

# Modified Lignin for Advancing the Properties of particleboards containing UF adhesive

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# OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Lignin modification: history and characterisation
3. Lignin Application
4. Conclusion

# I. Introduction : Towards sustainable materials



Petroleum resources



# I. Introduction : Wood-based composites

Worldwide annual production of about 416 million cubic meters in 2016\*



- ❑ Availability from several sources
- ❑ Nature origin
- ❑ Non-toxicity
- ❑ Good dimensional stability



Oriented strand board (OSB)



Medium density fiberboards (MDF)



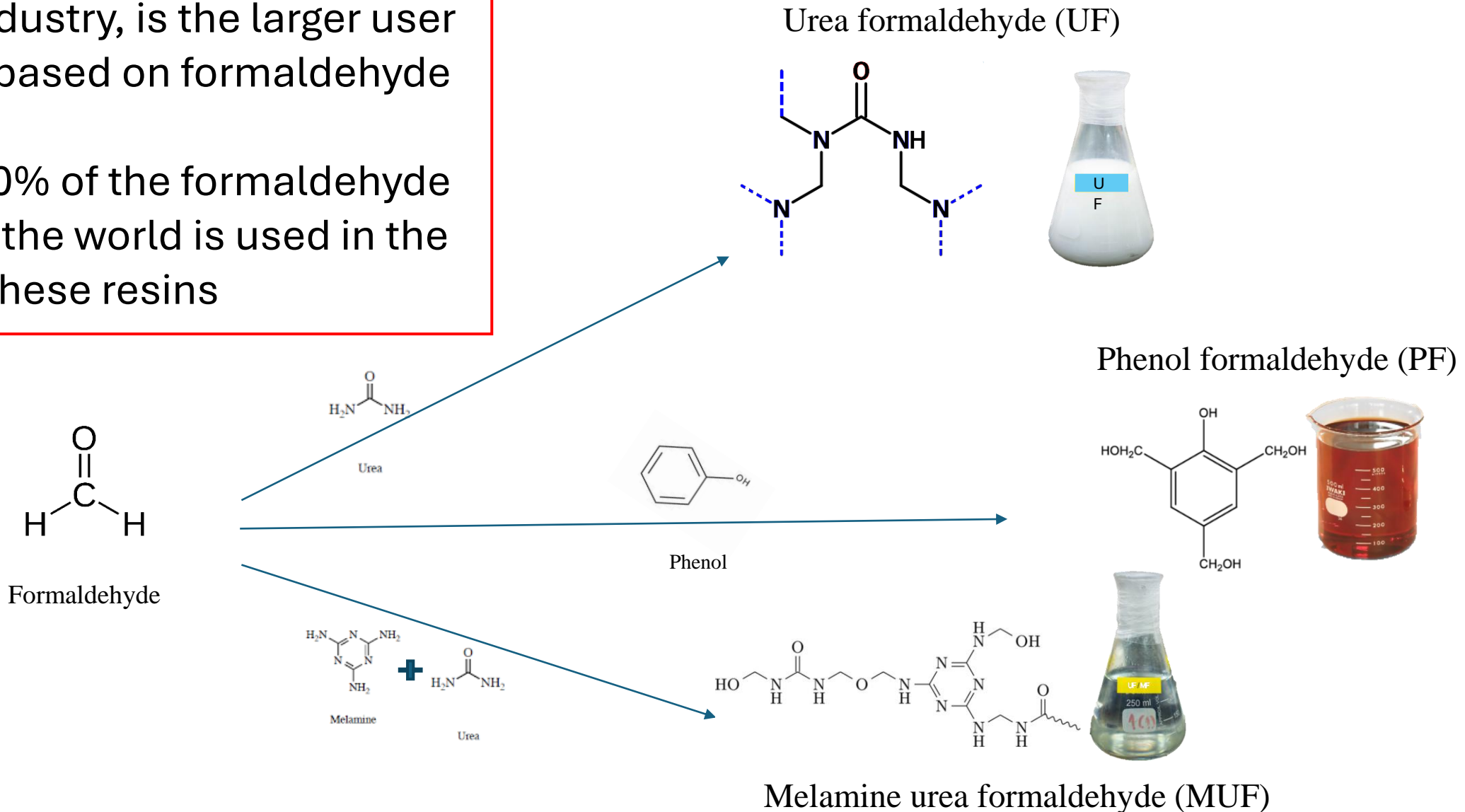
Plywood



Particleboard

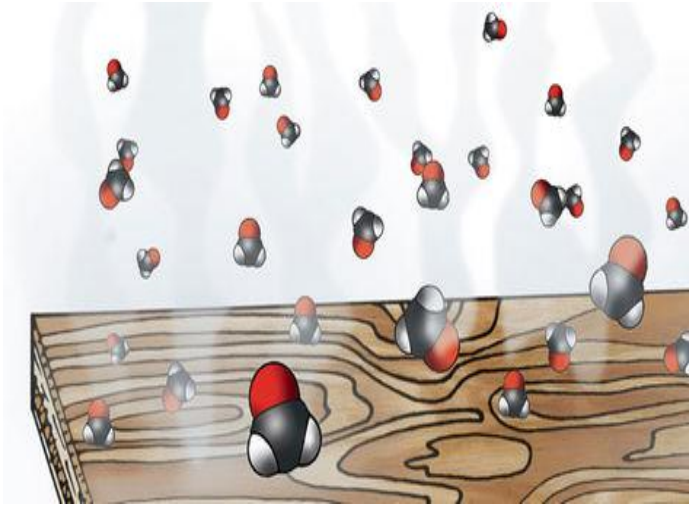
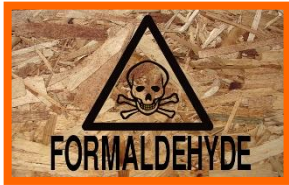
# I. Introduction : Most used adhesives

- The panel industry, is the larger user of products based on formaldehyde
- More than 50% of the formaldehyde produced in the world is used in the production these resins

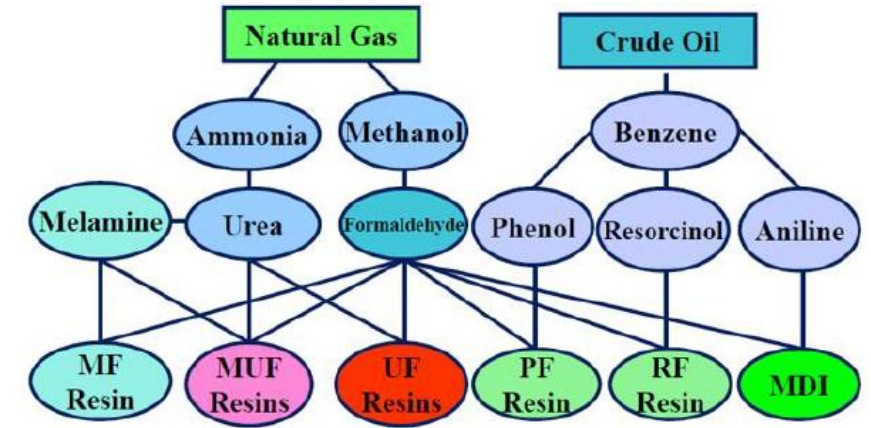


# I. Introduction Synthetic adhesive - Source and toxicity

Formaldehyde emission from wood products are the major concern



Major source of formaldehyde based adhesives

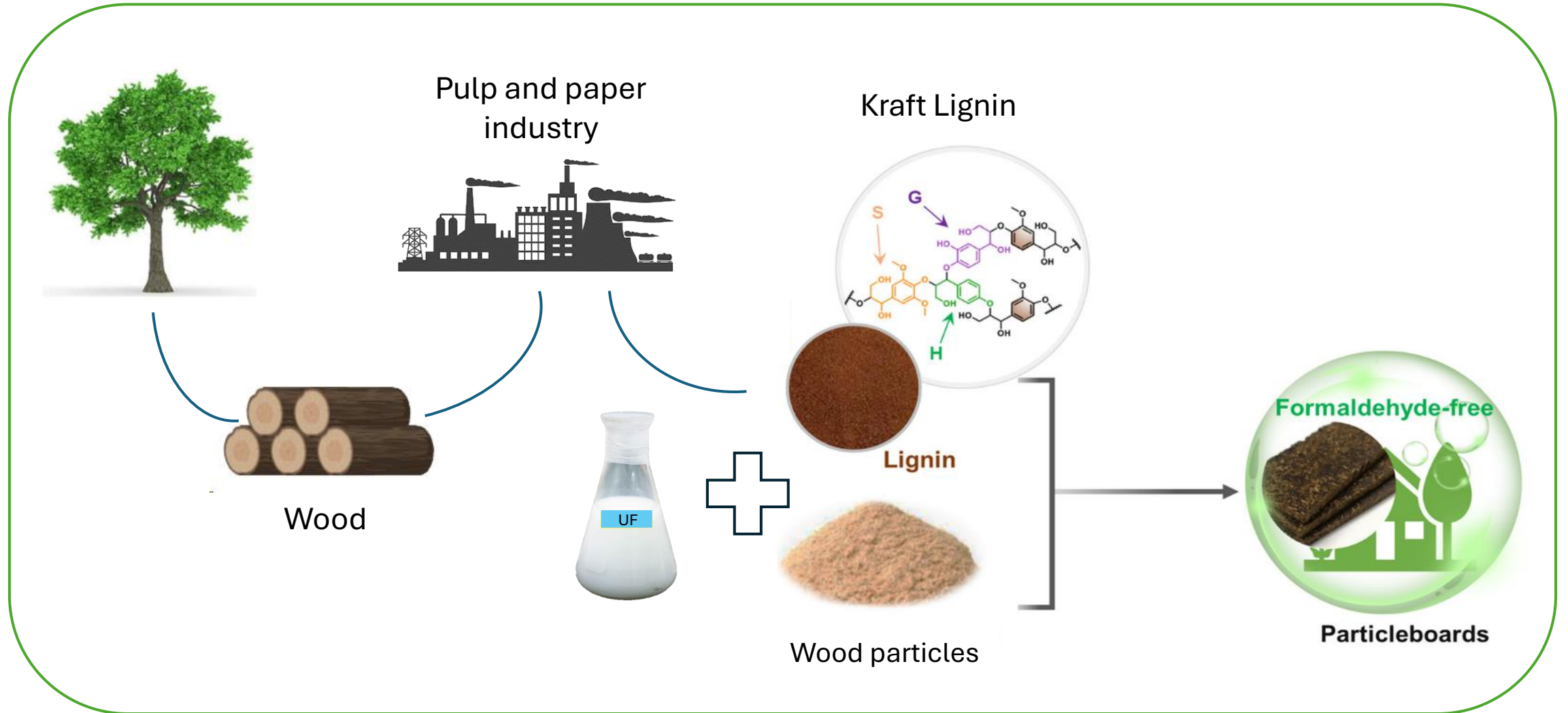


V. Hemmila et al., (2017), Royal society advances, 10.1039/c7ra06598a

Resine	Quality	Water resistance	Cost (€/t)	Formaldehyde emissions
UF	+	+	300-400	+++
PF	++	++	500-750	+++
MUF	+++	++	500-1000	+++
pMDI	+++	++	1500	-

