

Sawn timber — Appearance grading of hardwoods —

Part 1: Oak and beech

The European Standard EN 975-1:1995 with the incorporation of amendment A1:2000, has the status of a British Standard

ICS 79.040

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee B/543, Round and sawn timber, to Subcommittee B/543/2, Sawn timber, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Timber Merchants' Association
- British Woodworking Federation
- Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment)
- Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation
- Timber Research and Development Association
- Timber Trade Federation
- United Kingdom Softwood Sawmillers' Association

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Sector Board for Building and Civil Engineering, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 August 1996

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference B/543/2
Draft for comment 92/07542 DC

ISBN 0 580 25380 5

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments
10982	November 2000	Indicated by a sideline

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National foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of Subcommittee B/543/2 and is the English language version of EN 975-1:1995 *Sawn timber — Appearance grading of hardwoods — Part 1: Oak and beech*, including amendment A1:2000, published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

No existing British Standard is superseded.

Cross-reference

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, the EN title page, pages 2 to 22, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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ICS 79.040

Descriptors: wood, sawn timber, hardwood, oak, beech, quality, appearance, visual examination, gradings, grade, acceptance.

English version

Sawn timber — Appearance grading of hardwoods — Part 1: Oak and beech

(includes amendment A1:1999)

Bois sciés — Classement d'aspect des bois
feuillus —

Partie 1: Chêne et hêtre

(inclut l'amendement A1:1999)

Schnittholz — Sortierung nach dem Aussehen
für Laubholz —

Teil 1: Eiche und Buche

(enthält Änderung A1:1999)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 1995-09-02. Amendment A1 was approved by CEN on 1999-07-07. CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CEN member.

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CEN

European Committee for Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 36, B-1050 Brussels

Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 175, Round and sawn timber, the Secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 1996, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 1996.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Foreword to amendment A1

This amendment EN 975-1:1995/A1:1999 to EN 975-1:1995 has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 175, Round and sawn timber, the Secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This amendment to the European Standard EN 975-1:1995 shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2000.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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1 Scope

This standard specifies the rules determining the quality of appearance graded sawn timber. It describes various classes of temperate hardwood rough sawn and regularized timber for which it lays down denominations and definitions. It also gives rules for composition and acceptance of batches.

This standard applies to green and dried timber.

This standard is applicable to the following products.

Oak sawn timber, in the following categories:

- boules and loose unedged timber;
- square edged timber and strips (not exceeding 27 mm thickness);
- baulks (cross section from 100 mm × 100 mm to 250 mm × 250 mm).

Sawn timber not included within these limits may be defined, if necessary, by contract specifications established on the basis of this standard.

Beech sawn timber, in the following categories:

- boules and loose unedged timber;
- square edged timber and strips;
- prepared timber.

This standard does not apply to the strength grading of structural timber or to timber for pallets

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

EN 844-1, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 1: General terms common to round timber and sawn timber*.

EN 844-3, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 3: General terms relating to sawn timber*.

EN 844-4, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 4: Terms relating to moisture content*.

EN 844-6, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 6: Terms relating to dimensions of sawn timber*.

EN 844-7, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 7: Terms relating to anatomical structure of timber*.

EN 844-9, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 9: Terms relating to features of sawn timber*.

EN 844-10, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 10: Terms relating to stain and fungal attack*.

EN 844-11, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 11: Terms relating to degrade by insects*.

prEN 844-12, *Round and sawn timber — Terminology — Part 12: Additional terms and general index*.

EN 1310, *Round and sawn timber — Method of measurement of features*.

EN 1311, *Round and sawn timber — Method of measurement of biological degrade*.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the definitions in EN 844-1, EN 844-3, EN 844-4, EN 844-6, EN 844-7, EN 844-9, EN 844-10, EN 844-11, prEN 844-12 shall apply.

4 Method of determination of sawn timber quality

4.1 Rules for grading

Hardwood sawn timber (oak and beech) can be put into grades using the principles laid down in 4.2, the criteria defined in 4.3, and the following tables:

- Table 1 gives rules for grading oak boules and loose unedged timber;
- Table 2 gives rules for grading oak strips and square edged timber;
- Table 3 gives rules for grading oak baulks;
- Table 4 gives rules for grading beech boules and loose unedged timber;
- Table 5 gives rules for grading beech strips and square edged timber;
- Table 6 gives rules for grading beech prepared timber.

