text{ mm}^2/\text{m}^2$ of laminate and is proportional to the sheet size under inspection.

The total admissible area of contamination may be concentrated in one spot or dispersed over an unlimited amount of smaller defects.

Fibres, hairs, and scratches.

The admissible size of defects is based on a maximum contamination length equivalent to 10 mm/ m² of laminate and is proportional to the sheet size under inspection.

The total admissible length of contamination may be concentrated in one defect or dispersed over an unlimited amount of smaller defects.

6.2.5.3 Edge quality

Visual defects (e.g. moisture marks, lack of gloss, corner damage, etc.) can be present on all four edges of the laminate, providing the defect-free length and width are at least the nominal size minus 20 mm.

6.3 Dimensional tolerance requirements

Dimensional tolerance requirements are specified in Table 4.

Table 4 — Dimensional tolerance requirements

Property	Test method (ISO 4586-2:2018, Clause No.)	Requirement
		$0.5 \le d \le 1.0$ mm: ± 0.10 mm maximum variation
Thickness	5	$1.0 < d < 2.0$ mm: ± 0.15 mm maximum variation
		(where $d = nominal thickness$)
Length and width ^a	6	+10 mm/-0 mm
Straightness of edgesa	7	1,5 mm/m maximum deviation
Squareness ^a (Method A)	8	1,5 mm/m maximum deviation
Squarenessa (Method B)	9	< 6 mm
Flatness ^b	10	60 mm/m maximum deviation

a Tolerances for cut-to-size panels shall be agreed between supplier and purchaser.

6.4 Test requirements

6.4.1 General requirements

General requirements are specified in Table 5.

Table 5 — General requirements

2 2				La	minate grad	le
	Test method (ISO 4586-2:2018			HDS	HGS	VGS
Property	Clause No. un-	Property or attribute	Unit (max. or min.)	HDF	HGF	VGF
	less otherwise stated)			HDP	HGP	VGP
	stateay			444	333	222
0574 100 530 615			revolutions (min.)			
Resistance to surface wear	11	Wear resistance	initial point	350	150	3
sarrace wear			wear value	1 000	350	4
Resistance to			Rating (min.)			
immersion in	13	Appearance	gloss finish	3	3	3
boiling water	iling water		other finishes	4	4	4
1,250			Rating (min.)			
Resistance to water vapour	15	Appearance	gloss finish	3	3	3
water rapour			other finishes	4	4	4

^a L = in the longitudinal (or machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (normally the direction of the longest dimension of the laminate).

Provided that the laminates are stored in the manner and conditions recommended by the manufacturer.

T = in the cross-longitudinal (cross-machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (at right angles to direction L).

Table 5 (continued)

	V (S. 5.1. AND ST. 1. C. 5.1				minate grad	le
	Test method	SO 4586-2:2018 Clause No. uness otherwise Property or attribute Unit (max. or min.)	HDS	HGS	VGS	
	Clause No. un-		Unit (max. or min.)	HDF	HGF	VGF
	less otherwise stated)			HDP	HGP	VGP
	stateuj			444	333	222
Resistance			Rating (min.)			
to dry heat	17	Appearance	gloss finish	3	3	3
(160 °C)		7	other finishes	4	4	4
Resistance			Rating (min.)			
to dry heat	18	Appearance	gloss finish	3	3	3
(180 °C)			other finishes	4	4	4
Dimensional			% (max.)			
stability at ele- vated temper-	19	Cumulative di-	La	0,45	0,55	0,75
ature (Method A) or		mensional change	Tb	0,90	1,05	1,25
Dimensional			% (max.)		7	
stability at ele-	20	Cumulative di-	La	0,50	1,10	1,10
vated tempera- ture (Method B)	ited tempera-	mensional change	Tb	0,90	1,40	1,40
Dimensional			% (max.)			
stability at am- bient temper-	21	Cumulative di-	La	0,45	0,55	0,75
ature (Method	21	mensional change	T ^b	0,90	1,05	1,25
A) or	_			0,70	1,05	1,20
Dimensional stability at am-		Cumulative di-	% (max.)	0.50	4.40	
bient tempera-	22	mensional change	La	0,50	1,10	1,10
ture (Method B)			Tb	0,90	1,40	1,40
Resistance to impact by small diameter ball	24	Spring force	N (min.)	25	20	15
Resistance to	0.0000	Drop height	mm (min.)	1 000	800	600
impact by large diameter ball	25	Indent diameter	mm (max.)	10	10	10
Resistance to cracking under stress (option- al)	27	Appearance	Rating (min.)	4	4	4
			Rating			
Resistance to	20		(see Annex A)			
scratching	29	Force	Smooth finishes	3	2	1
			Textured finishes	4	3	2
Resistance to			Rating (min.)			
staining (Meth-	30	Appearance	groups 1 and 2	5	5	5
od A) or		10000	group 3	4	4	4

 $^{^{}a}$ L = in the longitudinal (or machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (normally the direction of the longest dimension of the laminate).