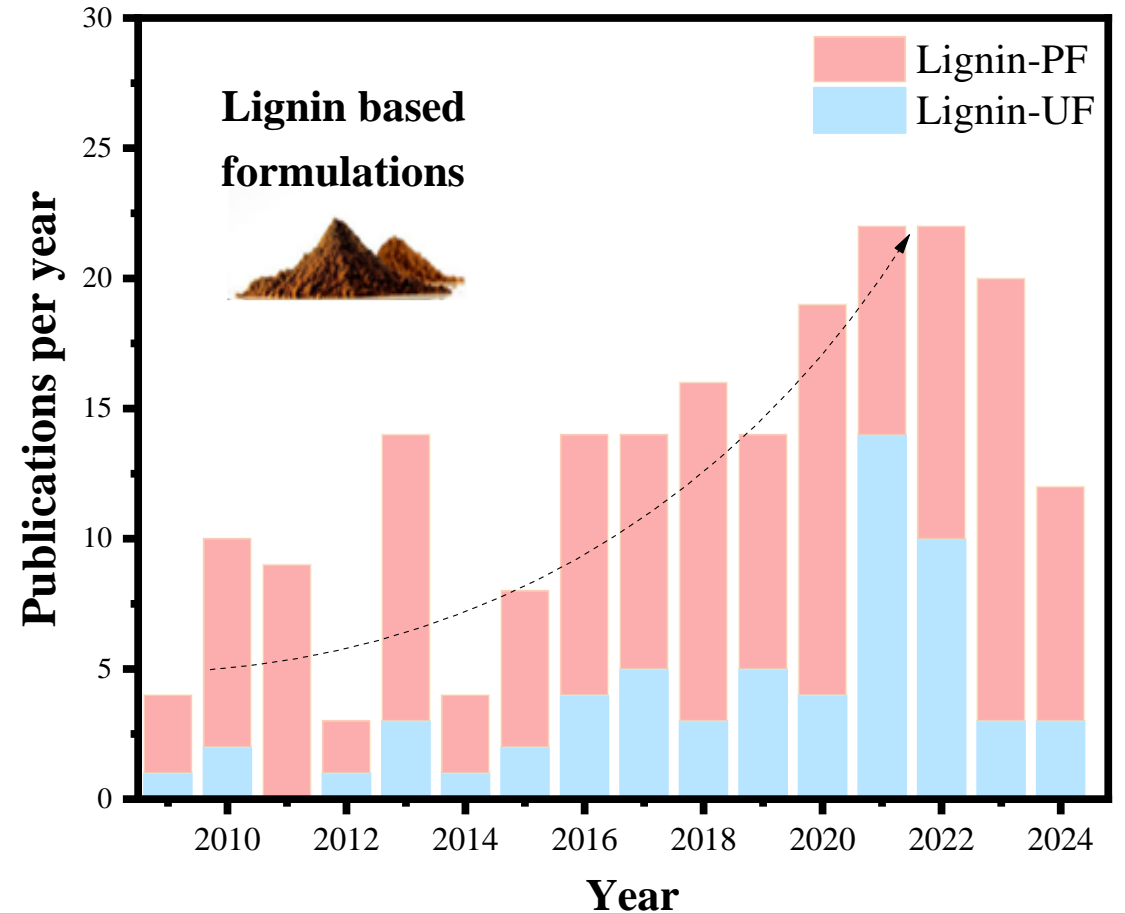


# Context of the current work



# Statistics and History of Lignin in UF adhesive

Annual number of scientific publications in the last decade, Using the following keywords **Lignin** and **UF adhesive**, in Web of Science



## Historically

First introduction of Lignin in UF adhesive has been performed in the 1994<sup>th</sup> by Chen et al at University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières,



### Modified Lignosulfonate as Adhesive

RUBIE CHEN\* and QUOXIONG WU

Pulp & Paper Research Centre, University of Québec at Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada G9A 5H7

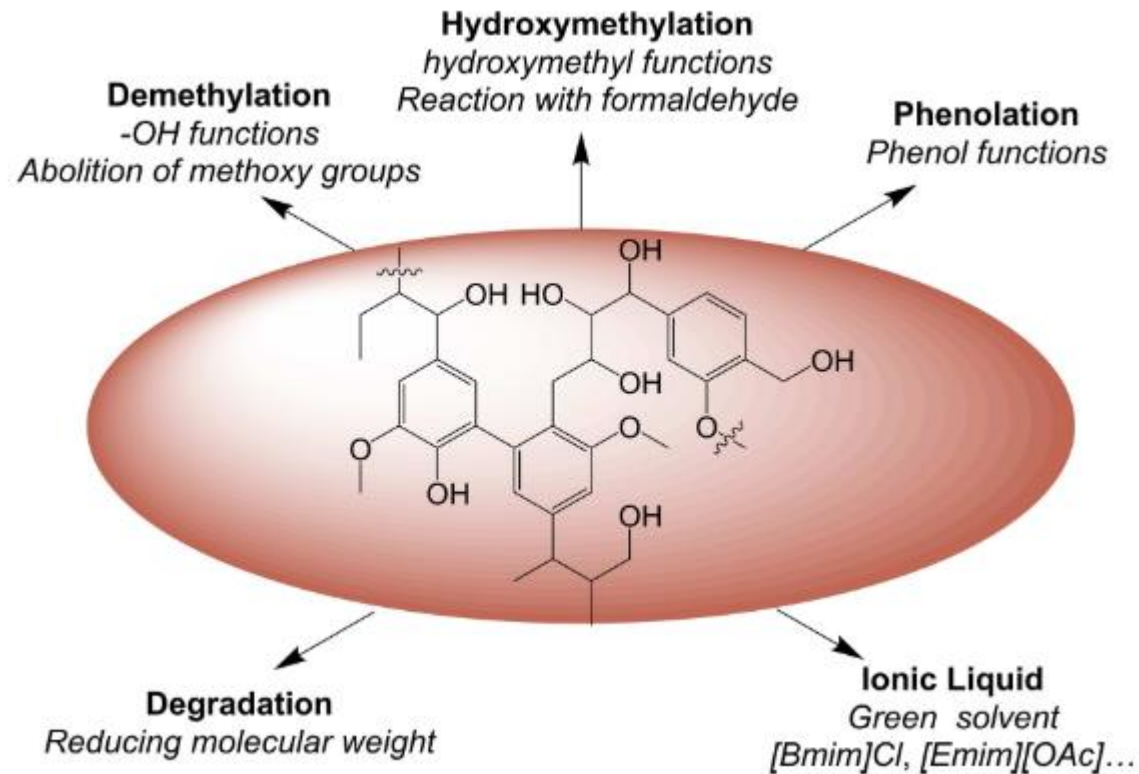


# Bibliography on Lignin in UF adhesive

According to web of science using the following keywords: *Lignin and UF adhesives*.

1. **Oxidized lignosulfonate** (30-40 wt.%) + UF → Positive effect on IB and TS (1994)
2. **Glyoxalated** soda bagass **lignin** (10-20 wt.%) during UF synthesis → Improved WA, SS and decreased FE of plywood (2015)
3. **Phenolated** kraft **lignin** (10-20 wt.%) during UF synthesis → Less FE with no changes in IB of the Particleboards (2016)
4. **Ionic liquid modified lignin** (10-20 wt.%) during UF synthesis → Improved SS, lower WA and FE of plywood (2017)
5. Nanoclay (0.5-1 wt%) + **Glyoxalated lignin-UF adhesive** → Improved MOE, MOR, IB and Less FE of Particleboards (2017)
6. pMDI (2-6 wt%) + **Ionic liquid lignin- UF adhesive** → Improved SS in wet and dry states, lower FE of plywood (2018)
7. **Hydroxymethylated sulfite liquor** + UF resin → Less FE with no Improvement in mechanical ppt of Particleboards (2019)
8. commercial **Sulfonated kraft lignin** + UF resin → Improved thermal behaviour of the resins (2019)
9. Amphiphilic **Lignosulfonate** (20 wt%) + UF → SS and FE was not influenced of the elaborated plywood (2020)
10. **Hydroxymethylated-maleated lignin** + UF → Improved tensile ppt of plywood (5%) and MDF (7.5%) with less FE (2020)
11. **Mg/Na-Lignosulfonate** (0-100 wt%) + UF → 30% of Na-LS highly decrease FE with no effect on tensils ppt of PB (2021)
12. **Ammonium-Lignosulfonate** + UF → 10% showed best tensile ppt and less FE of Particleboards (2019)
13. **Alkali lignin from bagass**(5-15 wt%) + UF → 10% leads to improved tensile ppt and less FE of Particleboards (2021)
14. **Lignosulfonate** + UF → 6% leads to improved MOR, MOE and less WA, TS and FE of Particleboards (2021)
15. **Aceton fractionated kraft lignin** + UF → Soluble lignin Showed great potential as green additive in UF (2023)
16. **Soda and Kraft lignin (20-40 wt%)** + UF → 20% leads to improved MOR, MOE, IB and FE of Particleboards (2023)
17. **Alkali lignin from weeds** (5-20 wt%) + UF → 15% leads to improved MOR, MOE, IB and less FE of Particleboards (2023)
18. Commercial **Lignin** (5%) and **Lignosulfonate** (10%) + UF → Acceptable physical and mechanical properties of elaborated panels as well as in improvement in fire resistance properties (2023)

# Chemical modifications of lignin in Wood adhesives

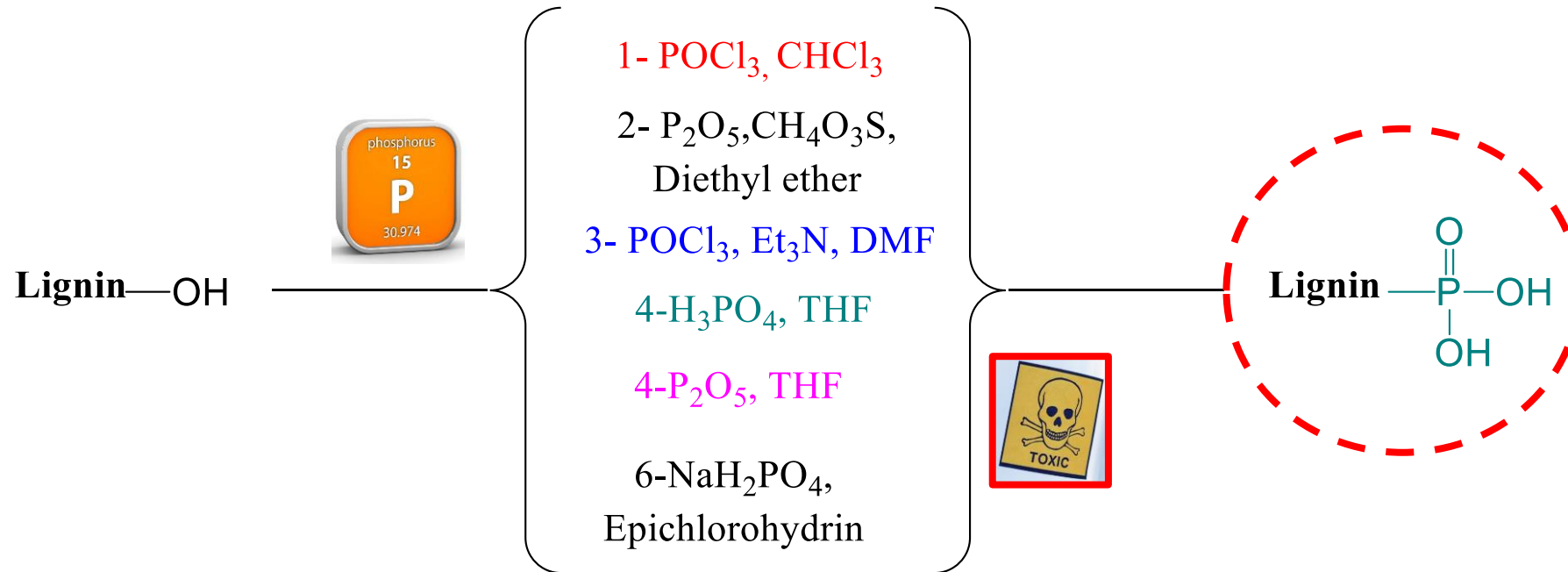


To our knowledge No work presented till now a **Phosphorylation of Lignin** to be applied in UF adhesives !!!

