Safety Requirements for EVA and PUR Hotmelt Adhesives

This document summarizes key safety requirements for two common edgebanding adhesives: EVA (Ethylene-Vinyl Acetate) hotmelt and PUR (Polyurethane Reactive) hotmelt. It is intended for customers operating edgebanding machinery and handling these adhesives in workshop environments.

1. EVA Hotmelt Adhesive Safety Requirements

EVA adhesives emit vapours during normal operation, even at recommended temperatures. These vapours may irritate the respiratory system and therefore require the use of extraction systems.

- Use a suitable extraction or ventilation system to remove vapours, especially in small or compact workshops.
- Wear standard PPE including heat-resistant gloves, long sleeves, and safety glasses (general hotmelt best practice).
- Maintain processing temperatures between 170–200 °C as recommended for this adhesive grade.

2. PUR Hotmelt Adhesive Safety Requirements

PUR adhesives contain diphenylmethane diisocyanate (MDI), which produces measurable vapours at recommended working temperatures and may exceed the MAC value of 0.005 ppm. This makes vapour control mandatory.

- Mandatory use of suitable vapour extraction systems (LEV).
- Strict temperature control to prevent formation of harmful decomposition products; adhere to 150 °C processing temperature.
- Wear PPE: heat-resistant gloves, safety glasses or face shield, long sleeves (general hotmelt safety).
- Respiratory protective equipment recommended, particularly if ventilation is insufficient or during cartridge changes and cleaning.
- Follow all SDS guidance regarding handling, labelling, and cleaning. PUR requires special cleaning agents and must not be overheated.

It is the customer’s responsibility to consult all manufacturer-issued COSHH and safety data sheets and to ensure that a comprehensive risk assessment is completed prior to using the product. Failure to do so may result in unsafe operating conditions and falls outside our liability.