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LIONVEST TRADING
(UK) LTD

Worldwide Wood Flooring Importers, Distributors & Agents

THE ESSENTIAL BUYER'S GUIDE

PLYWOOD AND SHEET MATERIALS



INCLUDING

FG1™ Flooring Grade Plywood • Q-Mark Hardwood
Mixed Light Hardwood

A guide to British Standards
in relation to purchasing plywood



A FEW WORDS FROM THE M.D.

People often ask me about our plywood grades, suitability, if competitor products are comparable with our range, why use FG1, what are the differences, pitfalls, etc. The simple answer is consistency!

You get peace of mind when you continue to buy reliable quality plywood from the same factories that we've worked with for almost two decades. We have both the experience and knowledge to ensure that the products you buy are dependable.

My background has always been plywood, starting back in 1986 when I worked for my dad, who was a plywood agent trading products from Brazil and the Far East. I worked at plywood factories on an exchange programme when I was just 18 years old in Brazil and have utilised this knowledge to navigate the plywood world ever since.

Plywood grades and specs are quite simple, as plywood only has two components: wood veneers and glue. All our plywood grades are manufactured with hardwood veneers only, without exception.

They are also all subject to stringent quality checks prior to dispatch. If the veneers are not the right moisture, not flat, have any over-lapping, or use the incorrect glue, all things that could lead to failures, then they are not shipped.

In this handy booklet, we have outlined our three grades, namely FG1™, Q-Mark and MLH, (mixed light Hardwood).

In our experience, plywood doesn't fail if used, stored and fitted correctly! It is down to poor workmanship, a failure to follow instructions, not taking moisture readings or using the wrong classification of plywood can lead to problems.

The three grades we import, stock, and distribute with confidence across the UK, are all quantified and bought regularly!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A SUMMARY

There are, of course, cheaper alternatives, like timber merchant quality, where cost is key. However, the savings are only relevant if the plywood is fit-for-purpose. Cheap alternatives that fail, can, and will, run into the thousands to correct for the sake of saving a few quid! It might cost more now, but in the long run, it will save you.

So, if in doubt, always ask the experts!

Wayne Gumbrell, MD
Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd



ARE WOOD FLOORS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

In short, no. It's hard to believe the act of cutting down trees can have a positive effect, but in fact, just like other wood products, in the right circumstances, wood floors can be carbon negative.

A bold statement for sure, but let's start with some simple facts that we know to be true. Wood is the only flooring material made from an entirely sustainable resource; it can, and is, regrown.

We also know that all wood products have net zero CO₂ emissions after production. This is because manufacturing wood produces very little CO₂ in the first place, and there is almost no waste. Even the sawdust is collected and turned into wood pellets for burners. So, when a wood floor is laid, it already has a carbon footprint of net zero.

Now let's talk about how we get from zero to negative. Very simply, wood has a very long life span and, more importantly, it can be reused and recycled. Wood floors can be sanded and resealed multiple times, extending the life of the floor. After that, it can be reused for any number of things and is 100% recyclable. Finally, wood should never go to landfill, but even if it does, it is, of course, biodegradable.

Because of the reforestation initiatives, the benefits that trees bring to the world during their lifetime, and the reusability of the end product, wood flooring certainly can have a negative carbon footprint.

RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING POLICY

All products sourced by Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd are done so sustainably and comply with UK law (UKTR), and, where possible, are FSC® certified. Please ask for more details regarding our FSC® certified products.

UKTR (Timber and Timber Products Placing on the Market Regulations) came into effect in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) from 1st January 2021, replacing EUTR (European Timber Regulations).

PLYWOOD PANEL PRODUCTS

WHAT IS PLYWOOD? HOW IS IT MADE?

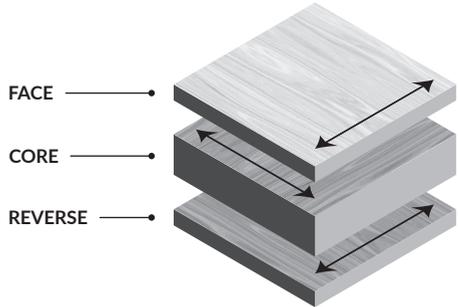
Plywood is a sheet material which is mainly used in construction and flooring, consisting of just two materials: wood and glue.

At least three layers of wood (known as plies or veneers) are bonded together with adhesives which are graded for internal and external use.

Each ply is positioned at right angles to the layers above and below which improves strength and helps reduce shrinkage.

