



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Definitional and data challenges:

- Fibreboard, plywood and EWP
- Wood chips and particles

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Fibreboard breakdown in JFSQ and HS

JFSQ		HS 2022			
Product name	Process	HS codes	Process	Thickness	Density
8.3.1 Hardboard	wet	4411.92	wet	any	$> 0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$
8.3.2 MDF/HDF	dry	4411.12	dry	$\leq 5 \text{ mm}$	any
		4411.13	dry	$> 5 \leq 9 \text{ mm}$	any
		4411.14	dry	$> 9 \text{ mm}$	any
8.3.3 Other	dry or wet	4411.12	dry	$\leq 5 \text{ mm}$	any
		4411.13	dry	$> 5 \leq 9 \text{ mm}$	any
		4411.14	dry	$> 9 \text{ mm}$	any
		4411.93	wet	any	$> 0.5 \leq 0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$
		4411.94	wet	any	$\leq 0.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$

Recording of Laminate Flooring under 4411.13, 4411.14 and 4411.92 in trade statistics creates additional challenges.

Laminate Flooring

Product characteristics:

- 90-95 % of the volume is high density fibreboard (HDF)
 - 1-3 % paper
 - 4-7 % resin
 - <1 % corundum
 - HDF with a density higher than 0.8 g/cm³
 - Thickness: either 5-9 mm or >9mm
 - Mechanically worked HDF
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- *In 2017-18, IWG incorrectly concluded that it should fall under HS code 4418*
 - *In 2022-23, it was confirmed that only HS code 4411 is used in Europe*
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Questions: from JFSQ perspective, is Laminate Flooring a Primary or Secondary processed product? Should it stay under fibreboard in export/import data in JQ2?

EWPs breakdown from JFSQ perspective

“Primary” EWPs <i>(Structural Composite Lumber - SCL)</i>		“Secondary” EWPs	
Product name	Raw material	Product name	Raw material
Laminated veneer lumber (LVL)	<i>Logs>veneer</i>	Cross-laminated timber (CLT or X-Lam)	<i>Sawnwood</i>
Parallel strand lumber (PSL or Parallam)	<i>Logs>veneer>strips</i>	Glulam	<i>Sawnwood</i>
Laminated strand lumber (LSL)	<i>Logs>strands</i>	I-Beams (I-joists)	<i>LVL, OSB, sawnwood, plywood</i>
Oriented strand lumber (OSL)	<i>Logs>strands</i>	APA Performance Rated Rim Board	<i>OSB, plywood, glulam, LVL</i>
Others?		Others?	

LVL is coded under 4412 and PSL/LSL/OSL fall under 441883 in HS.

Question: how big production of other “primary” EWPs? Do they deserve inclusion into JQ1?

List of issues

Definition

- Measurement in m³ vs. tonnes (conversion factors)
- Past efforts to improve chip definitions in CN to distinguish by end use (pulp, boards, energy) on basis of bark content was rejected by EU in 2020

Production data

- Excludes “green chips” made in the forest for pulp, energy and other uses (mulching)
- A systemic problem is related to wood chips which are processed in forest (counted as roundwood) and then exported, without showing up as chip production.
- Eurostat trial questionnaire on “green chips” discontinued

Trade data

- HS Explanatory Notes do not mention the origin at all (i.e. chipped recovered post-consumer wood perhaps should fall under 4401.2x, not 4401.49)

Example: Technical specifications of the product wood chip products

Code	SM1	SM1W	SM2	SM3D	SM3	SM4
Moisture content (min. – max.), % as received	20 % – 45 %	35 % – 55 %	35 % – 55 %	35 % – 55 %	35 % – 60 %	35 % – 60 %
Ash content, % of dry basis	up to 2 %	up to 2 %	up to 3 %	up to 5 %	up to 5 %	up to 7 %
Main fraction, mm (min quantity, %)	3,15 ≤ P ≤ 63 (min. 80 %)	3,15 ≤ P ≤ 63 (min. 80 %)	3,15 ≤ P ≤ 63 (min. 70 %)	3,15 ≤ P ≤ 63 (min. 60 %)	3,15 ≤ P ≤ 63 (min. 60 %)	3,15 ≤ P ≤ 63 (min. 60 %)
Allowable quantity of the small particles fraction (<3.15 mm), %	up to 2 %	up to 5 %	up to 10 %	up to 20 %	up to 25 %	up to 30 %
Chlorine content (% of dry matter)	<0,02 %	<0,02 %	<0,02 %	<0,02 %	<0,03 %	<0,03 %
Raw material	Stemwood	Stemwood and residues of the wood industry	Whole trees (without roots)	Short-rotation coppice and Stored logging residues	Fresh logging residues	Fresh logging residues
Allowable admixtures	–	–	Dry leaves, dry needles	Dry leaves, dry needles	Leaves, needles (both dry and not dry) and bark	Leaves, needles (both dry and not dry) and bark

Source: [Baltpool – international biomass exchange](#)