



## NWFAA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

### **TECHNICAL REPORT #015/07**

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## **RECYCLED TIMBER – “WARNING” !**

The NWFAA Technical Committee registers a clear “WARNING” as to the “dangers that must be recognised as inherent in the installation of any Wood Floor System that uses “RECYCLED” timber.

Due to its very nature “recycled” timber has previously been used for purposes other than that for which it is now intended to be used.

Many cases have been documented of very unusual results occurring due to the use of “recycled” timber which has been “contaminated” by former usage in a way that proves detrimental to achieving “quality” results when used as a flooring timber.

A great many of these disputes have involved “discolouration” of woodwork, “rejection” of decorative coatings and/or applied finishes and in many cases, the cause of the “defect” has been impossible to detect or identify in the normal milling and installation process, and only NATA Certified Testing of materials actually removed from the floor has eventually demonstrated the technical reasons for failure.

All specifiers of “recycled” timber which are designed to be used as Wood Floors should be clearly aware of the potential dangers of such incidents and be aware that these are factors outside of the ability of any flooring contractor to control.

Therefore, specifiers of “recycled” timber need to expect that they may need to “live with” less than “professional” results in surface coatings and or decorative finishes when using recycled timbers.

NATIONAL WOOD FLOORING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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