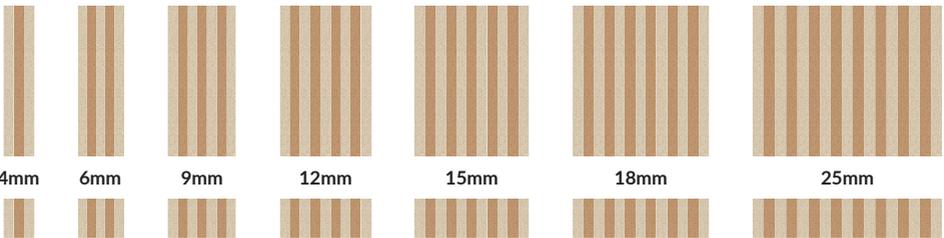
The two outer veneers are known as the face and reverse. These are graded based on their appearance and quality.

The core (central) layer is sandwiched between the two outer veneers.



ABOVE: Plies are positioned at right angles to the layers above and below

BELOW: Standard plywood thicknesses showing the number of plies in each (drawn to scale)



A GUIDE TO PLYWOOD FACE VENEER GRADES

Veneer grades refer to the finished appearance of the face veneer which allows buyers to select a material suitable to their application.

Grading rules vary depending on the country of manufacture. Below is a UK grading system and may not be accurate for all plywood types.

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
B	Neatly cut one-piece being almost defect-free and sanded smooth
BB	Minor defects are permitted within strict limits provided they are filled and sanded smooth
C+/C-	Permits all defects, open or closed, although limited in number and size. However, open defects are sanded for the UK market.



PLYWOOD APPLICATION AND ITS MANY USES

The unique cross-grain construction of plywood results in a strong and stable panel so that even thin and/or lightweight varieties are suitable for challenging applications.

Several structural and non-structural hardwood, softwood and mixed core varieties are produced for a wide range of applications including walls, roofs, flooring, furniture, vehicle manufacturing as well as marine plywood for boats or areas exposed to high humidity or wetting.

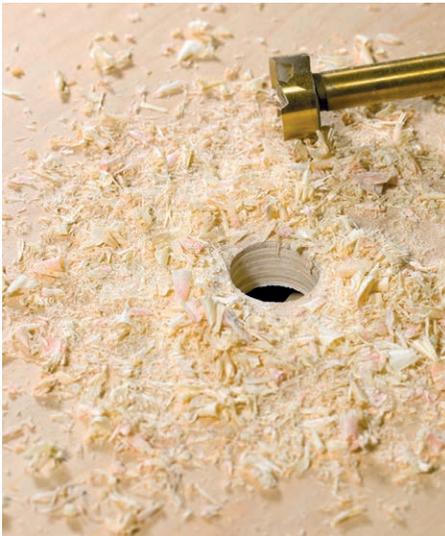
For structural use, it is vital to choose plywood that complies with the required British Standard. Please contact our Sales Team for advice.

The guide to plywood applications and uses on this page is not intended as an exhaustive list. If you have a specific project in mind, please contact our Sales Team for advice.

TYPE	APPLICATION AND USE
Hardwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceilings • Walls (external) • Heavy-duty floors • Furniture / packing cases • Van lining
Softwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete shuttering • Internal joinery • Floors • Furniture / packing cases
Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat building (not waterproof) • Outdoor furniture • Areas of exposure to high humidity/wetting
FG1™	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooring Grade Plywood (certified BS 8203:2017) • Suitable for all flooring applications

STRUCTURAL USE

Plywood panels manufactured for Structural Use only applies from 9mm thickness upwards. Panels less than 9mm thickness do not possess structural load-bearing strength. If you require further advice, please call our Sales Team on **01273 426570**.



PLYWOOD BONDING **BS EN314-2:1993** and **PLYWOOD SPECIFICATION BS EN636:2003**

INTRODUCTION

EN314-2 and EN636 both work together as “harmonized standards” to clarify which plywoods are suitable under different conditions. These tests then determine the class that a particular plywood can be specified under.

Product	Merchant Grade MLH	Q-Mark (TRADA Endorsed)	FG1™
Origin	China	China	Indonesia
Hardwood Species	Poplar	Eucalyptus	Meranti
Plywood Bond Performance	BS EN314-2 Class 2	BS EN314-3 Class 3	BS EN314-2 Class 3
British Standard	BS EN636-2 Class 2	BS EN636-3 Class 3	BS EN636-3 Class 3
Does it Meet CFA Approval?	✗	✗ Class 3 is a suitable alternative but not guaranteed by B.S.	✓
Usage	Only humid (not wet) conditions	Exterior and exposure to weather	Exterior and exposure to weather

BS EN314-2

Plywoods are produced using glue bonds. The type of bond is based on whether the plywood is for use in dry, humid or exterior conditions.

BS EN314-2 plywood bonding quality requirements define three classes on the basis of test requirements that the plywood bond must meet (see the table opposite).

These classes are determined by laboratory tests in which the different plywood boards are tested to destruction, to assess how well the bond has survived the weathering process.