T = in the cross-longitudinal (cross-machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (at right angles to direction L).

Table 5 (continued)

				Laminate grade		
(ISO 4586-2:20	Test method (ISO 4586-2:2018			HDS	HGS	VGS
Property	Clause No. un- less otherwise	attribute	Unit (max. or min.)	HDF	HGF	VGF
	stated)			HDP	HGP	VGP
				444	333	222
			Cleanability	< 20	< 20	< 20
Resistance to staining	31	Appearance	Stains 1 to 10 (min.)	5	5	5
(Method B)		0000000	Stains 11 to 15 (min.)	3	3	3
Light fastness (xenon arc) (Method A) or	32	Contrast	Grey scale rating (min.)	4	4	4
Light fastness (xenon arc) (Method B)	33	Contrast	Colour change (min.)	4	4	4
Resistance to radiant heat	36	Appearance	s	≥ 200	≥ 200	≥ 200
Resistance			Rating (min.)			
to wet heat	41	Appearance	gloss finish	3	3	3
(100 °C)			other finishes	4	4	4
Density	ISO 1183-1	Density	g/cm ³ (min.)	1,35	1,35	1,35

^a L = in the longitudinal (or machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (normally the direction of the longest dimension of the laminate).

6.4.2 Additional requirements for Type P laminates

In addition to meeting the appropriate requirements specified in <u>Table 5</u>, Type P post-formable laminates of thickness \leq 1,5mm shall meet the values specified in <u>Table 6</u> for formability and blister resistance.

T = in the cross-longitudinal (cross-machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (at right angles to direction L).

Table 6 — Additional requirements for Type P laminates

Property	Test method (ISO 4586-2:2018 Clause No.)	Property or attribute	Unit	Requirement
Formability (Method A) or	37	Radius	mm La Tb	≤ 10 × laminate nominal thickness ≤ 20 × laminate nominal thickness
Formability (Method B)	38	Radius	mm La Tb	≤ 15 × laminate nominal thickness ≤ 20 × laminate nominal thickness
Resistance to blistering (Method A) or	39	Time to blister $(t_2 - t_1)$	s Nominal thickness < 0,8 mm Nominal thickness ≥ 0,8 mm	≥ 10 ≥ 15
Resistance to blistering (Method B)	40	Time to blister	s Nominal thickness < 1,0 mm Nominal thickness ≥ 1,0 mm	≥ 40 ≥ 55

 $^{^{}a}$ L = in the longitudinal (or machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (normally the direction of the longest dimension of the laminate).

6.4.3 Notes on requirements for reaction to fire (see Annex B)

The requirements for reaction to fire are determined by the fire regulations of the country in which the material is to be used. The reaction-to-fire of construction products is classified in accordance with various test methods specific to the individual nation where the material is installed. For applications other than construction, fire test methods and performance requirements may vary from one country to another, and at present it is not possible, with any test, to predict compliance with all national and other requirements. No fire performance test is therefore included in this specification, however Annex B gives examples of how high-pressure laminates relate to ASTM E84[6] and EN 13501-1[2] and some of the most common fire test scenarios.

T = in the cross-longitudinal (cross-machine) direction of the fibrous sheet material (at right angles to direction L).

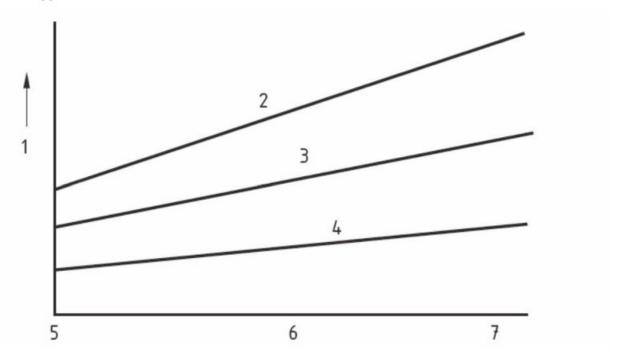
Annex A (informative)

Addendum to <u>Table 5</u> relating to test method for resistance to scratching

The degree to which decorative laminates show scuff and scratch marks is influenced by surface finish and colour, and the limits given in <u>Table 5</u> indicate the minimum acceptable performance for each grade of laminate. However, superior scratch resistance performance can be achieved by selecting particular combinations of surface finish, colour and pattern.

