



Building Newsflash

IMPORTED STRUCTURAL PLYWOOD PRODUCTS

Purpose

To provide details of advice received by the Department concerning issues associated with some imported plywood products.

Background

Advice has been received from the Commonwealth Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources (copy attached) concerning the quality of some structural plywood products entering the Australian market from overseas. It appears that some of these products may not comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and relevant Australian standards.

The Department has been advised that some imported structural plywood products including bracing plywood, formwork and generic square edged structural plywood are delaminating, which suggests that they have not achieved the bond quality requirements of AS/NZS 2269 -2004 Plywood – Structural.

The products concerned were generally not branded. They were also not certified and did not contain any independent certification marks.

Legislation

Buildings and structures must comply with the performance requirements of the BCA. The performance requirements of Volume 2 of the BCA that address structural stability and resistance to actions are contained in P2.1.

Structural plywood that complies with AS/NZS 2269:2004 Plywood – Structural satisfies P2.1. AS/NZS 2269:2004 specifies requirements for the manufacture, grading, finishing and branding of structural plywood as well as the bonding (refer to clause 3.3) between plies.

Clause 1.11 of the standard requires each sheet of structural grade plywood to be branded. The following is an extract of the branding requirements from the standard:

1.11 BRANDING

Each sheet of structural grade plywood shall have the following information legibly affixed thereon by the manufacturer at the point of manufacture at least once:

- (a) The manufacturer's name or registered mark.
- (b) The word 'STRUCTURAL' or product description.
- (c) Reference to this standard, i.e., AS/NZS 2269.

- (d) The grade of the outer plies (face first, back last), e.g., CC, CD or DD. Where non-standard veneer grades are used, as permitted in Clause 3.4.1(c), branding shall include a descriptor that non-standard veneer quality has been used
- (e) in the plywood assembly. This requirement may be met by reference to a product name or descriptor that references the non-standard veneer quality in that product's specific manufacturing specification.
- (f) The bond type of the glue-line, i.e., A BOND.
- (g) An indication of the stress grade of the sheet, e.g., F7.
- (h) The panel construction code, e.g., 17-24-7.
- (i) If immunized or preservative-treated, branding in accordance with AS/NZS 1604.3.

NOTES:

The requirements of Items (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) should be set out as follows:

STRUCTURAL - AS/NZS 2269

CD - A BOND

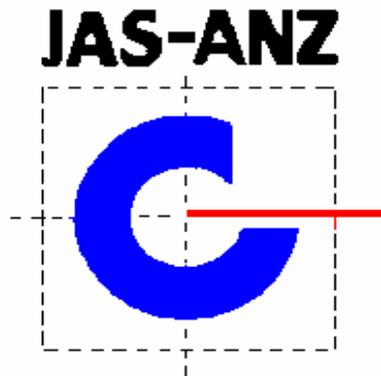
F7 - 17-24-7

The above example indicates structural plywood with a C quality face, a D quality back, a Type A bond and a stress grade of F7 with a construction detailed for 17-24-7.

Recommendation

It is recommended that building certifiers carrying out frame inspections ensure that any structural plywood is appropriately branded in accordance with the standard.

Compliance with product standards can be guaranteed through the use of products manufactured under a JAS-ANZ accredited product certification scheme. Product manufactured under such schemes will be labelled with the following accreditation mark. Listings of accredited organizations and manufacturer's products certified to AS/NZS 2269: 2004 can be found on the JAS-ANZ web site www.jas-anz.com.au.



Enquiries

For further information, please phone 323 70368.

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