The integrity of the plywood bonds after the tests will determine its bond class. Once that has been established, assessment to **EN636** can begin.

CLASS	USAGE
Class 1	Dry conditions (interior, dry use only)
Class 2	Humid conditions (protected external service; damp internal uses and limited exposure during construction)
Class 3	Exterior conditions (exposure to weather over substantial periods or continuous exposure to relative high humidity)

AND DON'T FORGET...

In line with all other timber-based products, it is essential that plywood specified for use in humid and / or exterior conditions receives an appropriate protective finish to all faces and edges. This is in order to minimise moisture ingress and to prolong the overall service life of the product.

BS EN636

Following on from BS EN314-2 testing, plywood boards are then required to comply with one of the three performance classes within EN636 for use in construction. This takes into account the quality of the bond and the durability of the timber species used.

The requirements for each class can be summarised as follows:

USE	EN	USAGE CLASS	END USE
Plywood for use in dry conditions	EN 636-1	Class 1 – appropriate for normal interior climates	Warm roofs, intermediate floors, internal timber frame and partition walls
Plywood for use in humid conditions	EN 636-2	Class 2 – appropriate for protected external applications. It is also suitable for interior situations where the service moisture content is raised above the Class 1 level.	Cold roofs, ground floors and external timber frame walls
Plywood for use in exterior conditions	EN 636-3	Class 3 – designed for exposure to weather over sustained periods	Fully exposed service conditions

PURCHASING THE RIGHT PLYWOOD FOR YOUR PROJECT

It is vital to specify and purchase plywood suited to the job you are using it for, based on the classes above. For example:

- If you have previously purchased Interior or MR (moisture resistant) plywood for construction purposes, you should now specify plywood to comply with **EN 636, Class 1**.
- If you have previously specified or purchased WBP (weather and boil-proof) or Exterior quality plywood for construction purposes, you should now specify plywood to comply with **EN636, Class 3**.



FG1™ FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

Inferior plywood flooding UK markets in recent years has caused significant issues for the construction industry. In response, and with the need for clarity of plywood standards, Lionvest introduced FG1™ – a superior quality Flooring Grade hardwood panel.

The result is a panel that far exceeds British Standard BS 8203:2017 *Installation of resilient floor coverings – code of practice*, which requires a minimum thickness of **0.75mm** for top and reverse veneers.

FG1 has 1.3mm top and reverse veneers (before sanding), greatly surpassing the British Standard, offering several advantages:

- Far greater stability, structural and mechanical properties, making it ideal for gluing and bonding
- Greatly reduces the risk of delamination and face veneers failing when sawn or bonding to
- High production qualities makes it suitable for a wide range of applications where strength and durability are a priority



1.3mm FACE
3.3mm CORE
1.3mm REVERSE

Incredibly, inferior panels have as little as **0.15-0.3mm** top and reverse veneers, leading to serious delamination issues and face veneers failing. This is why it is vital to have thicker face veneers when bonding to, and why FG1 is an essential step to ensuring successful floorlaying and subfloor prep.

FG1™ – Flooring Grade Plywood – BS 8203:2017 – Class 3 EXT Glue (EN314-2)

SIZE	DIMENSIONS	GRADE	VENEER	CORE	FINISH
5.5mm	4x2ft 1220 x 610mm	BB/CC	Meranti	Mersawa	Unfinished & lightly sanded
5.5mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	BB/CC	Meranti	Mersawa	Unfinished & lightly sanded
9mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	BB/CC	Meranti	Mersawa	Unfinished & lightly sanded



Manufactured to	BS EN 636-2
Appearance class	Based on Class 1 from BS EN 635-2
Glue bond	EN 314-2 Class 3 (Exterior) LFE E1 Emission
Moisture content	8-10%
Thickness tolerance	5.5mm: ±0.2mm
Dimensional square tolerance	Tight to EN 315
Veneers	Overlay quality without core overlap or gaps
Length AND width	-0.0/+2.0mm
Diagonal difference	Maximum 2.0mm
Edge straightness	Maximum 1.0mm

Q-MARK PLYWOOD



Q-Mark Plywood is a versatile panel suitable for various applications. Poplar veneers produce a lightweight panel, while the Eucalyptus veneers produce a more durable panel. Uses include:

- Structural applications include walls, roofing, wind bracing and flooring
- Ideal for outdoor use once sealed with a suitable preservative
- Bookcases, outdoor furniture, crates and widely used for packing cases

Q-Mark Plywood – Hardwood – Class 3 EXT Glue (EN314-3)

SIZE	DIMENSIONS	GRADE	VENEER	CORE	FINISH
3.6mm	4x2ft 1220x610mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
5.5mm	4x2ft 1220x610mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
3.6mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
5.5mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
9mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
12mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
18mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
25mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded
18mm	8x4ft 2440 x 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus	Unfinished & lightly sanded



