

## **OH&S issues and manufactured boards:** Cabinetwork (Specialised Module 2): Industrial Technology

### **Answers**

#### **Activity 1**

Visit the following web site and identify some of the health risks associated with using medium density fibreboards:

<http://sres.anu.edu.au/associated/fpt/mdf/glue.html>.

One presently contentious issue is the use of formaldehyde resins in the manufacture of MDF, and the health risks associated. This is being overcome by the use of lignin-based adhesives. Presently standards require that the emission of formaldehyde, which can cause eye or throat irritations, from finished products that contain formaldehyde be less than one part per million. Most major manufacturers, prior to its legislation, are adhering to this standard.

Extract from: McCallum, D. (1999) *Adhesives used in the production MDF*,  
<http://sres.anu.edu.au/associated/fpt/mdf/glue.html>, viewed 6/8/03

#### **Activity 2**

List the minimum PPE and any other precautions you would require when using machine tools such as routers on MDF.

1. Eye protection.
2. Apron.
3. Firm shoes with leather uppers.
4. Ear muffs.
5. Face mask with filtration canister(s).
6. Wash face and hands thoroughly when finished work.