



OKOUMÉ

Source

FSC Okoumé is available in the forests of Precious Woods in Gabon. The large thick trees attain diameters till approximately 200 cm. The log quality in Gabon is very high. The first grade is normally used for veneer and the second grade for sawn wood, which still is an excellent quality for the production of sawn timber.

Appearance

The heartwood has a light grey pink color, often with a reddish shade. The sapwood is whitish grey and normally easy to distinguish. The wood has no specific smell or taste and the lustre is low. Okoumé originating from the Precious Woods Gabon forest has a quite regular grain and limited interlocked grain. The texture is medium coarse.

Processing properties

Machining of Okoumé can be done easily. The timber does not tend to split and has a good stability. Even interlocked grain can be planed smoothly with aid of sharp tools. The Silica content in the wood can cause a blunting effect on the tools. Pre-drilling is recommended. Positive experience is available regarding the finishing and gluing. Drying of Okoumé is rather easy, with hardly any defects.

Application

Okoumé is used for interior applications, like window and door frames, doors and cladding. Furthermore, it could be used for fully protected exterior constructions (e.g. protected window frames and cladding). Well-known is the use of Okoumé veneer for plywood, with a good durability for outside use. In Southern Europe sawn timber is used for outside applications like windows and door frames and cladding.

Technical properties

Green density	550-650 kg/m ³
Density (at 12%)	430-450 kg/m ³
Shrinkage green – oven dry	3,8% radial; 5,6% tangential
Shrinkage green – 65% RH (abt. 12% EMC)	1,8% radial; 3,2% tangential
Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC)	13,0% (at 60% RH) 18,5% (at 90% RH)
Fibre Saturation Point (FSP)	40%
Durability according to EN 350:2016	Heartwood class 4 (in-ground tested) Heartwood class 4-5 (without ground tested)
Bending strength, MOR (defect free samples)	66 N/mm ²
Modulus of elasticity, MOE (defect free samples)	8.300 N/mm ²
Shear strength (defect free samples)	5,1 N/mm ²
Janka hardness	2.500 N (parallel)

The figures in this table are mainly indicative, unless a specific standard is mentioned, which provides exact figures.

References

This information is based on research (mainly independent) and experience of Precious Woods, (semi-) scientific literature and the (Dutch) Houtvademecum (10th edition 2010).