FAR EASTERN MLH (MIXED LIGHT HARDWOOD)

Our Far Eastern MLH is a versatile plywood panel with a variety of interior and exterior uses. Poplar veneers produce a lightweight panel and Eucalyptus veneers produce a more durable one. MLH has a light sanded finish which can easily be cut and painted. Popular applications include:

- Treated exteriors such as decking, sheds and fencing
- Moist interior usage such as bathrooms, kitchens and boat interiors



Far Eastern MLH (Mixed Light Hardwood) Plywood – Class 2 EXT Glue (EN314-2)

SIZE	DIMENSIONS	GRADE	VENEER	CORE	FINISH
3.6mm	8×4ft 2440 × 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Poplar	Unfinished & lightly sanded
5.5mm	8×4ft 2440 × 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Poplar	Unfinished & lightly sanded
9mm	8×4ft 2440 × 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Poplar	Unfinished & lightly sanded
12mm	8×4ft 2440 × 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Poplar	Unfinished & lightly sanded
18mm	8×4ft 2440 × 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Poplar	Unfinished & lightly sanded
25mm	8×4ft 2440 × 1220mm	B/BB	Eucalyptus	Poplar	Unfinished & lightly sanded




01273 426570
 FOR THE LATEST
 PRICES

1.3mm TOP | 3.3m CORE | 1.3mm REVERSE (before sanding)

Installing underlayment is one of the best ways to ensure that your end result is a stable and comfortable vinyl floor.

The FG1™ plywood panel is specifically designed as an underlayment material and is BS 8203:2017 compliant and has 1.3mm thick top and bottom veneers, which offer the perfect surface to bond to.

A FEW NOTES TO BEGIN WITH

This is a guide only. For more information, please refer to *BS 8203:2017 Installation of resilient floor coverings – code of practice*.

- FG1 is always stamped on the face veneer (the better graded side) and should **ALWAYS** be laid face-up.
- Before starting any installation, you should take a RH (Relative Humidity) reading, check the moisture content of the subfloor, and get the temperature reading. Keep a note of all three readings.
- The boards **MUST** be allowed to acclimatise for 24 hours prior to installation, in the room where they will be fitted.
- If it is not possible to lay them flat, then **ALWAYS** stand the boards on their long edges and try to separate the boards as much as possible.
- The correct thickness of ply is dependent on the quality of the subfloor as well as the overall height you are to work with. In most cases, a 5.5mm thick board is suitable.

BEFORE YOU START WORKING

1. Subfloor preparation is an important first step. Make sure the area is clean and free from any debris.

2. Make sure all floorboards are secure and there are no nails sticking up.
3. Check the moisture of the ply. It should be within $\pm 2.0\%$ of the moisture content of the subfloor. If the subfloor has a moisture content of 9%, your ply should be 7-11%.

ONCE YOU'RE READY TO BEGIN

1. It is recommended to lay FG1 perpendicular, at 90° to the direction of the floorboards for maximum stability and strength.
2. Loose-lay the boards first, ensuring the seams are staggered (see figure 1 opposite). Where possible, always have the factory-cut edges facing each other, and the edges you have cut yourself should face the wall.
3. Start in the corner of the room so that you can use an uncut 8 x 4 sheet at the start, as this will make the job easier.
4. You should leave a 5mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and at least 2mm between the boards.
5. Before fitting, make sure the seams between two ply boards are not sitting on top of any joints in the subfloor, otherwise this will create a weak point in the floor and compromise the stability.

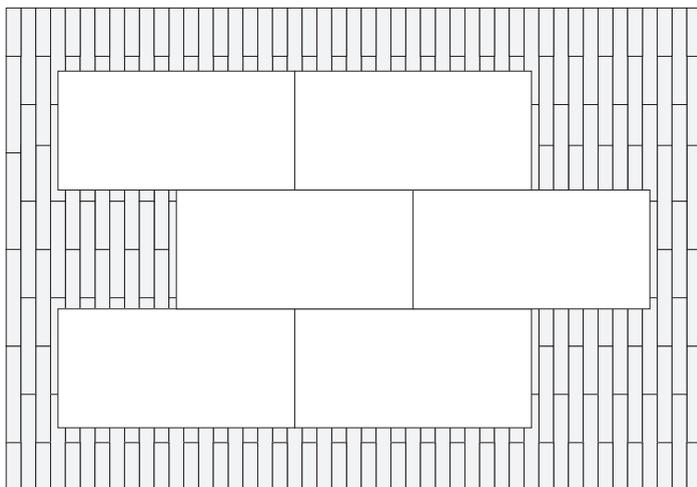


Figure 1:

First, loose-lay the boards, ensuring the seams are staggered.