Summary of the most applied chemical reactions for the functionalization of lignin in adhesives

Peng et al., Chemsuschem (2023), doi.org/10.1002/cssc.202300174

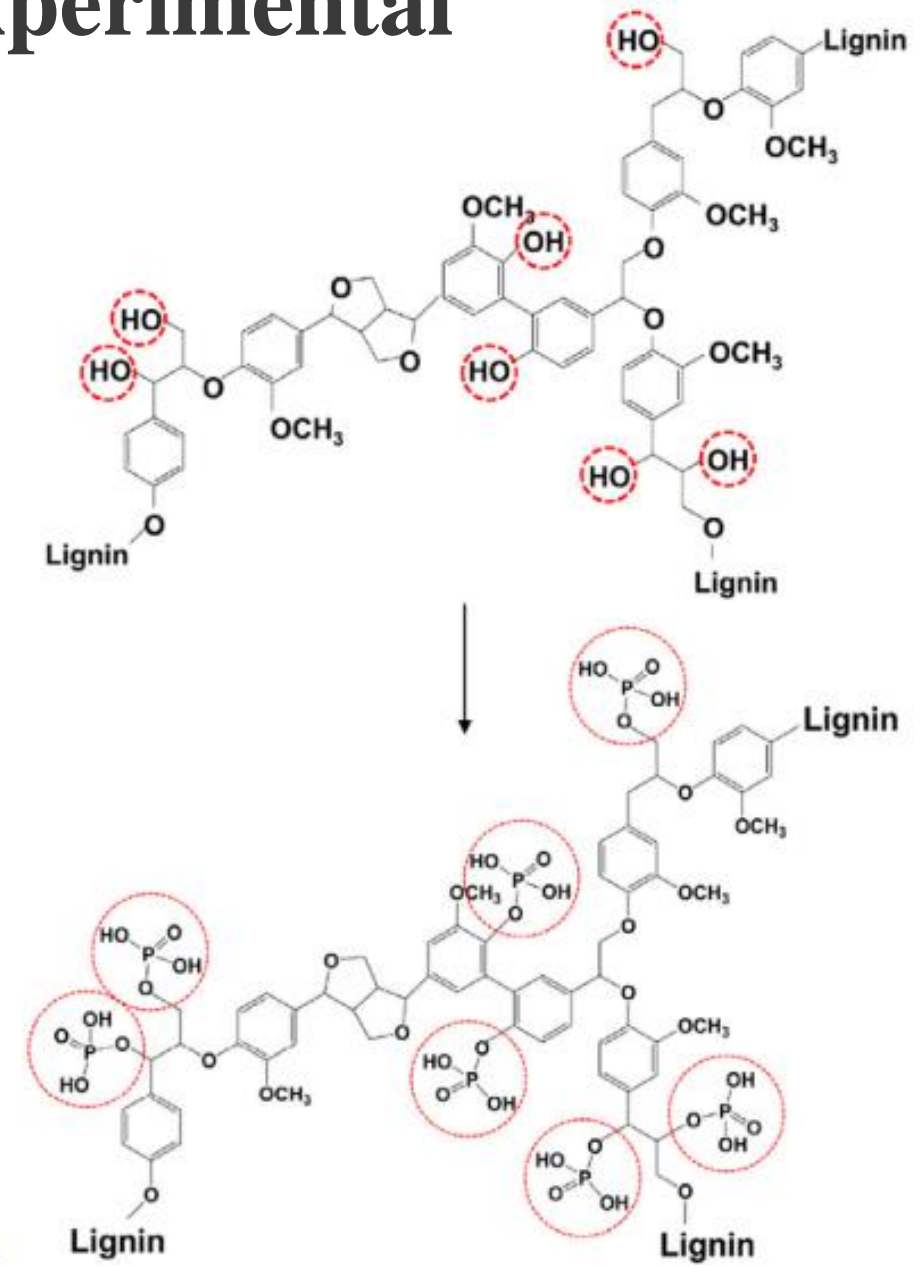
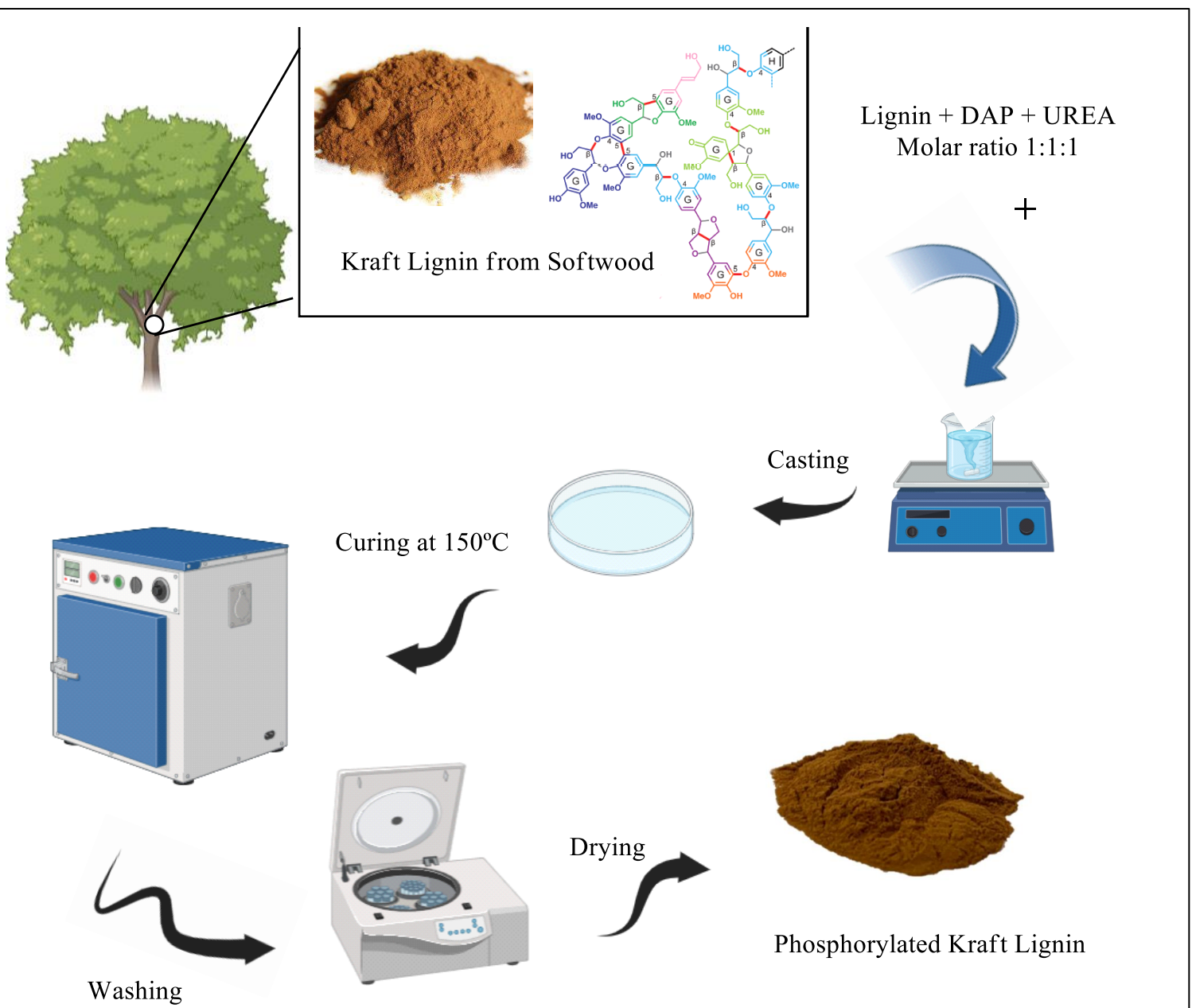
# Lignin Phosphorylation : Stat of the art



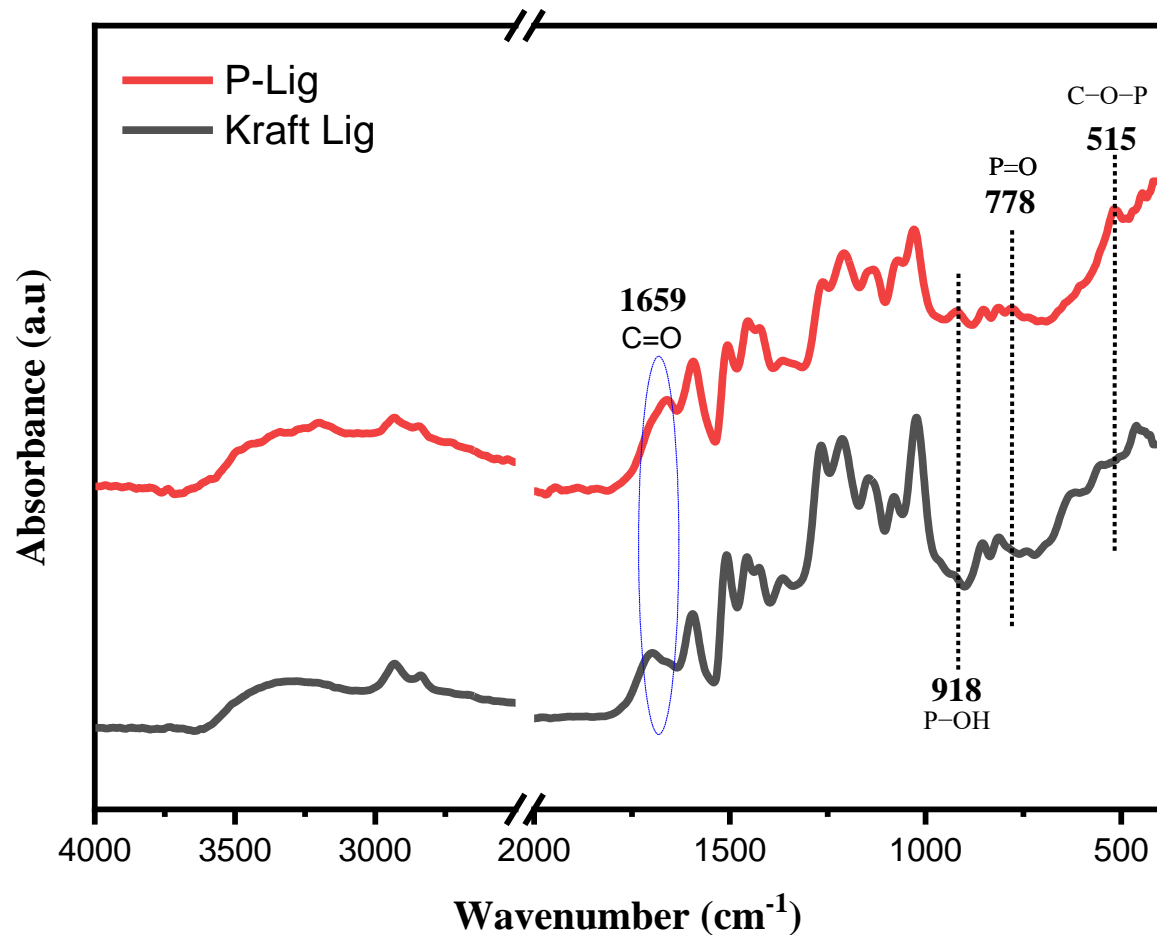
**Historically** Lignin structure have been widely functionalized since the 1980's by different chloro-phosphorus containing-compounds through Williamson reaction for different applications\*

