Handling & Storage

Storage

ASTARIGLAS® sheet should be stored in a cool dry conditions, either horizontally on pallets or vertically in fully supporting racks. Avoid storage in high humidity conditions or in direct sunlight.

Exposure to Heat

ASTARIGLAS® sheet tends to deform when heated up to 100ºC. ASTARIGLAS® sheet should be stored in area whose ambient temperature does not exceed 80ºC.

Mechanical Damage

ASTARIGLAS® sheet has relatively high surface hardness, however care should be taken to avoid surface scratched during handling. Both surfaces of ASTARIGLAS® sheet are protected with masking film or paper. It is recommended not to remove the masking until it is necessary.

Cleaning

Wash ASTARIGLAS® sheet with a solution of mild soap or detergent with lukewarm water. Use a clean soft cloth, applying only light pressure. Rinse with clean water and dry by blotting with a damp cloth or chamois. Grease, oil or tar may be removed with a good grade of hexane, aliphatic naphtha, or kerosene. These solvents may be obtained at a paint or hardware store and should be used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

DO NOT USE: window cleaning sprays, kitchen scouring compounds or solvents such as acetone, gasoline, benzene, alcohol, carbon tetrachloride, or lacquer thinner. These can scratch the sheet's surface and/or weaken the sheet causing small surface cracks called "crazing."

It is not recommended to use abrasive cleaners on the sheet surface.

Dusting

Dust with a soft, damp cloth or chamois. Dry or gritty cloths may cause surface scratches and create a static electric charge on the surface (see the section on neutralizing static electricity).

Polishing

Protect ASTARIGLAS® sheet and maintain its surface gloss by occasional polishing with a good plastic cleaner and polish. Apply a thin, even coat with a soft clean cloth and polish lightly with cotton flannel. Then wipe with a damp cloth to help eliminate electrostatic charges that can attract dust particles.

Removing Scratches

Fine scratches can be removed by hand polishing. Apply a plastic scratch remover to a soft flannel pad and rub. When the scratches have disappeared, remove all residue and polish. For deeper scratches, first sand lightly with a 400-grit "wet or dry" sandpaper, using plenty of water and rinsing the sandpaper frequently. Follow by buffing with a clean muslin wheel and a good polishing compound. For the highest gloss, use a clean-up wheel made of soft cotton or flannel sections and on which no compound is used.

Solvent Attack

ASTARIGLAS® sheet can be attacked by organic solvents resulting micro cracks / crazing formed in the sheet surface. It should be avoided to store ASTARIGLAS® sheet in such area which may be exposed to solvent vapors.

Thermal Expansion

ASTARIGLAS® sheet has a fairly large coefficient of thermal expansion. Thermal dimensional changes should be taken into account in processing and storing it. For example, an increase or decrease by 10ºC in the sheet temperature may causes 0.7 mm of linear expansion or shrinkage per 1.000 mm in length of the sheet.

Water Absorption

Humidity also causes dimensional changes of ASTARIGLAS® sheet. Though such changes by humidity are not as much as Thermal Expansion, humidity condition should be carefully watched. Water absorption, if excessive,

may lead to bubbling during thermoforming or crazing after printing or painting. It is therefore recommended that storage and working areas should be air-conditioned.

Fire Combustion

ASTARIGLAS® sheet with ignition temperature of 400ºC is not highly flammable, but the sheet will be burned when exposed to naked fire.

Storage Positioning

ASTARIGLAS® sheet can be stored either horizontally or vertically. The sheet can warp depending on the way it is stored. Either of the following is recommended.

Standing:

Stand ASTARIGLAS® sheet on the rack with bottom inclined at 10-degree angle. (See Figure A.) Place the sheets tight to each other. It is recommended to keep the total thickness of a cluster of sheets within 30 cm.

Stacking:

Stack the sheets flat. In case sheets of different sizes are stacked, avoid an overhang with the smaller size sheet always placed on top of the larger ones. (See Figure B.) Also the total height of a stack should not exceed 50 cm. A stack consisting of the same size of sheets is much preferred.

Figure A

Good

No Good

Figure A

Good

No Good