

**MEDIA RELEASE – May 31, 2007**

## **'Deceptive' plywood grading brings Federal Court action**

A Queensland company accused of assigning a stress grade to plywood products that allegedly failed to meet Australian structural standards will have to defend its claims in the Federal Court.

The action against Jag Ply Pty Ltd by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAA) highlights a toughened stand over very real concerns that some imported plywood products may not comply with Australian Standards and have potential to fail when used in structural applications.

The EWPAA sees this issue as a major threat to consumer safety; the potential damage that would be caused to the Australian plywood industry in the event of product failure or a fatality would be enormous.

EWPAA's charges against Jagply are based on allegations of 'misleading and deceptive conduct' where a number of plywood sheets and veneers were incorrectly graded and failed to comply with Australian standards.

In the EWPAA's Statement of Claim in the Federal Court, the association asserts that of 150 structural plywood sheets labelled by Jag and purchased in the Brisbane and Melbourne markets, 70% failed the standard for veneer quality, 83% of sheets tested were labelled with an incorrect or misleading stress-grade and 17% of sheets tested failed requirements for bonding.

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