\*Illy el al., (2015), Phosphorylation of bio-based compounds: state of the art\ *Polymer Chemistry* 10.1039/C5PY00812C

# Lignin Phosphorylation : Experimental



# Lignin Phosphorylation : Results



## FTIR analysis

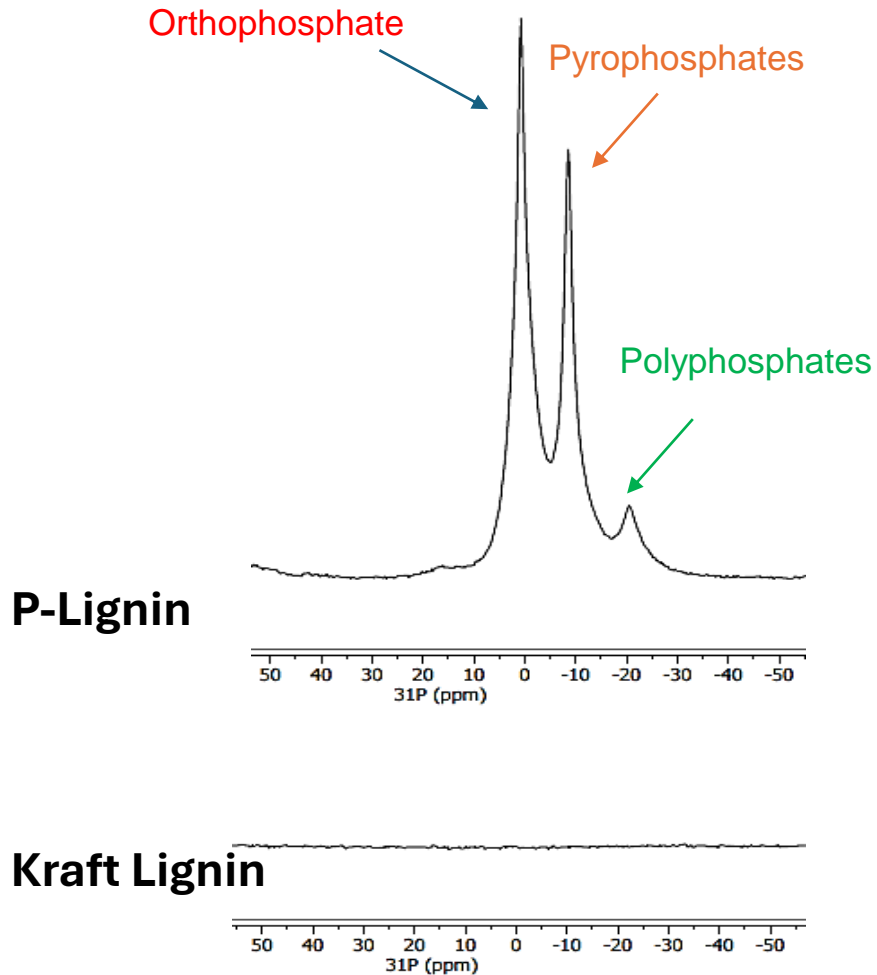
-Appearance of new peaks correspond to C-O-P ( $515\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), P=O ( $778\text{cm}^{-1}$ ); P-OH ( $918\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) indicative of the successful phosphorylation of kraft lignin

-Usually, phosphate moieties do not show intense bands in the IR spectroscopy\*

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\*G. Nourry, et al, Cellulose 23 (6) (2016) 3511–3520.

# Lignin Phosphorylation : Results

## Solid state $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR analysis



-As expected, no peak corresponding to phosphorus was present in the spectrum of unmodified Kraft Lignin,

-Referring to literature data, An intense signal between **10 and 0 ppm** is attributed to the **orthophosphate** groups and a medium intense signal between **-5 and -10 ppm** is due to the presence of **pyrophosphate** groups.<sup>2,3</sup>

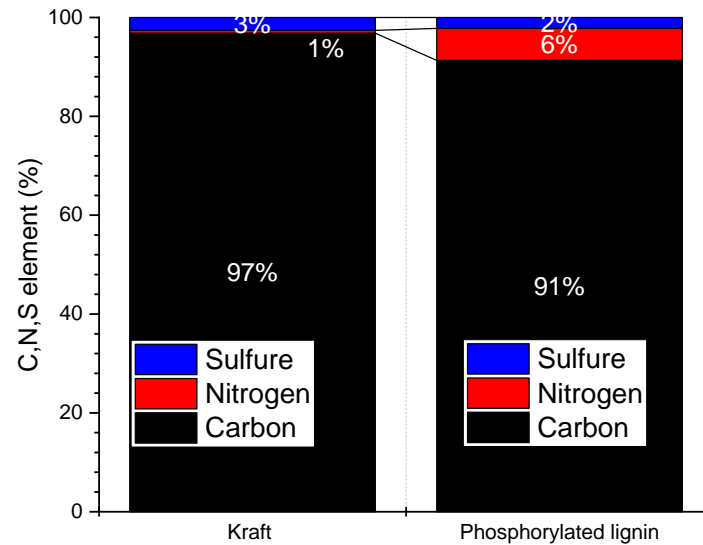
-After phosphorylation, the content of **phenolic** and **aliphatic** hydroxyl groups in KL decreased significantly and nearly 60% after phosphorylation

<sup>2</sup>Ablouh et al ., (2021) RSC Advances, 10.1039/d1ra02713a

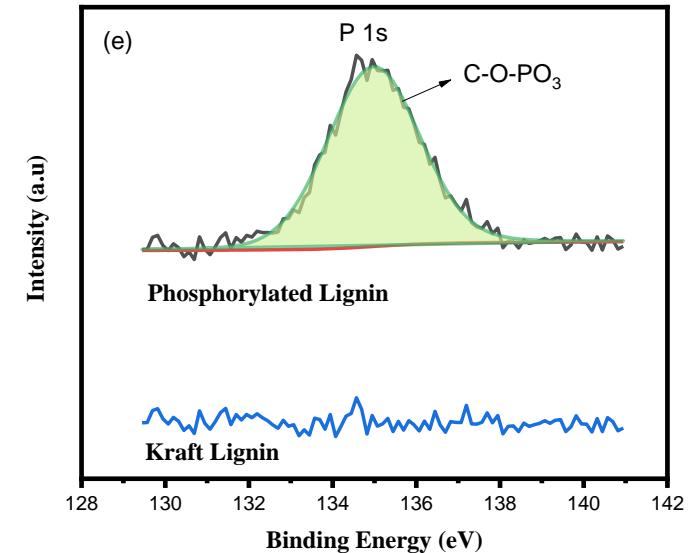
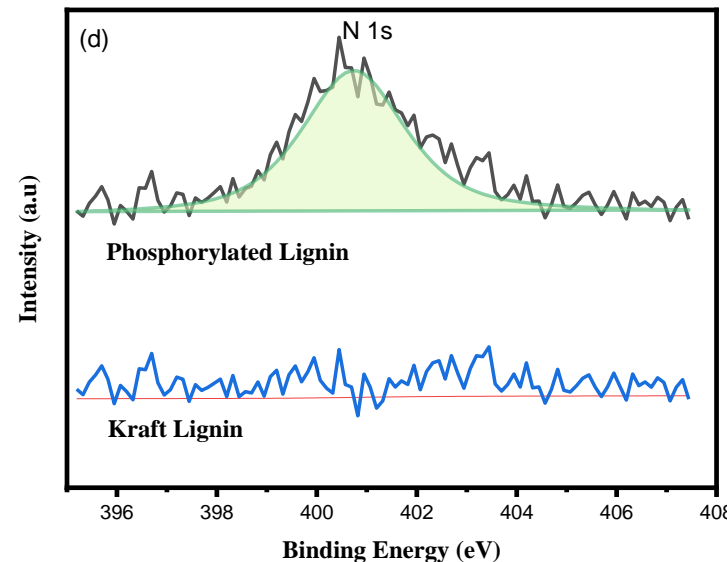
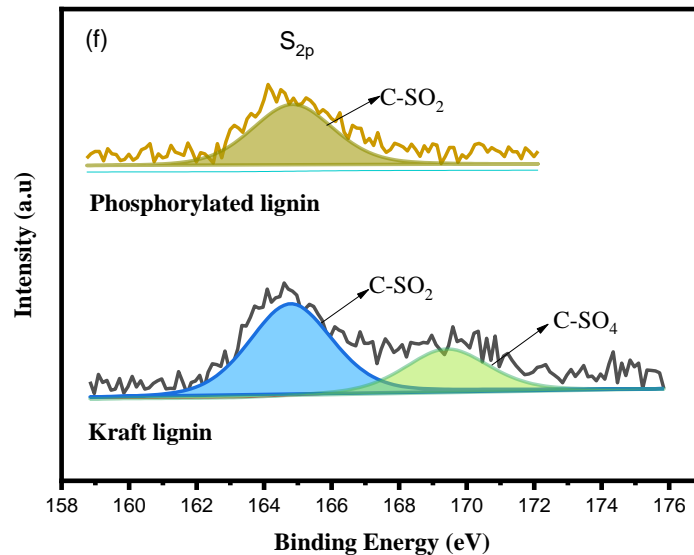
<sup>3</sup>Barbara J. Cade-Menun (2004), Talanta, 10.1016/j.talanta.2004.12.024

# Lignin Phosphorylation : Results

# XPS analysis



- As expected, no peak corresponding to phosphorus was present in the spectrum of unmodified Kraft Lignin,
- Referring to literature data, a new peaks was found at 135 eV for P 2p in the spectrum of the PKL, indicating that the phosphate group was successfully introduced onto the lignin molecule. The appearance of N 1s at 401 eV was also found in PKL. \*
- Probable formation of carbamate (-NH-CO-O-) group on lignin due to the presence of Nitrogen on its structure.



