



# Our commitment to sustainability

[www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com)

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## introduction

Ambitious targets for excellence in sustainability are about a journey. At Formica Group we are fostering a culture that demands continuous improvement in our overall impact on the environment, including sustainable manufacturing processes.

As Development Manager at Formica Group I direct our sustainability strategy. Our journey really began when we completed a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) on key products and their environmental impacts on energy, water, waste and greenhouse gases in all ten of our international manufacturing plants.

This provided a benchmark for our processes and enabled us to set goals for the future, to provide a full carbon footprint for our manufacturing facilities.

I am delighted to say that we are the first laminate manufacturer to complete a comprehensive, non-generic LCA that uses data drawn from all aspects of the supply chain and manufacturing processes.



We are also proud to be the first laminate manufacturer in the world to be awarded the Carbon Trust's Carbon Reduction Label. By displaying this label Formica Group has also made a commitment to reduce our products' carbon footprint.

Our European manufacturing plants operate an

environmental management system which complies with the requirements of ISO 14001:2004.

We know consumers and specifiers want evidence of genuine sustainability credentials. Please read on to find out more about our wide range of initiatives.

**Gavin Todd**  
Development Manager  
Formica Group

**Formica Group is committed to making sustainable principles and practices a part of everything we do. We strive to adhere to the highest ethical standards as we advance in our efforts to protect vital resources for future needs.**



## carbon reduction label

Our range of High Pressure Laminate, Compact Laminate and Bonded Worktops carry the Carbon Reduction Label. To qualify to bear this, Formica Group has had each product's carbon footprint certified to PAS 2050:2008, (a specification for the assessment of the life cycle and greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services), Footprint Expert™ Guide and the Code of Good Practice for Product GHG Emissions and Reduction Claims.

Formica Group is the first laminate manufacturer to achieve this.

PAS 2050:2008 is a global standard for product carbon footprinting. Since 2007, the Carbon Trust has worked with numerous household brands as well as business-facing brands to measure and reduce the carbon footprint of items.



## GREENGUARD and indoor air quality

As one of our core sustainability strategies, Formica Group has taken significant steps to ensure that its products promote a healthy indoor air quality in homes, offices, schools and other interior environments.

The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute's standards define products and processes with low

chemical and particle emissions for use indoors.

Products from Formica Group's ten international manufacturing sites have achieved GREENGUARD™ Indoor Air Quality Certification, the premier mark for low-emitting products.

It is significant that Formica Group has tested and certified products from each of our ten plants, as process and variations in supply chain can exist from one manufacturing facility to another, and reassuring for our international customers to have this consistency.



## certified wood and FSC COC

The ability to prove a timber product has been derived from a responsibly-managed source is now a key factor in the specification of timber-based products.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody (COC) certification is awarded to companies such as ours that can track and document FSC-certified material throughout the production process, from the forest to the

customer, including the successive stages of procurement, processing, manufacturing, distribution and sale of certified goods.

You can find a copy of our FSC COC Certificate TT-COC-003588 from BM TRADA, an independent third-party certifier, at [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com).

All of Formica Group's European sites and distribution centres have achieved this internationally

recognised standard. As well as an assurance, FSC COC certified materials can also support customers' LEED and BREEAM certification strategies.

Our procurement policy is and has been for many years one of sourcing raw materials from responsible vendors who can demonstrate their ability to work with controlled/responsibly managed sources. Many of our

suppliers are already FSC COC certified. Since achieving COC we have been working closely with these certified suppliers and strive to reach a point where we can make substantiated product claims on finished products.



The mark of responsible forestry



## compliance with European Chemicals Agency

Regulated and monitored by the European Chemicals Agency based in Finland, REACH is a regulatory framework which supports European Union objectives to control the European chemicals market. Formica Group has REACHready affiliation and our products are REACH compliant.

Adhering to our obligations under this framework, Formica Group will also ensure all of its European sites are periodically reviewed for REACH compliance.

The aim of the REACH programme is to monitor how the production and use of chemicals is impacting

on the health and environment of the European Union.

You can go to [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com) to download our REACH Company Policy Statement.

## green building assessment

Formica® laminates are applied as a decorative surfacing material to cladding, cabinets, furniture and fixtures, partitions and worktops among other elements. As a component material they may contribute toward LEED credits for building certification.

Formica® Compact is structural laminate used in washrooms, cubicles, locker doors, wall panels and laboratory furniture. It may contribute to LEED and BREEAM credits in a similar way, as can

Vivix® exterior façade panels, which, when used in ventilated rainscreen cladding applications, can also contribute to a building's thermal efficiency.

Visit [www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED) for more information. To see our LEED and BREEAM specification sheets please visit [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com).

For more detail on the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, go to [www.breeam.org](http://www.breeam.org).

We also aim to work with other such assessment bodies as the adoption of sustainable buildings, methods and developments grows worldwide.



## life cycle assessment (LCA)

Formica Group has performed an LCA for its flagship products: High Pressure Laminate; Continuous Process Laminate; Compact Laminate and Bonded Worktops.

A product's LCA measures the full environmental impact of a

product. Data is gathered from the manufacture of raw materials and their transportation to Formica Group manufacturing sites and distribution centres, product fabrication, further transportation to points of distribution and disposal at end of life.

These complex sets of data are then analysed and applied in accordance with ISO 14040 Series and the final LCA is then third-party certified against ISO 14040.

You can find out more detail on this at [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com).



## resources and recycling

Formica Group recognises the benefits of efficient resource use and recycling.

We use scrap laminate as a packaging material to help reduce waste, recycle scrap metal produced by our maintenance departments, collect hydraulic oils used on presses and send them to a closed-loop filtration system that enables their re-use.

The packaging we use to ship Formica® products is made

from recycled materials. It is also re-usable, recyclable and biodegradable. We also recycle paper and cardboard throughout our manufacturing processes and in our distribution centres and offices.

We have set goals to reduce carbon emissions from all operations, vehicles and facilities by 5% by the end of 2012. We control particulate emissions with devices that operate to 99% efficiency.

Energy management includes deployment of high-efficiency lamps for manufacturing facilities and auto-sensor lighting for our offices. Closed-loop, high pressure hot water systems in our plants retain heat for successive pressings in the manufacturing process.

Formica Group plants worldwide comply with all local and country government regulations encompassing air emissions and quality, noise level, water discharges, liquid and solid waste disposal.





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## a final note from **Formica Group**...

Formica® laminate is the original, with 99 years of innovation and manufacturing experience. Our laminate is and remains a material that is durable, inherently hygienic, easy to clean and offers high performance. It therefore can have a long usable lifecycle, sometimes overlooked when we talk about the subject of sustainability.

Formica Group is a Fletcher Building company and shares its commitment to corporate leadership in sustainability.

For more information about Fletcher Building's sustainability achievements and goals, visit [www.fletcherbuilding.com](http://www.fletcherbuilding.com)

Formica Group is a global group of companies consisting of Formica Canada, Inc., Formica Corporation, Formica de Mexico S.A. de C.V., Formica IKI Oy, Formica Limited, Formica S.A., Formica S.A.S., Formica Taiwan Corporation, Formica (Thailand) Co., Ltd., and Formica (Asia) Ltd., among others.



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