Where possible, always have the factory-cut edges facing each other.

The edges you have cut yourself should be facing the wall.

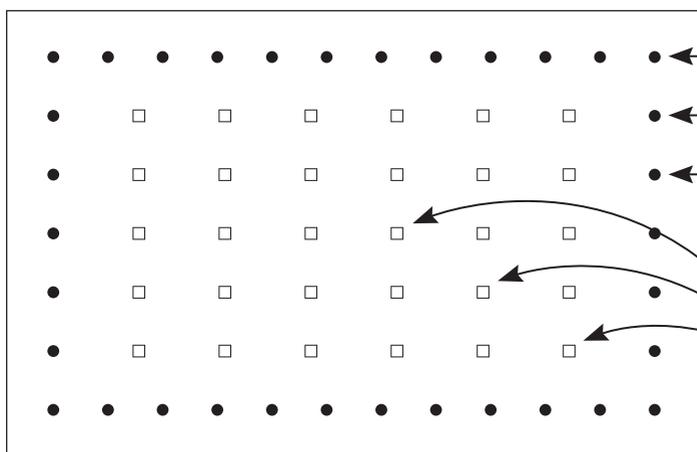


Figure 2:

Fixings around the edge should be spaced 100mm (4") apart and 12mm (1/2") away from the edge

Figure 3:

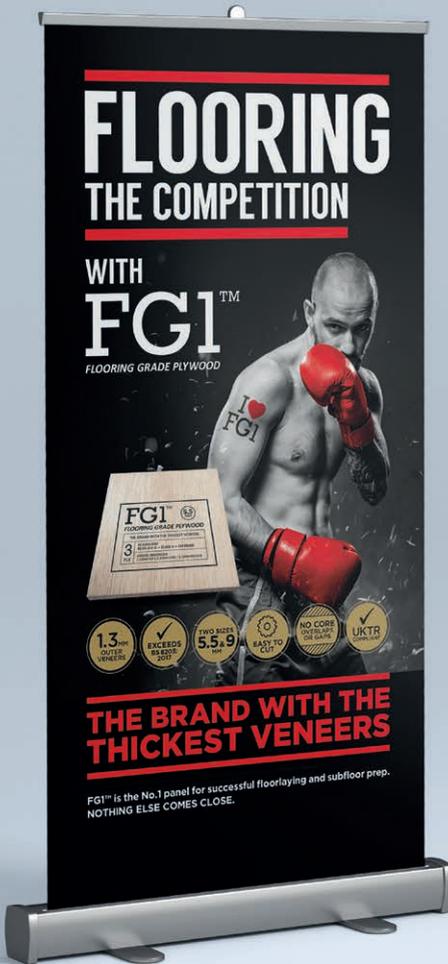
In the centre, they should be spaced 150mm (6") apart

6. Once happy with the layout, you are ready to fix the boards down using ring-shank nails, divergent staples or counter-sunk screws.
7. Fixings around the edge of the board should be spaced 100mm (4") apart and 12mm (1/2") away from the edge (see figure 2).
8. In the centre, the fixings should be spaced 150mm (6") apart.
9. Start from the centre of the board and work towards the edge – in order to prevent any bubbling in the sheets.
10. Once fixed, feather the edges with seam filler. **REMEMBER** – this contains water, so the ply will need time to acclimatise again **BEFORE** you install your vinyl floor.
11. Once the filler is completely dry, sand it so it is flush with the ply.
12. Now you are ready to fit your vinyl.

CLAIM YOUR FREE POS MATERIAL!

To help you sell more, we have a wide range of FREE POS material to give away.

All data and knowledge sheets are available as high quality printed copies and digital PDF format. Add them to your website for customers to download.



FGI Showroom Banner

Roller banners are a proven way to attract customers. Our FREE banner with instantly recognisable boxer branding highlights FGI's unique selling points.

Perfect for your showroom!

Dimensions: 1000 x 2000mm

FGI-01

Plywood Sample Book

FREE to give away to all of your customers, our sample book features 5 plywoods and is bound with a leather handle.

Dimensions: 150 x 150mm



FGI-02



FG1™
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

FG1™ 5.5mm
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD
THE BRAND WITH THE THICKEST VENEERS
BS 8203:2017
CLASS 3 – EXTERIOR
3 ORIGINAL, INDONESIA
1.3mm TOP / 2.3mm CORE / 1.3mm REVERSE

- 1.3mm
OUTER
VENEERS
- ✓
EXCEEDS
BS 8203:
2017
- NO CORE
OVERLAPS
OR GAPS
- TWO SIZES
5.5 & 9
mm
- EASY-TO
CUT
- ✓
UKTR
COMPLIANT
- ✓
FLEGT
COMPLIANT

FG1™ is the No.1 panel for successful floorlaying and subfloor prep.
NOTHING ELSE COMES CLOSE.