In general terms, scuff and scratch marks are less easily seen on textured surfaces than on plane surface finishes; light colours are better than dark colours; and prints are usually better than plain colours.

Figure A.1 gives an indication of the effect of surface finish and colour on the scratch resistance performance of laminates. The choice of surface finish, colour and print can be made to suit the particular application.



Key

- 1 scratch resistance (force)
- 2 deep textures
- 3 shallow textures
- 4 smooth finishes
- 5 dark colours
- 6 medium colours
- 7 light colours

Figure A.1 — Effects of surface finish and colour on scratch resistance

Annex B

(informative)

Addendum to 6.4.3, relating to fire performance

In Europe, laminate panels intended for construction applications are tested in accordance with EN 13823[3] (SBI test) and ISO 11925-2[1] (Small-burner test), and the resulting reaction-to-fire performance is expressed in accordance with EN 13501-1.

Table B.1 shows typical EN 13501-1 reaction-to-fire classifications of HPL composite panels with wood-based substrates.

Table B.1 — Typical EN 13501-1 classifications of HPL composite panels with wood-based substrates

Product type	Typical EN 13501-1 classification
Composite panels comprising HPL type F bonded to non-combustible substrates	B-s2,d0
Composite panels comprising HPL type F bonded to FR wood-based substrates	C-s2,d0
Composite panels comprising HPL type S or P bonded to non-FR wood-based substrates	D-s2,d0

NOTE Fire test performance will depend on laminate thickness and construction, substrate type and thickness, and adhesive used. The laminate manufacturer should be contacted for details of test reports and certifications held, and for information on fire test methods and specifications.

For applications other than construction, test methods and specifications may vary from one country to another. <u>Table B.2</u> shows some examples of how high-pressure laminates typically relate to some of the more common European test methods.

Table B.2 — Examples of typical fire performance of high-pressure laminates

		Typical performance levels		
Test method	Test standard	ISO 4586-3 HPL	ISO 4586-3 HPL	
		Type F	Types S and P	
Smoke density and toxicity	NF F16-101	F2 or better	F2 or better	
Heat release	IMO Res.A653(16) ^[9] according to 96/98/EC	Pass	Pass	
Railway applications	EN 45545-2[8]	_		
Transport Applications	Council Directive 96/98/EC[¹⁰]	_	_	

NOTE 1 Fire test performance will depend on laminate thickness and construction, substrate type and thickness, and adhesive used. The laminate manufacturer should be contacted for details of test reports and certifications held, and for information on fire test methods and specifications.

NOTE 2 Flame-retardant additives used in high-pressure decorative laminates are not halogen based and remain effective throughout the service life of the product

In North America, laminate panels intended for construction applications are tested in accordance with ASTM E84 and rated accordingly.

Table B.3 shows typical ASTM E84 reaction-to-fire classifications of HPDL composite panels with wood-based substrates.

Table B.3 — Typical ASTM E84 classifications of HPDL composite panels with wood-based substrates

Product type	Typical ASTM E84 classification
Composite panels comprising flame retardant HDPL bonded to fire rated wood-based or non-combustible substrates	

NOTE 1 Fire test performance will depend on laminate thickness and construction, substrate type and thickness, and adhesive used. The laminate manufacturer should be contacted for details of test reports and certifications held, and for information on fire test methods and specifications.

NOTE 2 Flame-retardant additives used in high-pressure decorative laminates are not halogen based and remain effective throughout the service life of the product.

Annex C (informative)

Addendum relating to electrostatic properties

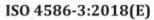
High-pressure decorative laminates typically have a surface resistivity of between 1 × $10^9~\Omega$ and 1 × $10^{12}~\Omega$ under normal ambient conditions (i.e. 23 °C ± 2 °C and 50 % ± 10 % RH).

HPL surfaces do not easily build-up an electrostatic charge, and do not attract dust.

For special applications such as computer tables, dissipative HPL is available with surface resistivity between $1\times 10^5~\Omega$ and $1\times 10^9~\Omega$ and volume resistivity between 7,5 × $10^5~\Omega$ ·cm and $1\times 10^9~\Omega$ ·cm (according to IEC 61340-5-1[4] and IEC/TR 61340-5-2[5]).

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- [3] EN 13823, Reaction to fire tests for building products Building products excluding floorings exposed to the thermal attack by a single burning item
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ICS 83.140.20

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