

PAMPHLET
02

TERMINOLOGY APPLIED TO WOOD AND WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS

également
disponible
en Français

This technical pamphlet contains definitions of the main products produced by wood processing and the associated vocabulary. The list of products and terms defined in this pamphlet is not exhaustive; it may be added to as and when required.

Definitions of terms used specifically in commercial operations involving tropical timber are given in the corresponding sections (8. Containerisation, container characteristics and the SOLAS convention, 9. 2020 Incoterms®, 10. Marine insurance, 11. Document bundle, 12. General recommendations on the terms of contract).

Back of better face	The face considered worse according to specific grading rules.
Bast	Inner layer of bark which, in a standing tree, contains living cells and conducts elaborated sap downwards from the crown.
Batten	Square-edged timber with a side ratio equal to or greater than 4 and less than 22 mm thick.
Baulk	A large piece of squared timber with a square or roughly square cross-section with sides greater than 120 mm.
Better face	The face considered better according to specific grading rules.
Black spot or black pinhole	Worm hole in a round log which can affect the heartwood and in which the gallery wall is black in colour.
Board	Square-edged timber with a side ratio equal to or greater than 4 and between 22 mm and 55 mm thick.
Boule	A series of thick planks obtained by sawing a log longitudinally in successive parallel strokes, and placed one on top of the other after sawing, so as to reconstitute the log without the slabs.
Bow	Deformation of the piece of wood lengthwise, in a plane perpendicular to the face.
Brown streak	Discoloration appearing on the cross-section of round logs and in the form of brown stains on sawn timber; this defect only appears after felling and is limited to oaks and some tropical species.
Calibrated wood	Sawn timber which, at the end-use moisture content, has undergone additional machining in thickness and/or width to comply with agreed tolerances.
Cambium	Layer of actively dividing cells which, in a living tree, forms the bast towards the outside and the sapwood towards the inside.

Collapse	Buckling or deformation of the cells during drying before the fibre saturation point; signs of collapse are undulation of the sawing faces and open internal cracks.
Cup	Curvature of the cross-section of a piece of wood.
Discolouration	A change in the natural colour of wood that is not associated with a loss of strength. It can be caused by a fungus, atmospheric conditions, contact with metals, etc.
Dote	First stage of fungus attack, characterised by localised or non-localised discoloration in the wood, whose general texture and mechanical properties begin to be affected; dote most often occurs during storage of round logs.
Edged sawn timber	Sawn timber with a rectangular cross-section that may include wane within the tolerance limit.
Exposed face	The width of a thick plank measured at the narrowest point on the narrowest side.
Interlocked grain	Grain characterised by fibres from successive growth periods which incline alternately in opposite directions in relation to the axis of the trunk.
Internal tunnel (sometimes called "field-mouse holes")	Holes in the wood corresponding to the galleries formed by the <i>Cerambycidae</i> or <i>Bostrychidae</i> family of wood-eating beetles that attack standing or freshly felled trees, as long as the moisture content of the wood is high. The holes in the wood correspond to the cross-section (circular holes) or longitudinal section (elongated ellipsoidal holes) of the galleries.
Joist	Square-edged timber with a rectangular cross-section, between 18 mm and 35 mm thick and between 40 mm and 120 mm wide.
Lath	Square-edged timber that is both narrow (26 mm to 55 mm wide) and thin (5 mm to 12 mm thick).
Mineral stains	Inclusion of mineral substances in the wood associated with dark discoloration in the form of streaks or veining (typical feature in Ayous), to be distinguished from blue stain.
Narrow	Square-edged timber less than 15 cm wide.
Rafter	Square-edged timber of equal or approximately equal cross dimensions, with side measurements between 40 and 120 mm.
Railing	Square-edged timber with a side ratio between 2 and 3, and a size range between 55 mm x 155 mm and 65 mm x 185 mm.
Sapwood	The outer zone of the wood which, in a standing tree, contains living cells and conducts the raw sap upwards.
Short	Square-edged timber less than 1.80 m long
Slab	Portion of a log removed by sawing with one flat surface, and the other being the outer part of the log.
Small squares or blocks	Square-edged timber of equal or approximately equal cross dimensions, with side measurements between 15 and 50 mm.
Spring	Deformation of the piece of wood lengthwise, in a plane perpendicular to the edge.
Squared timber	Sawn timber with a square or rectangular cross-section, the sum of the thickness and width of which is ≥ 200 mm and the thickness of which is ≥ 80 mm.
Square-edged timber, all widths	Batch of square-edged sawn timber without fixed widths.

Stop	Square-edged timber with a cross-section between 18 x 35 mm and 30 x 40 mm.
Strip	Square-edged timber between 18 mm and 35 mm thick and between 40 mm and 120 mm wide.
Thick board (or plank)	Square-edged timber with a side ratio between 2 and 3 and a cross-section between 75 x 205 mm and 105 x 225 mm.
Thick plank	Sawn timber with two parallel faces linked by two waness or by one wane and one edge.
Twist	Helical deformation of a piece of wood lengthwise.
Wane	Portion of the rounded surface of the log remaining visible on sawn timber, with or without bark.
Woolly grain	Wood with partially separated or raised fibres on the sawn surface.

TERMS SPECIFIC TO LAMINATED SCANTLING

DDD: laminated scantling with no finger-jointed ply

KKK: laminated scantling with all plies (inside and outside) in finger-jointed wood

DKK: laminated scantling with two finger-jointed ply and one solid face ply

DKD or DKKD: laminated scantling whose outer plies are made of solid wood in a single piece; only the middle ply or plies may be finger-jointed.

Meaning of abbreviations (terms of German origin):

K = *Keilgezinkte Lamelle* / Finger-jointed ply

D = *Durchgehende Lamelle* / Whole ply (not finger-jointed)

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