- ✓ Meets and far exceeds BS 8203:2017 (Annex A)
- ✓ Guaranteed for use across ALL flooring applications
- ✓ 1.3mm reverse veneers (before sanding) are thickest on UK market
- ✓ Thicker veneers offer far greater bonding capability
- ✓ Greater bonding capability helps to prevent serious issues with delamination, face veneers falling and glue percolation



**FG1 Showroom
Poster**

Our large-format A2 poster is ideal for your showroom if you don't have space for our FG1 roller banner.

Dimensions:
420 x 594mm

FG1-03



Product Data Sheet
FG1 (5.5mm)



ALL FG1 PRODUCTS HAVE 1.3MM TOP AND REVERSE VENEERS (before sanding)

INTRODUCTION

FG1™ Flooring Grade Plywood is manufactured to a specification that far exceeds the requirements laid down by the new BS 8203:2017 – Annex A – Flooring Grade Plywood Guidelines. FG1's 1.3mm top and reverse veneers (before sanding) are the thickest available on the UK market. Fitters working to BS 8203 should ensure they adopt the correct plywood specification.

The flooring industry's requirement for a panel which is manufactured to a clear specification and that is guaranteed for use across all flooring applications has been answered. FG1 far exceeds these specifications, ensuring the highest quality panel and performance available in the UK.

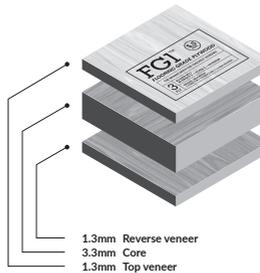
Automated systems use specialised monitoring equipment to ensure any defect or anomaly in the production line is removed so that every sheet complies fully with the new standard and that any potential human error involved in the process is eliminated completely.

FG1™ is manufactured to significantly exceed the requirements of the new BS 8203:2017 – Annex A – flooring grade plywood guidelines

SPECIFICATION

Manufactured to	BS EN 636-2
Appearance class	Based on Class 1 from BS EN 635-2
Glue bond	EN 314-2 Class 3 (Exterior) LFE E1 Emission
Wood species	Indonesian mixed hardwood Meranti/Mersawa
Moisture content	8-10%
Thickness tolerance	5.5mm: ±0.2mm
Dimensional square tolerance	Tight to EN 315
Veneers	Overlay quality without core overlap and gaps
Thicker outer veneers	Minimum 1.3mm before sanding
EUTR status	Compliant
Length	-0.0/+2.0mm
Width	-0.0/+2.0mm
Diagonal difference	Maximum 2.0mm
Edge straightness	Maximum 1.0mm

Further grading details are available upon request



fg1.co.uk | info@lionvest.co.uk | Tel: 01273 426570

FG1™ is a brand of Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd. FG1 Plywood is manufactured by Sember Mas Indah Plywood in Indonesia which is a member of the TFT Woodexperts Diamond Mark Certification Scheme.

FG1 5.5mm Data Sheet | Version_08 | Nov_2023

FG1 Data Sheet (5.5mm)

Full-spec Data Sheet (A4) available as high quality printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.



Product Data Sheet
FG1 (9.0mm)



ALL FG1 PRODUCTS HAVE 1.3MM TOP AND REVERSE VENEERS (before sanding)

APPLICATION USAGE

Extremely versatile panel of high grade and quality, which, just like 5.5mm, can be used for flooring applications but where extra thicknesses is required. With 1.3mm thick top/reverse veneers (before sanding), FG1 9mm is ideal for furniture, joinery and manufacturing where precision is key.

FG1™ Flooring Grade Plywood is manufactured to a specification that far exceeds the requirements laid down by the new BS 8203:2017 – Annex A – Flooring Grade Plywood Guidelines. FG1's 1.3mm top and reverse veneers (before sanding) are the thickest available on the UK market. Fitters working to BS 8203 should ensure they adopt the correct plywood specification.