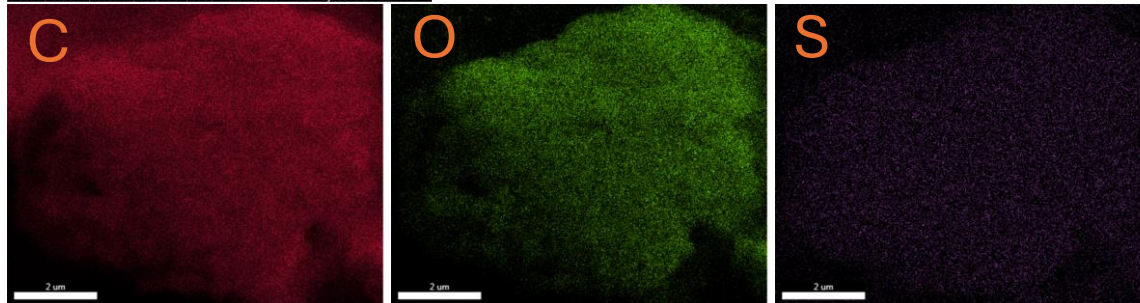
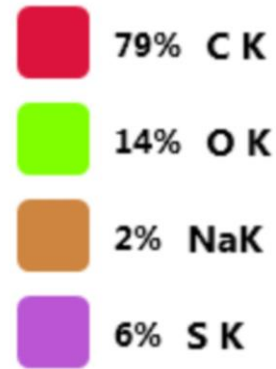
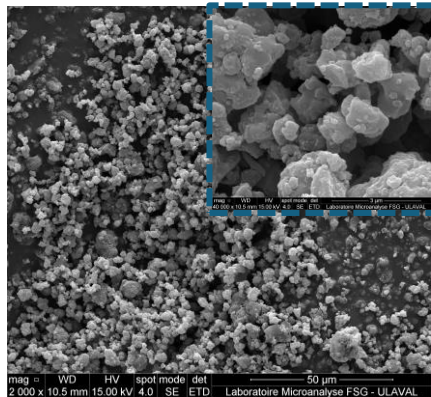
\*Barbara J. Cade-Menun (2004), Talanta, 10.1016/j.talanta.2004.12.024

# Lignin Phosphorylation : Results

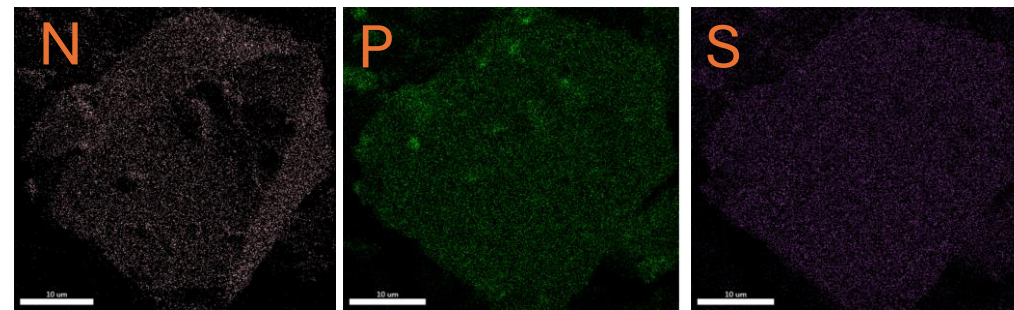
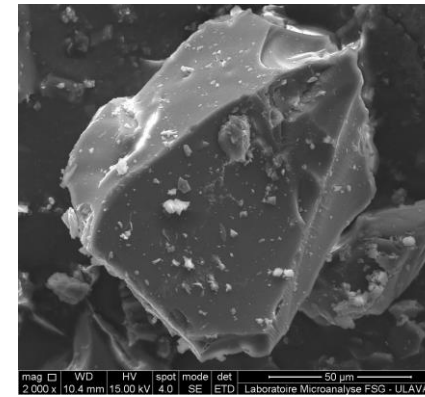
# SEM analysis

## SEM observations and elemental analysis

### Kraft-Lignin



### P-Lignin



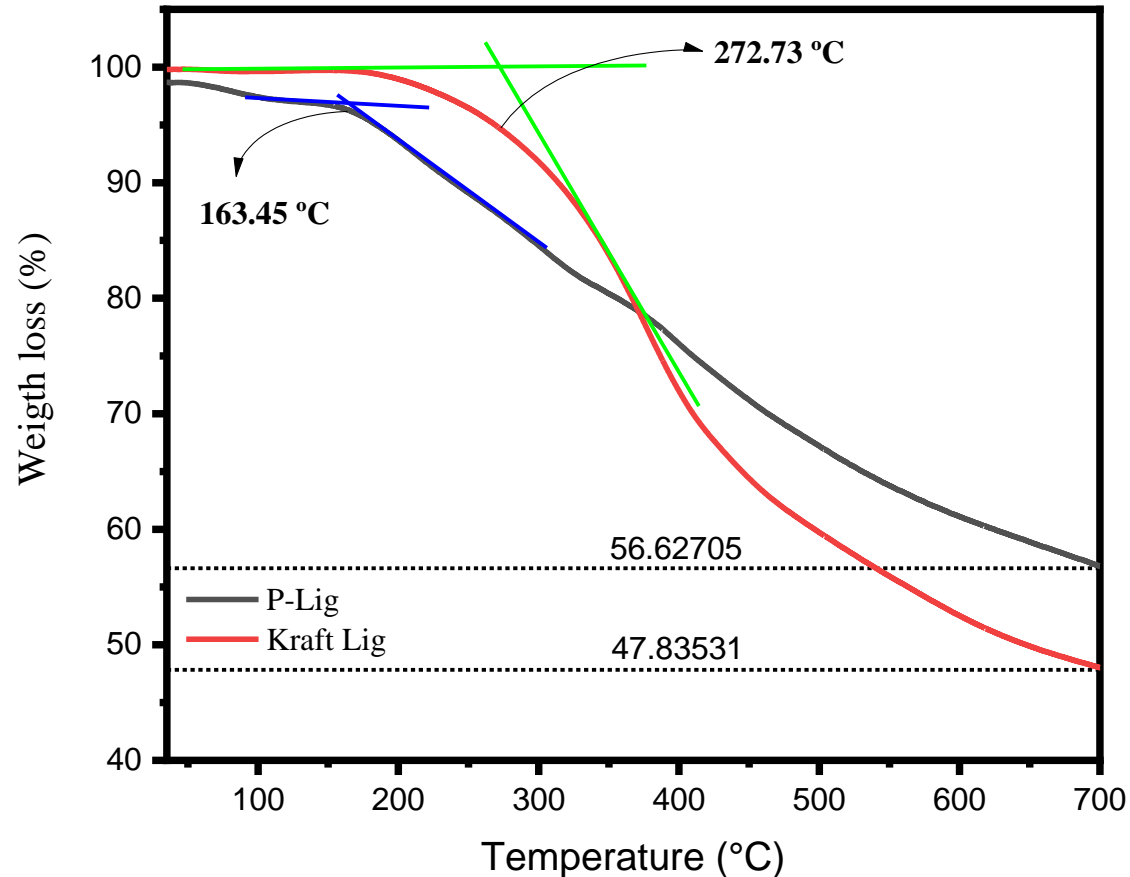
\*CNS and ICP analysis confirmed the obtained data in SEM and NMR analysis

	C (%)	N (%)	S (%)	P (ug/g)
Kraft Lignin	66.605	0.38944	1.78	<LQM
P-Lignin	59.656	4.2215	1.44	14888



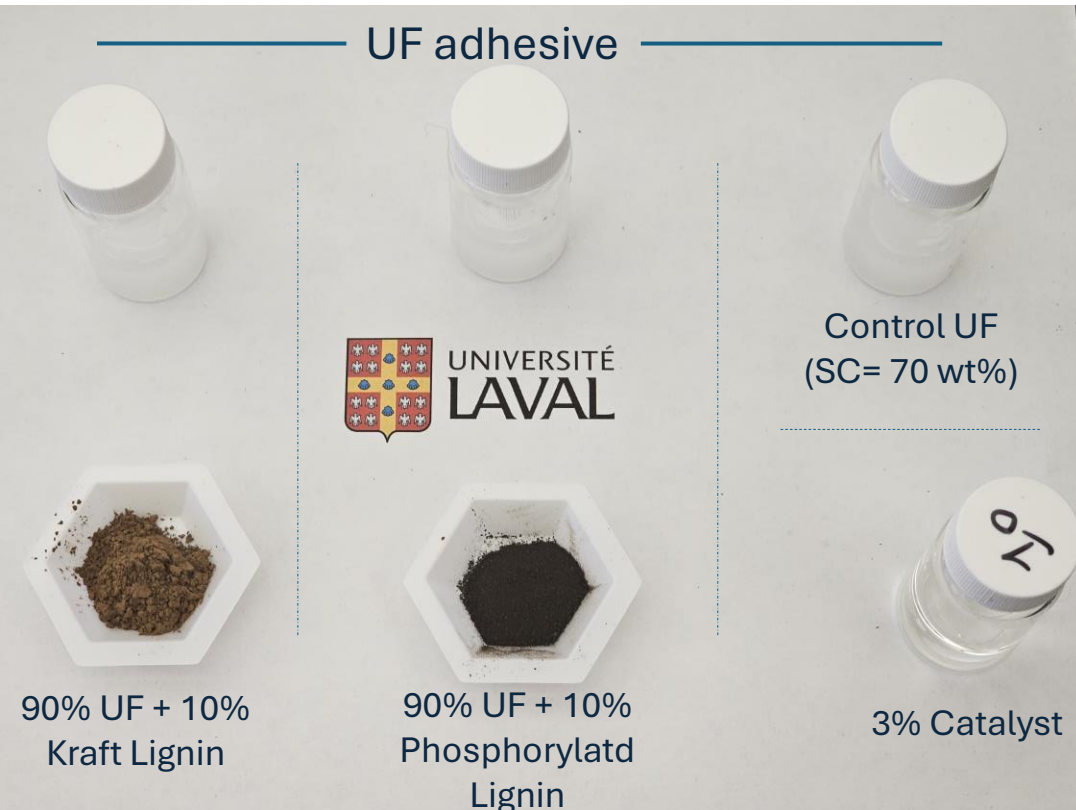
# Lignin Phosphorylation : Results

## TGA analysis



1. -Low onset temperature after phosphorylation,
2. -High residual mass loss formation even before the chemical modification due to the presence of **Sulfate groups** ( $[\text{SO}_4^{2-}] = 369 \mu\text{g/g}$ ) in the structure of lignin,
3. -The **phosphate** insertion plays an important role in giving a fire-retardant behaviour to the lignin ( $[\text{PO}_4^{2-}] = 14888 \mu\text{g/g}$ ),

