

Specification for

Wood blocks for floors

Co-operating organizations

The Timber Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

- British Door Association
- British Furniture Trade Confederation
- British Railways, the British Transport Commission
- British Wood Chipboard Manufacturers' Association
- D.S.I.R. — Forest Products Research Laboratory*
- English Joinery Manufacturers' Association (Incorporated)
- Fibre Building Board Development Organization Ltd.
- Flush Door Manufacturers' Association
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Municipal Engineers
- Institution of Structural Engineers
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government
- Ministry of Works
- National Federation of Building Trades Employers
- National Sawmilling Association
- Royal Institute of British Architects*
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- Timber Development Association*
- Timber Trade Federation of the United Kingdom*

The Government department and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the Committee entrusted with the preparation of the standard.

- Association of Flooring Contractors
- Hardwood Flooring Manufacturers' Association
- Incorporated Association of Architects & Surveyors

This British Standard, having been approved by the Timber Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Building Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 29 September 1959

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Foreword

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards and Code of Practice:

BS 350, *Conversion factors and tables*.

BS 565, *Glossary of terms applicable to timber, plywood and joinery*.

BS 881 & BS 589, *Nomenclature of commercial timbers including sources of supply*.

CP 201, *Flooring of wood and wood products — Part 1: Wood flooring (board, strip, block and mosaic)*.

This standard makes available for architects and surveyors, builders and flooring contractors, information regarding minimum requirements for wood blocks for floors.

The choice of a species for wood blocks is influenced by consideration of cost, decorative properties, the nature of the wearing surface and its ability to stand up to the expected traffic conditions, and the stability of the timber.

Species of timber are available to meet the requirements of every type of traffic condition. Many hardwoods will withstand the heavy duty of industrial floors and where conditions are less exacting a wide range of woods will give excellent service. A large number of timbers is also available for the special floors in buildings where particular qualities in the species are required.

Problems concerning the suitability of various timbers to withstand different types and intensities of traffic are dealt with in detail in Forest Products Research Bulletin No. 40, "*Timbers for flooring*".¹⁾ This Bulletin includes an Appendix, reproduced at the end of the standard, which classifies hardwoods and softwoods in various groups according to the conditions of service or application as a floor. This classification of timbers does not mean that they are necessarily available commercially or that other timbers not specifically mentioned are unsuitable. There are many hundreds of different species of timber many of which are very suitable for flooring and it would be impractical to list them all.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that no wood flooring block will give satisfactory service unless it is laid in accordance with good practice. A Code of Practice, CP 201, "*Flooring of wood and wood products*", Part 1, "*Wood flooring (board, strip, block and mosaic)*", makes recommendations on methods of laying.

Several novel types of wood flooring are available, some as thin as $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (10 mm), but complete standardization of these blocks is impracticable because of the varying techniques of manufacture, some of which are the subject of British patents. It is considered desirable, however, that these types of flooring should conform to this British Standard insofar as it can be applicable to them.

NOTE Where metric equivalents have been given the figures in British units are to be regarded as the standard. The metric conversions are approximate. More accurate conversions should be based on the Tables in BS 350.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 7 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

¹⁾ Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.