

Last Revised: November 2018

RE: Flame Spread of ANSI/HPVA HP-1 Decorative Interior Hardwood Plywood [Raw, Unfinished]

The Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association, American Forest and Paper Association and Underwriter Laboratories [UL®] have conducted tests on a variety of wood products, all in accordance with test method ASTM E-84. The findings from these tests are featured in the DCA1 - *Design for Code Acceptance, Flame Spread Performance of Wood Products* published by the American Wood Council [link: <https://www.awc.org/codes-standards/publications/dca1>] where an overview of the E-84 Steiner Tunnel Test method (including sample conditioning) is provided.

The test examples offered included hardwood lumber, raw composites and softwood plywood in addition to 37 configurations of hardwood plywood [ANSI/HPVA HP-1] including panel constructions with veneer, composites and combinations of the two in varying thickness, in different, popular decorative wood species including birch, maple and oak, among others.

Columbia participated in this 2015 survey using veneer and platforms sourced from its operative wood baskets with a wide variety of HP-1 decorative veneers assembled using PureBond® formaldehyde-free assembly technology.

The most commonly accepted flame spread rating system in use today is set forth by the National Fire Protection Association, Life Safety Code NFPA 101. The NFPA classifies flame spread index in the following manner:

Class A	0 to 25 Flame Spread	0 to 450 Smoke Developed
Class B	26-75 Flame Spread	0 to 450 Smoke Developed
Class C	76-200 Flame Spread	0 to 450 Smoke Developed

These ratings for both Flame Spread and Smoke Developed are based on arbitrary values of 0 for asbestos and 100 for solid red oak flooring. DCA1 offers this observation:

“As can be seen from the listed indices, most tested products have a flame spread index less than 200 making them acceptable under current building codes for a wide range of interior finish uses.”

As the published values show, all panels tested, which included every assembly provided by Columbia, did not exceed a flame spread index value of 200, which is “Class C” as defined by NFPA 101.

Should you require information specific to a particular panel construction, testing by an independent laboratory may be arranged. In addition to the cost of the panels to be tested, there is a fee charged by the lab for the actual test.

To engage further, visit us here: <https://www.columbiaforestproducts.com/contact-us/contact-columbia-forest-products/?fid=2> and make an inquiry on “Flame Spread E-84” under “Plywood Sales” with information on specific application or requirement together with specification of the panel, volume of order, fabricator location.