# Lignin UF formulation: Results



## Physico-chemical analysis of all formulations

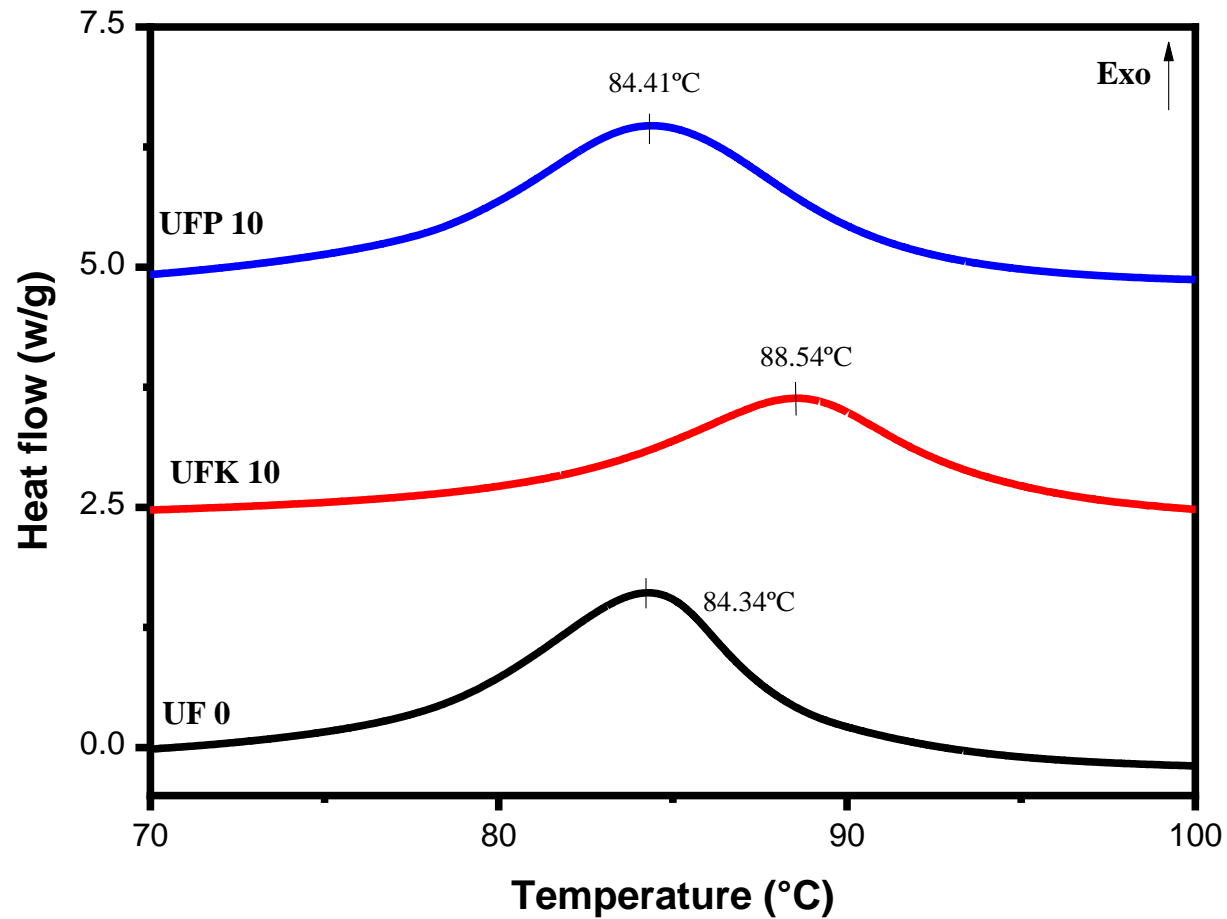
Formula (%)	Solid content (%)	pH	Gel time (s)	SD ( $\pm$ )
UF 0	70.11	8.12	132	13
UFK 10	70.95	8.15	163	18
UFP 10	70.96	8.32	125	10

**Lignin-UF formulation**



# Lignin UF formulation: Results

## DSC analysis of UF + kraft lignin

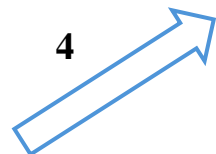


1. Neat UF had an exothermic curing peak of 84°C, which can be attributed to the heat released from the polycondensation reaction of primary amino groups of free urea with hydroxymethyl groups \*,
2. The curing temperature increased regardless of the addition level, which indicates a lower reactivity of **Kraft Lig** \*

Sample code	Curing peak temperature (°)	Heat of curing reaction (J/g)
UF 0	84.34	86.84
UFK 10	88.54	70.85
UFP 10	84.41	97.27

\*Antov et al.,2021. <https://doi.org/10.3390/polym13162775>

# IV. Wood adhesive development and bounding application



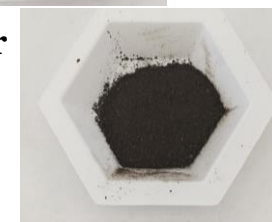
Elaborated panel



90% UF Adhesive  
(70% Solid Content)



Or



10% Lignin



1



Wood particles



Lignin:UF resin



2



3

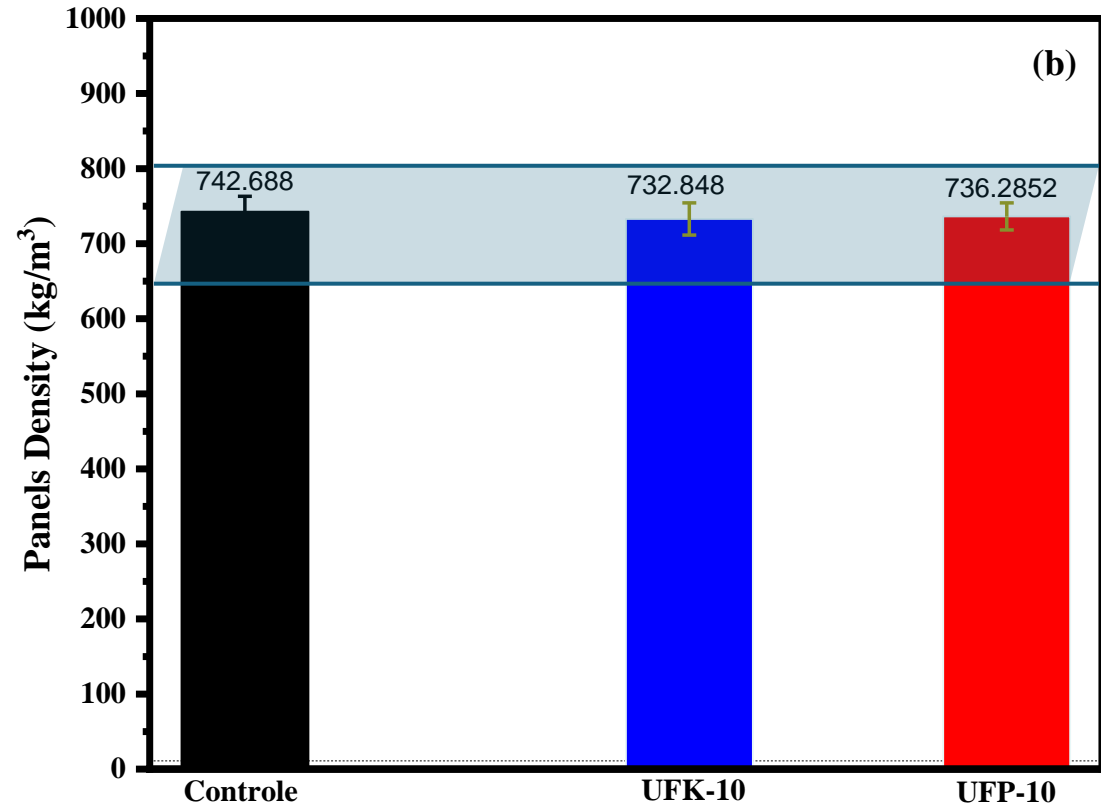
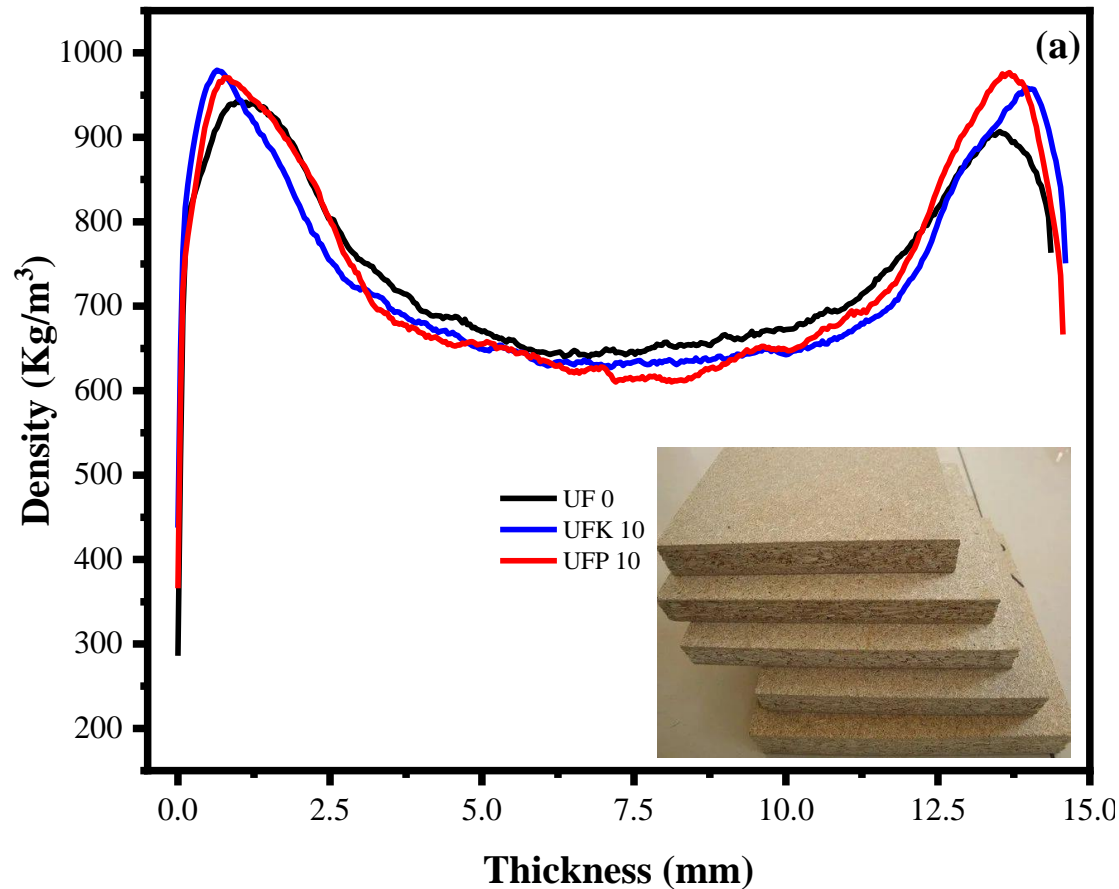