4.2 Grading principles

4.2.1 Assessment of the quality of a piece (square edged sawn timber)

Each piece of sawn timber is graded according to the appearance of its faces, and edges, taking into account the presence, the size, the position and the distribution of any structural features, any sawing defects, and any other deterioration it may have suffered. Non conformity with the conditions applicable to any one of these elements is sufficient to downgrade the piece.

Dimensional inaccuracy (irregular thickness and/or width), is not taken into account for quality grading of the pieces. It is already covered by standards relating to the dimensions of sawn hardwoods, or by any specific requirements defined contractually.

4.2.2 *Assessment of the quality of boules or loose unedged timber*

4.2.2.1 *Boules*

The boule is graded as a whole in terms of quality.

NOTE For example, a board free of features and showing no deterioration, contained within a boule of lower grade, is not sufficient reason to upgrade the entire boule. In the same way, if a heart board contains more features than allowed by the grade to which the rest of the boule belongs, this is not sufficient reason to downgrade the boule.

4.2.2.2 *Loose unedged timber*

Each loose unedged timber is assessed individually.

4.2.2.3 *Special provision for boules and loose unedged timber*

The presence of features not acceptable in the grading tables of this European Standard causes volume reductions as indicated in grading Table 1 and Table 4.

4.2.3 *Assessment of the quality of a batch of square edged timber*

The pieces shall conform to the grading rules of the grade in which they have been placed. Volume reduction is not applicable to these products.

4.3 *Criteria to be taken into account*

Quality is determined on the basis of the rules given in the tables and according to EN 1310 and EN 1311.

The moisture content of the timber at the time of grading shall be stated.

The following criteria are sufficient for the appearance grading of sawn oak and beech.

4.3.1 *Criteria linked to the structure of the timber*

- Knots (size, shape, condition, degree of intergrowth, distribution);
- shakes and checks;
- texture (for oak);
- grain;
- bark pocket;
- sapwood (in oak);
- included sapwood (in oak);

4.3.2 *Sawing characteristics*

- Quarter sawn timber;
- plain sawn timber;
- boxed heart;
- exposed heart

- wane.

4.3.3 *Warp*

- Bow;
- spring;
- cup;
- twist.

4.3.4 *Insect attack*

4.3.5 *Stains*

- Red heart (in beech);
- brown oak;
- black streaks
- other discolourations.

4.3.6 *Fungal attack*

- Dote;
- rot.

5 Denomination of grades

5.1 General

The denomination includes from three to six characters.

5.1.1 The first character is the species' initial in Latin: Q for oak and F for beech.

5.1.2 The next character indicates the type of product:

- B for boules;
- F for strips and square edged timber;
- P for baulks;
- D for prepared timber.

5.1.3 The next character indicates the quality grade:

- A indicates exceptional quality;
- 1, 2,... represent the other grades.

In some cases, these are subdivided, denoted by the addition of lower case letters and suffixes (see below). The grades for oak and beech are specified in 5.2 and 5.3.

5.2 Oak (Q)

Boules: Q-B A, Q-B 1, Q-B 2, Q-B 3.

Strips and square edged timber: Q-F A, Q-F 1a, Q-F 1b, Q-F 2, Q-F 3.

The addition, at the end of class denomination: of the letter X, indicates the presence of sapwood on one face of strips or square edged pieces; of letters XX, indicates the presence of sapwood on one or two faces and one or two edges of strips or square edged pieces.

Baulks: Q-P A, Q-P 1, Q-P 2.

5.3 Beech (F)

Boules: F-B A, F-B 1, F-B 2, F-B 3.

Strips and square edged timber: F-F A, F-F 1, F-F 2.

Prepared timber: F-D A, F-D 1, F-D 2.

The addition of the letter R at the end indicates the presence of red heart.

6 Composition of batches

The grading tables indicate maximum tolerances, and batches sold shall show normal distribution of quality, between the limits of the grade immediately above, and those of the grade in question. This distribution is the one which will be applied in any dispute, unless there is precise commercial documentary indication that it should not be applied. 10 % of pieces belonging to the next lower grade are permitted, to take into account grading misjudgment.

7 Acceptance of batches

7.1 Boules and loose unedged timber

Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, reception with quality acceptance of boules and loose unedged timber shall take place on the seller's premises to allow volume reduction to be carried out if necessary (see 4.2.2.3).

7.2 Square edged timber

Reception can be carried out either on the seller's or the buyer's premises, as mutually agreed, using random sampling methods.¹⁾

¹⁾ A standard relating to this subject is currently being drafted in CEN.