

Oregon
Alternate Material Ruling No. 93-92
MERANTI AS DECAY. RESISTANT WOOD AND DESIGN VALUES

Initiated By: TERRY GRIFFITH
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RE: Alternate Material Approval for Meranti as decay-resistant wood for decking

QUESTION

Shall Meranti be recognized as an approved wood of natural resistance to decay as determined in the Oregon Structural and One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Codes? Also, what are the design values for this material, what are its grading rules and how is it identified?

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

Section 2516(c) OSSC requires wood of natural resistance to decay, or pressure treated wood, be used when exposed to the weather when required by the building official. A similar requirement is provided in Section R-309.1 of the One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code.

BACKGROUND

Contact International has been importing and selling Meranti in the Northwest for several years. The acceptance of this material has been called into question under OSSC Section 2516(c) 11, Weather Exposure as an approved wood of natural resistance to decay. While this is under consideration, the importer wishes to also establish the acceptable design values for this wood.

FINDINGS

This alternate method ruling is authorized by ORS 455.060, Rulings on Acceptability of Materials, Designs or Methods of Construction.

RULING

Based on research by the U.S. Forest Service, Meranti is deemed to be an approved wood naturally resistant to decay (in the same category with Western Red Cedar and Redwood) for decking under Section 2516(c) 11 of the Structural Specialty Code and Section R - 309.1 of the One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code. Extreme fiber stress in bending (Fb), single member is 1,537 psi, for repetitive member (Fb) is 2,204 psi. The modulus of elasticity (E) is 1,724,511 and compression perpendicular to the Grain (FcJ,) is 453 psi. This material is graded under the grading rules of the Meranti published by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board. The material is protectively wrapped with labels and occurs in only one grade. This material shall be marked by species and grade, as required by existing code, as Standard Grade Meranti.

(signed January 26, 1994)

John Talbott, Chairman
Structural Codes Advisory Board

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed February 8, 1994)

Gary J. Wicks, Administrator
Building Codes Division