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Glue bond	EN 314-2 Class 3 (Exterior) LFE E1 Emission
Wood species	Indonesian mixed hardwood Meranti/Mersawa
Moisture content	8-10%
Thickness tolerance	9.0mm: ±0.2mm
Dimensional square tolerance	Tight to EN 315
Veneers	Overlay quality without core overlap and gaps
Thicker outer veneers	Minimum 1.3mm before sanding
EUTR status	Compliant
Length	-0.0/+2.0mm
Width	-0.0/+2.0mm
Diagonal difference	Maximum 2.0mm
Edge straightness	Maximum 1.0mm

Further grading details are available upon request



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FG1™ 9mm
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

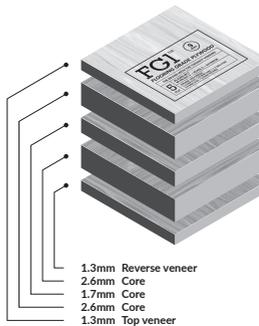
THE BRAND WITH THE THICKEST VENEERS

5 PLY

BS 8203:2017
BS EN 314-2 — CLASS 3 — EXTERIOR

ORIGIN: INDONESIA
1.3 MM TOP / 2.6 MM CORE / 1.7 MM CORE
2.6 MM CORE / 1.3 MM REVERSE

FG1™ is manufactured to significantly exceed the requirements of the new BS 8203:2017 – Annex A – flooring grade plywood guidelines



FG1™ is a brand of Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd. FG1 Plywood is manufactured by Simeb - Mas Indah Plywood in Indonesia which is a member of the TFT Woodexperts Diamond Mark Certification Scheme.

FG1 9.0mm, Data Sheet | Version_06 | Nov_2023

FG1 Data Sheet (9mm)

Full-spec Data Sheet (A4) available as high quality printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

FG1-05

Grading Guidelines FGI Products (5.5mm/9mm)

FGITM
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

ALL FGI PRODUCTS HAVE 1.3MM TOP AND REVERSE VENEERS (before sanding)

VISUAL APPEARANCE

No.	ITEM	FACE	BACK
1	Blister	Not allowed	Not allowed
2	Broken	Not allowed	Not allowed
3	Edge damaged	Maximum 4mm	Not allowed
4	Stain/oil marks/asphalt marks	Very light with fine sanding. Asphalt not allowed.	Very light/asphalt not allowed
5	Cove overlaps	Light. Maximum 400mm x 3.	Allowed
6	Open splits	Hairline only	Allowed
7	Puttled splits	15 x 600mm, well puttled.	Allowed
8	Knife marks	0.8mm, smoothly sanded.	Allowed as long as strong
9	Putty marks	OK if smooth sanding	OK if smooth sanding
10	Broken widthways	Only hairline allowed	Allowed
11	Patches	Allowed if same species / colour	Allowed
12	Joints	Maximum 1 allowed	Allowed
13	Colour variation	Allowed	Allowed
14	Core gaps	6 x 90mm repaired	OK
15	Rough surface	If smooth putty OK	Allowed
16	Edge tape marks	If smooth sanding OK	As long as flat and smooth
17	Sanding	Must be smooth and even	Light sanding OK
18	Pinholes / wormholes	Maximum 15mm if well puttled. If scattered, must be smooth sanding, clean and even.	Allowed
19	Wane (bark)	Putty, smooth sanding and clean.	Allowed
20	Rotten / fungus mark	If solid and very light OK. Must be smooth sanded with clean and even appearance.	Allowed as long as not affect strength
21	Live knots	Allowed	Allowed
22	Dead knots	Must be well puttled, same colour and smooth sanding with clean and even appearance.	Allowed
23	Dead knots (separated)	Maximum 25mm if well puttled, same colour and smooth sanding with clean and even appearance.	Allowed maximum 19mm
24	Small knots	Allowed	Allowed
25	Live healthy knots	Allowed as long as smooth	Allowed
26	Showthrough of face / back	Maximum 2 x 300mm puttled. Smooth sanding, clean and even.	Maximum 2 x 300mm



fgl.co.uk | info@lionvest.co.uk | Tel: 01273 426570

FGI™ is a brand of Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd. FGI Plywood is manufactured by Sumber Mas Indah Plywood in Indonesia which is a member of the TFT Woodsperts Diamond Mark Certification Scheme.

FGI Grading Guidelines | Version_04 | Nov_2023

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FGI Grading Guidelines | Version_04 | Nov_2023

mm if light
smooth sanding.

colour same

OM



mm Reverse veneer
mm Core
mm Core
mm Core
mm Top veneer

FGI Grading Guidelines

Very handy and highly detailed Grading Guidelines (2 pages A4) is available as high quality double-side A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

FGI-06

Comparison: FG1 vs. Commercial
Available in 5.5mm/9mm



ALL FG1 PRODUCTS HAVE 1.3MM TOP AND REVERSE VENEERS (before sanding)