Mat formation

# Density profile of the panels

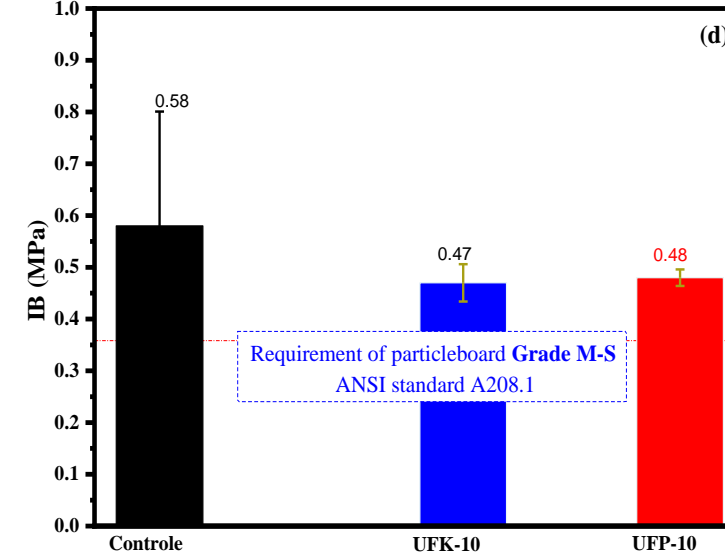
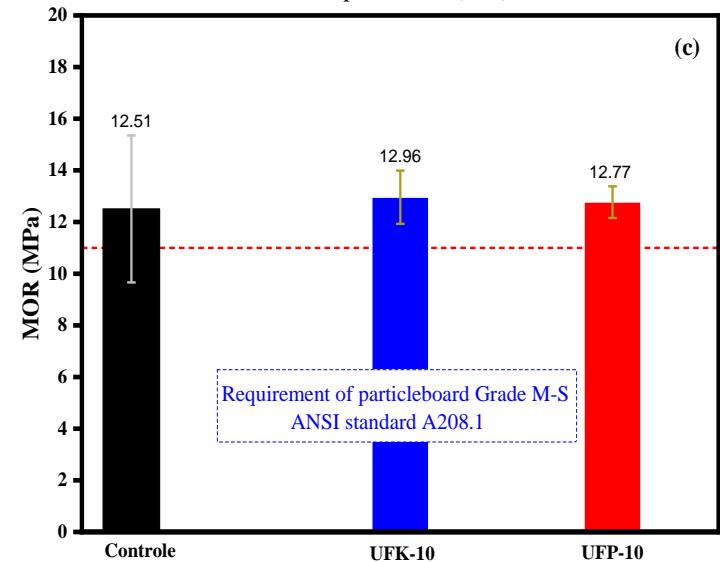
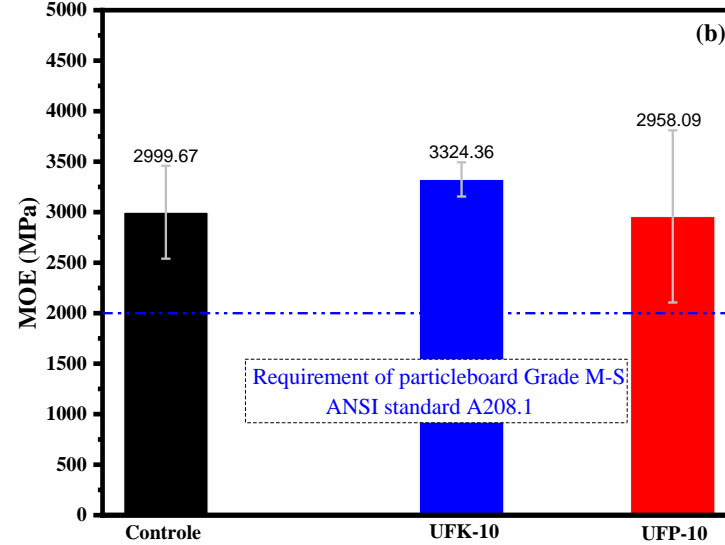
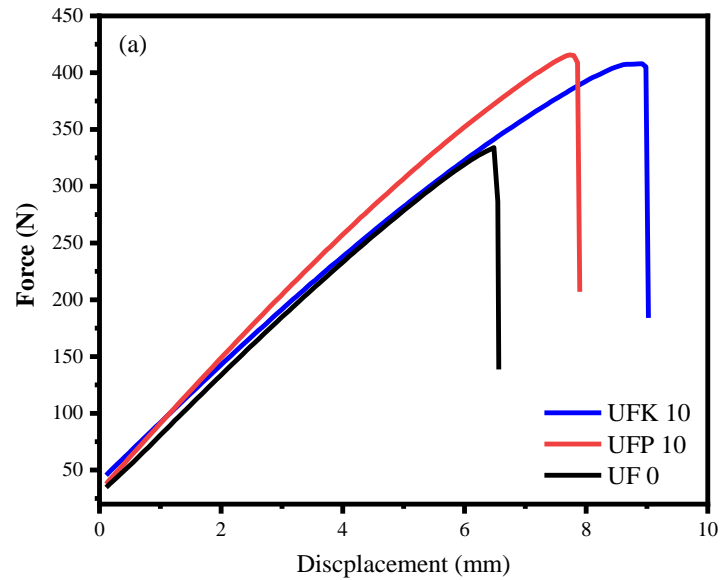
Targeted Density was 700 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

All panels meet the ANSI A208.1 (2022) standard for medium density panels



# Mechanical properties

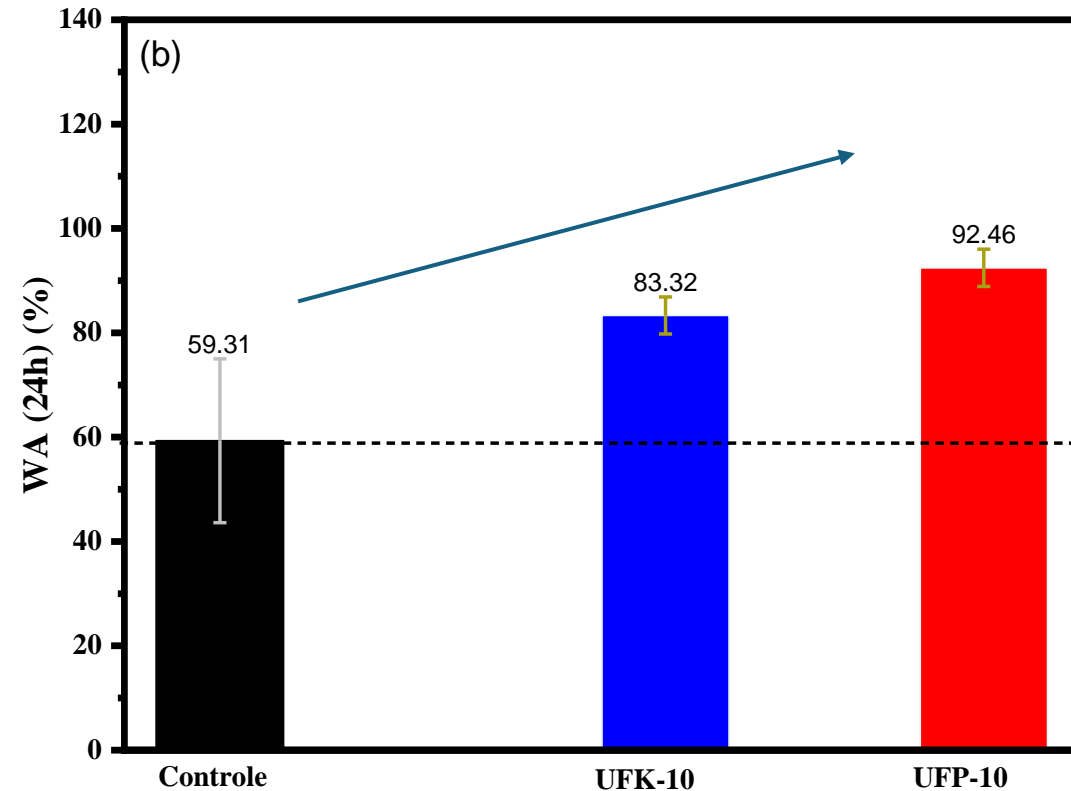
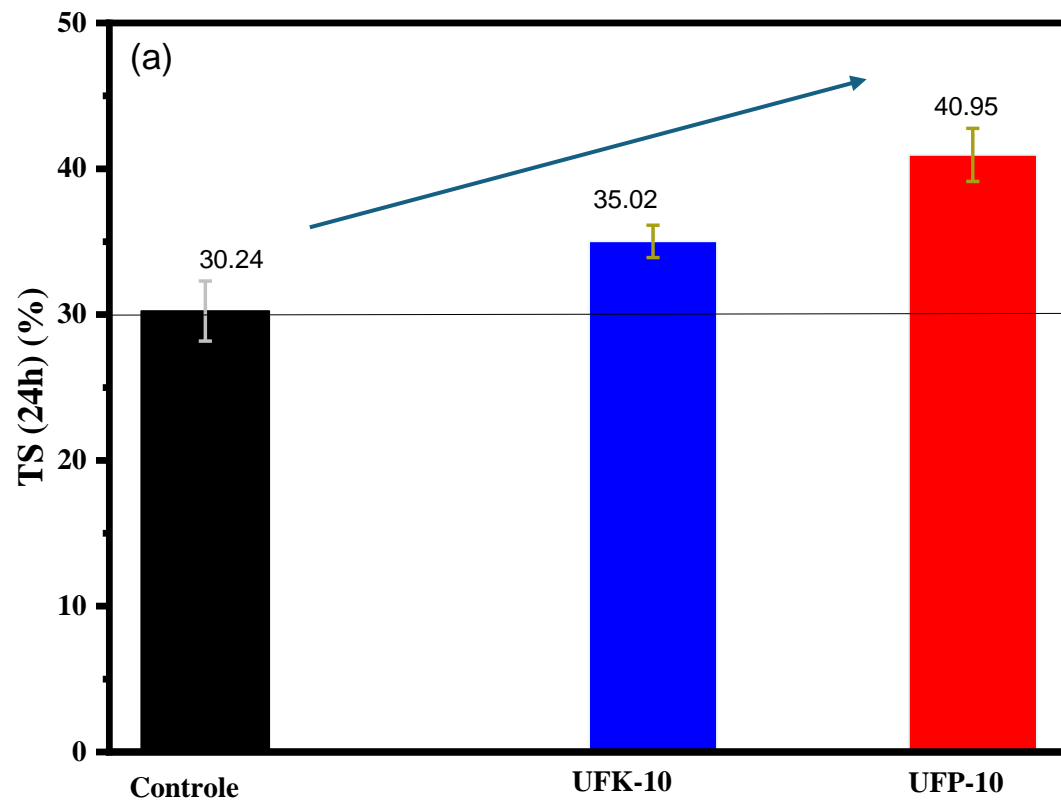
MOE: modulus of elasticity, MOR: Modulus of resistance, IB: Internal bonding



According to the ASTM D1037-12(2020) Standard

# Physical properties

Thickness swelling (TS) and water absorption (WA) After immersion in water (20°C)  
for 24h According to the ASTM D1037-12(2020) Standard

