

Fact Sheet No. I.2



plywood.

A versatile material suitable for a wide range of applications from wall and floor sheathing to designer interiors and glider fuselages! There are many other types of plywood available, including specialist tropical veneers such as marine plywood, which, while having good weather resistance and strength, comply with specific standards such as BS I088, rather than the structural standard code.

## main types

### Birch:

- Strong, with high impact resistance
- Attractive decorative appearance
- Can be pre-finished
- Suitable for wall and floor structures, furniture, formwork etc.

### Spruce:

- Less dense than birch
- Lightweight and easy to nail
- Good strength and stiffness properties
- Suitable for walls and roof construction, floors, vehicle construction, packing etc.

## CE Marking: structural plywood

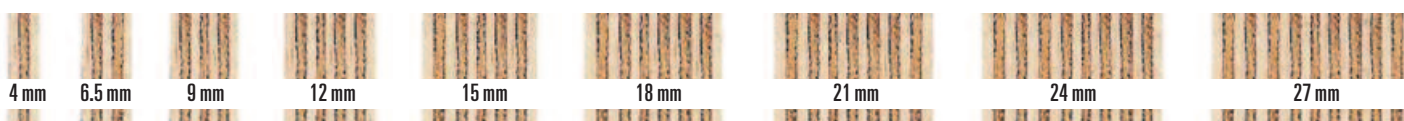
Any plywood being sold and used in the UK for structural applications should be marked to show that it complies to EN636 and EN13986 - the standards for plywood - and should have structural credentials to Eurocode 5 or BS 5268-2:2002.

Much of the plywood sold in the UK for structural use is also often marked with a CE mark to show that it complies to these standards. Although the mark itself is not a legal requirement in the UK, the easiest way for a manufacturer to demonstrate compliance with the CPD is to apply the CE mark to their panels.

CE marked plywood is extra proof that the product is suitable. Specifiers and users are strongly advised to obtain evidence from their supplier that the plywood can be used in structural applications. A concise description of the CE marking process can be found in the TRADA document: 'CE Marking: Implications for timber products.'

## thickness

Some standard panel sizes: 1220mm x 2440mm • 1220mm x 3050mm • 1220mm x 3660mm



## grades

### Spruce:

**Grade II/III** faces have large knots, and various allowable repairs. Suitable for wall and roof sheathing where visual appearance is not so important.

**Grade III/III** both sides as the grade III side, suitable for floors, sheathing and general building work.

### Birch:

**Grade B** clean face, few blemishes, suitable for clear finishing where visual appearance is important.

**Grade S** similar to B but has more small knots and darker streaks.

**Grade BB** standard commercial grade; sound but face can contain plugs and patches. For general construction.

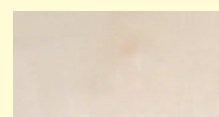
**Grade WG** good board but more face defects. For carcassing and packing cases where strength, rather than appearance, is needed.



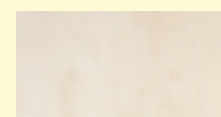
Grade II



Grade III



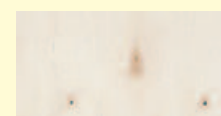
Grade B



Grade S



Grade BB



Grade WG



## use sustainable wood

To ensure you are using wood from sustainably managed forests look for PEFC, FSC, SFI or CSA certified timber products. Timber from these schemes is both legal and sustainable and eligible for all contracts under the UK Public Timber Procurement Policy.

## plywood for concreting

- Spruce ply is ideal because of its strength and rigidity
- Available with a phenolic film surface, allowing repeated use for shuttering and formwork
- Thicknesses from 6.5mm - 27mm
- Widths from 1200mm - 3050mm
- Lengths from 2400mm - 3600mm



## speciality plywoods

Craft plywoods: a variety of qualities; thicknesses 4mm - 12mm

**Quality 1:** thin veneers for aeroplanes etc.

**Quality 2:** thin birch for boats, musical instruments, models etc.

**Quality 3:** thin birch for surfaces that will be painted or lacquered; toys, models, shaped objects, sports gear, caravans.

## plywood for packaging

- Spruce plywood is most commonly used; it is light and helps reduce overall transport costs
- Can be made into durable crates and protective panels
- Safe and clean to use for the food industry
- Environmentally-friendly
- Can be specially coated for flight cases etc.
- Provides quality protection for products.



## for more information

Supplier • See [www.woodforgood.com/about/007.html](http://www.woodforgood.com/about/007.html) • [www.wisa.com](http://www.wisa.com) • [www.finnforest.com](http://www.finnforest.com) Pallets and packaging • [www.timcon.org](http://www.timcon.org) • [www.woodforgood.com](http://www.woodforgood.com)