Australian Hardwood Drying
Best Practice Manual

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Best Practice Manual

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Best Practice in Drying

Best Practice involves:
- establishing a set of operations to achieve high grade results in;
  - quality and customer service, flexibility, innovation, cost, and competitiveness;
  - especially from the cooperation of management and employees;
- in all key processes of the business.

Why best practice in drying

- Producers need to make a profit;
- Poor drying practice leads to a loss of grade, value, and recovery in the product;
- This reduces:
  - the amount of material available;
  - the average price received for the available material; and
  - profitability and flexibility.
Why best practice in drying

- Plantation material makes this more important;
- It may require more deliberate handling to dry adequately.

Does good practice make a difference?
Best Practice for Hardwoods

Major Considerations:

- Australian hardwood is a natural material with variable properties;
- it must be dried relatively slowly and with care; and
- if drying timber is subject to significant adverse conditions at any time, loss of value may result.

Manual Content & Approach

- The manual is designed to provide practical guidance;
  - on best practice of drying Australian hardwood from the log to the finished board;
  - In an easy-to-use form as;
    - industry’s workforce has varying levels of skills and knowledge.
Manual Approach

- Drying hardwood is a whole of process issue;
- Hardwood producers have varied capacity and experience; and
- They dry different species in a wide range of climates; but
- The basic production process is very similar between companies.

Manual structure

The manual is structured into modules:
- Explanatory Modules
- Production Stage Modules
- Systems Modules
Explanatory Modules

- 1.0. Drying Overview and Strategy; and
- 17.0. Glossary

Production Stage Modules

- 2.0. Coupe;
- 3.0. Log Yard;
- 4.0. Green Mill;
- 5.0. Green Pack;
- 6.0. Bioprotection;
- 7.0. Rack Timber;
- 8.0. Air drying;
- 9.0. Pre drying;
- 10.0. Reconditioning;
- 11.0. Controlled Final Drying;
- 12.0. Dry Milling; and
- 13.0. Storage.
Systems Modules

- 14.0. Information Assessment;
- 15.0. Drying Quality Assessment; and
- 16.0. Moisture Content Monitoring

Module Sections

- Objectives
- Management
- Operations
- Checklist
- Avoidable loss
- References
Management
Management

Operations.
Operations.

Checklists

- Many modules have simple checklists for major production aspects;
- These use a 1 to 5 rating scheme.
Checklists

3.4 Checklists
Use this checklist to monitor key aspects of your operation. Mark each item on the following scale:

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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very bad, never</td>
<td>Bed, rarely</td>
<td>Satisfactory, usually</td>
<td>Good, almost always</td>
<td>Very good, always</td>
<td></td>
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1. Accepting delivered logs
1a. Meeting log specifications

- Logs meet grade specification.
- Logs meet stated size.
- Logs meet delivery condition requirements.
- Non-conforming logs separated for other treatment.
- Documentation confirmed to be accurate.
- Logs are marked with required information.
- Tags and marks are visible 1 meter from end of log.

Avoidable Loss:
- If things need to be done the right way, the wrong way has consequences.
Presentation

The manual is presented in a:
- simple and highly graphic manner; with
- clearly ordered text, photographs and tables.
- It uses simple language and lots of images.

Available Formats

The completed manual is available as:
- a bound document; and
- a series of PDF documents on the Internet at: www.fwprdc.org.au
Potential Benefits

Best Practice may add cost but leads to:
- More product to sell;
- Higher average grade recovery;
- Less wastage; and
- Higher productivity.

Questions?