



TECHNICAL BULLETIN #1

WARNING TO CONSUMERS

SUBSTITUTION OF TIMBER SPECIES

Consumers and Contractors should be aware that timber grown in both South / East Asia and Africa with seeds sown from Australian Native HARDWOODS, intended for use as pulp wood for paper production, is currently being **passed-off** as if it was a **NATIVE AUSTRALIAN HARDWOOD Specie**.

People should be aware that the soils and conditions under which timber grows can significantly impact the characteristics and performance of that timber, especially when harvested from young immature trees, instead of large, old and mature lumber, drawn from well managed forests.

Timber grown for **pulp wood** comes from forests that are not managed by way of “**thinning**” to remove the branches etc., and subsequently, when attempts are made to convert such timber into sawn timber, there is a significant presence of **knots** and **sapwood**, as generally speaking, these trees are being harvested at comparatively, a **very young age**.

Species which appear to be dominating this “**substitution**” include **SPOTTED GUM, EAST COAST BLACKBUTT, JARRAH** and **SYDNEY BLUE GUM**.

More honourable people operating within the trade, have generally adopted the prefix of “**PACIFIC**” ahead of the name that they claim, i.e.,

PACIFIC SPOTTED GUM
PACIFIC BLACKBUTT
PACIFIC JARRAH

Parties who purchase materials identified as being “**PACIFIC**” species should be aware that they are purchasing an **imported** specie of timber and **not timber from an Australian Native Forest**, rather than timber whose origins will be “**unknown**” and whose forest practices can be totally unregulated.

ALSO, timber attributes of such species, such as of **HARDNESS** and other **performance attributes** cannot be relied upon when compared to similar timber grown and harvested from Australian Native Forests.

LYCTUS SUSEPTIBLE SPECIES

Consumers and contractors should be aware that certain of these species contain “**Lyctus Susceptible Sapwood**” which is required to be specifically “**treated**” against Lyctus borer attack before being imported into Australia

Wisdom suggests that if you are the contractor, who installs imported materials, which are **not** treated, this could prove to be a very costly error of judgement for you.

Consumers and specifiers who expect to be buying **Australian Native timbers** and supporting the Australian economy are encouraged to ensure that all contract documents clearly specify “genuine” **Australian Native Hardwood Specie**.

Sincerely yours

National Wood Flooring Association of Australia

Gerry Swindale

President

Chairman – Technical Committee