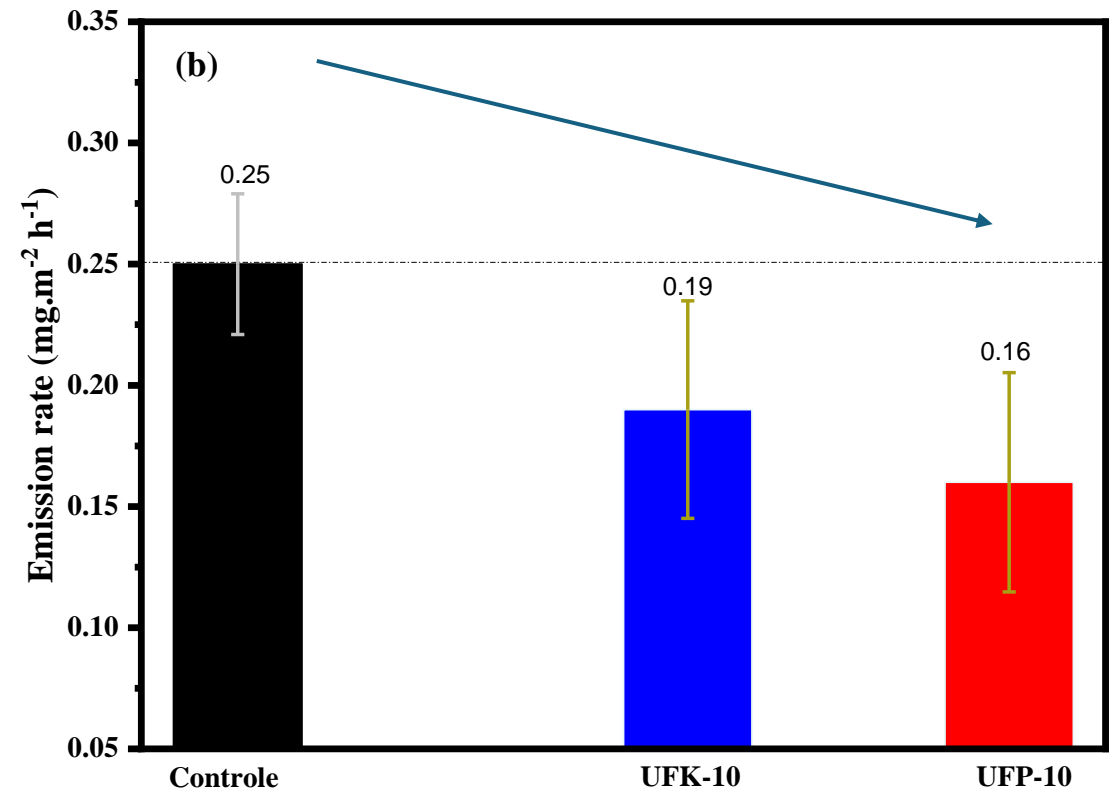
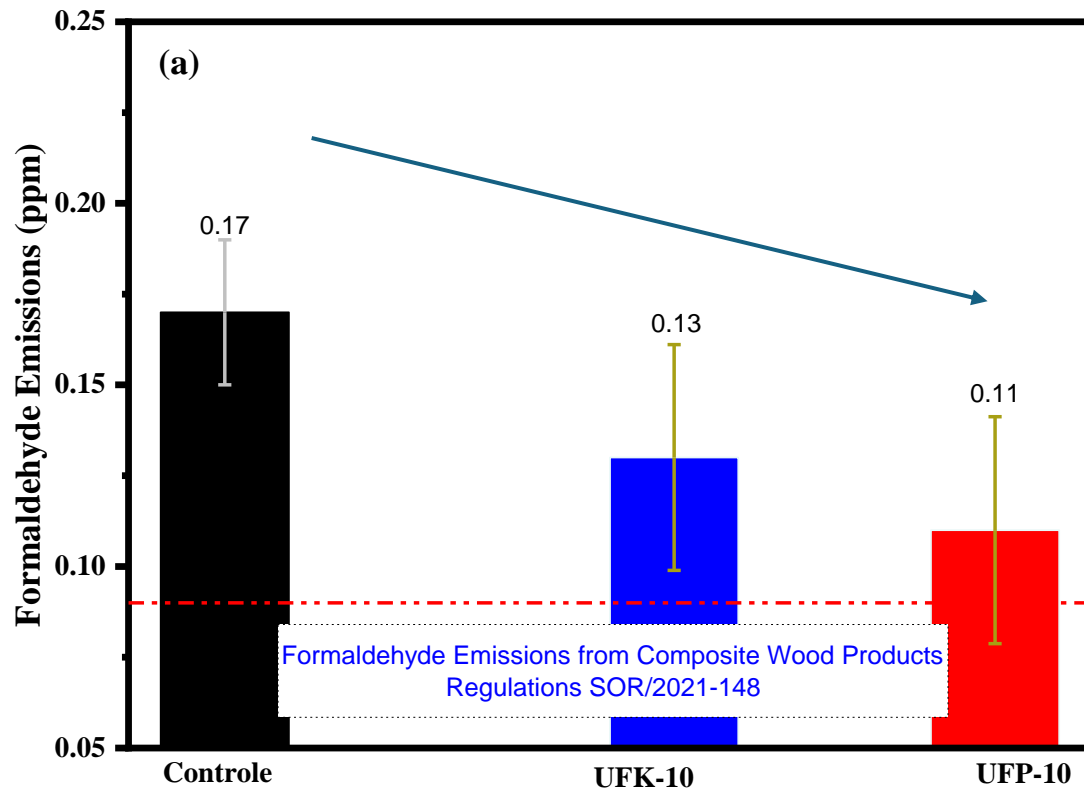


# Formaldehyde Emissions

According to the ASTM D6007 standard for small chambers



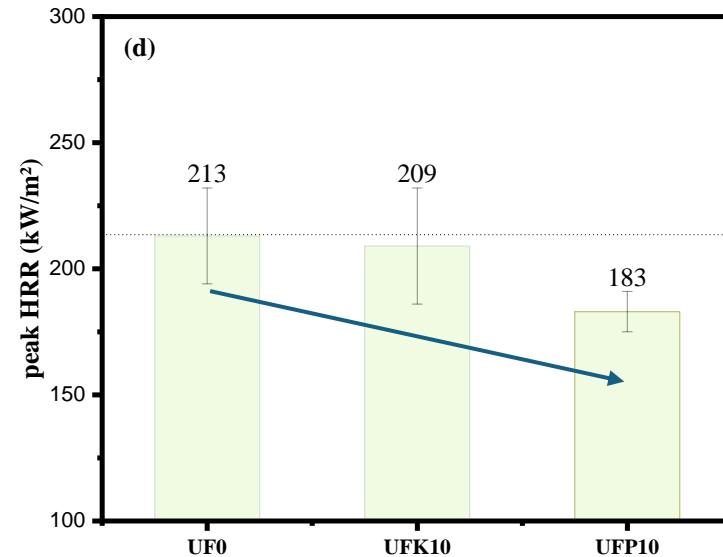
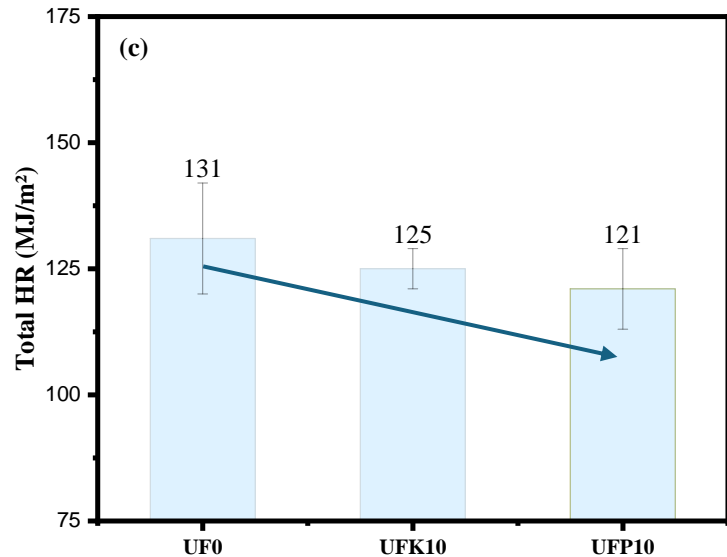
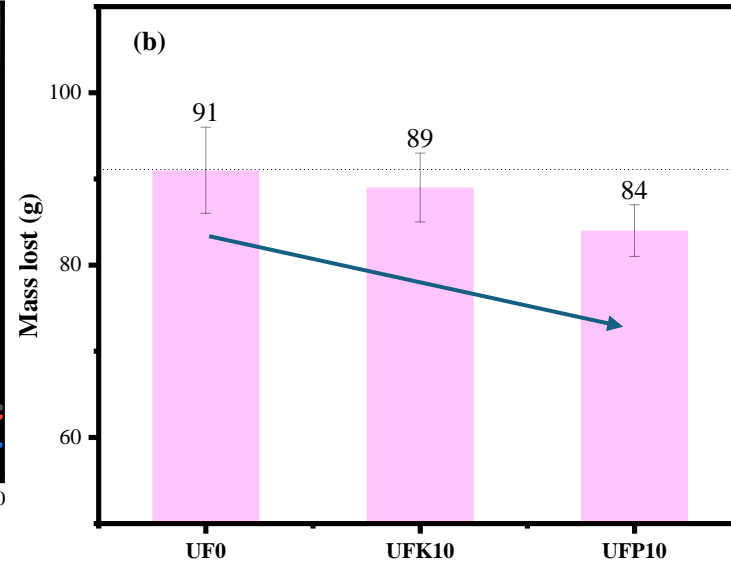
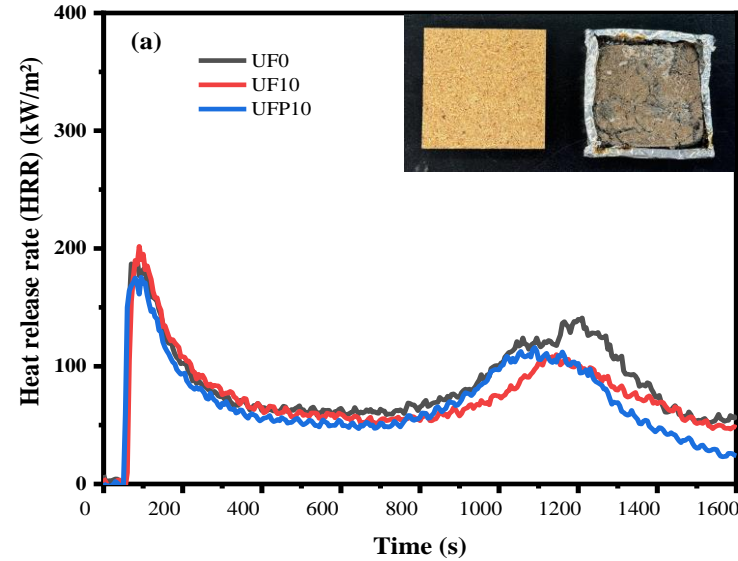
- HCHO ppm tells you how much formaldehyde is in the air of the chamber.
- ER  $\text{mg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{h})$  tells you how fast the formaldehyde is being emitted from the material's surface into the air.





# Fire retardant properties

according to ASTM E1354



- **PhRR** indicates the **maximum rate** at which a material releases heat during combustion
- **THR** It represents the **total amount of energy** released over the entire burning period

# Conclusions

# Wood-Based Composite Panel Research Consortium (COREPAN-Bois),

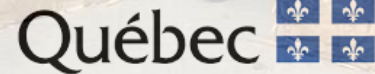
## Project Partners:

Industrials (4)



Research Council of Canada (2)

Ressources naturelles  
et Forêts



University (2)



# Acknowledgement



Federal Laboratory (2)



# Acknowledgement





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