WHY BUY FG1?
A COMPARISON AGAINST COMMERCIAL PLYWOOD

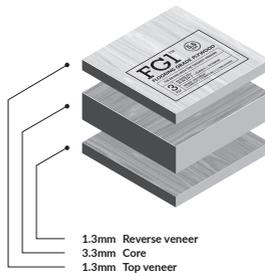
CHARACTERISTICS	FG1 FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD	COMMERCIAL PLYWOOD
Veneer glue bond	EN 314-2 Class 3 Exterior	EN314-2 Class 2. Usually only complies with EN314-2 Class 2 or falsely claims to be Class 3 standards. Much thinner face veneers are used or are NOT bonded with fully exterior Phenolic Glue, so they do not reach the performance standards required.
Moisture content	Veneers are machine dried to a tightly controlled 7-10% m.c. prior to manufacture which makes the panel more stable	Some panels use only "air dried" veneers, resulting in a less stable panel. Poor control of moisture content within a panel can also cause mould growth on the surface of the boards.
Thickness of top and reverse veneers	Minimum 1.3mm (before sanding)	Can be as thin as 0.12mm which is far less durable and allows moisture ingress into the core of the plywood
Core veneer quality	No core overlap or gaps	Variations in thickness and surface due to core overlaps
Flatness and stability	FG1 is extremely stable	Can be unstable due to manufacturing process
Thickness tolerance	Calibrated to ±0.2mm. Modern technology guarantees product performance	Variations in thickness due to lower standards on manufacturing tolerances and post-production inspection
Workability	Easily cut due to superior manufacturing and quality control	Can be challenging due to imperfections through poor quality control during manufacturing
BS 8203:2017 Plywood Guidelines	Far exceeds the new British Standard ensuring the highest quality panel and performance available in the UK	Most plywood production fails to meet BS 8203:2017 on specification and quality
Flooring training schools	EN 314-2 Class 3 Exterior plywood surpasses BS 8203:2017 Plywood Guidelines for specification and quality	Not approved for use in training schools due to not meeting industry standards



FG1™ is manufactured to significantly exceed the requirements of the new BS 8203:2017 – Annex A – flooring grade plywood guidelines



(Product shown is FG1 5.5mm)



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FG1™ is a brand of Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd. FG1 Plywood is manufactured by Simeba Mas Indah Plywood in Indonesia which is a member of the TFT Woodexperts Diamond Mark Certification Scheme.

FG1_Compar_Sheet | Version_09 | Nov_2023

Comparison FG1 vs. Commercial

Brilliant for your customers to understand the big difference between FG1 and commercial ply. Available as high quality A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.



Installation Guide FG1 (5.5mm/9mm)

FG1TM
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

ALL FG1 PRODUCTS HAVE 1.3MM TOP AND REVERSE VENEERS (before sanding)

THE FG1 INSTALLATION GUIDE

Installing underlayment is one of the best ways to ensure you get a stable and comfortable vinyl floor. FG1TM is specifically designed as an underlayment material and is BS 8203:2017 compliant. It has 1.3mm thick top and bottom veneers which offer the perfect surface to bond to.

A FEW NOTES TO BEGIN

This is a guide only and for more information, you should refer to BS 8203:2017 code of practice for the installation of resilient floor coverings.

- FG1 is always stamped on the face veneer (the better graded side) and should always be laid face-up.
- Before starting any installation, you should take a RH (Relative Humidity) reading, check the moisture content of the subfloor, and get the temperature reading. You **MUST** keep a note of all three readings.
- The boards **MUST** be allowed to acclimatise for 24 hours prior to installation, in the room where they will be fitted.
- If it is not possible to lay them flat, then **ALWAYS** stand the boards on their long edges and try to separate the boards as much as possible.
- The correct thickness of ply panel is dependent on the quality of the subfloor as well as the overall height you have to work with. In most cases, a 5.5mm thick board is suitable.

BEFORE YOU START WORKING

1. Subfloor preparation is an important first step. Make sure the area is clean and free from any debris.
2. Make sure all floorboards are secure and there are no nails sticking up.
3. Check the moisture of the ply. It should be within $\pm 2.0\%$ of the moisture content of the subfloor. If the subfloor has a moisture content of 9%, your ply should be 7-11%.

ONCE YOU'RE READY TO BEGIN

1. It is recommended that you lay FG1 perpendicular, at 90° to the direction of the floorboards for maximum stability and strength.
2. You should loose-lay the boards first, ensuring the seams are staggered (see figure 1 over the page). Where possible, always have the factory-cut edges facing each other, and the edges you have cut yourself facing the wall.
3. Start in the corner of the room so that you can use an uncut 8 x 4 sheet at the start, as this will make the job easier.
4. You should leave a 5mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and at least 2mm between the boards.
5. Before fitting, make sure the seams between two ply boards are not sitting on top of any joints in the subfloor, otherwise this will create a weak point in the floor and compromise the stability.
6. Once you are happy with the layout, you are ready to fix the boards down using either ring-shank nails, divergent staples, or counter-sunk screws.
7. Fixings around the edge of the board should be spaced 100mm (4") apart and 12mm (1/2") away from the edge (see figure 2 over the page).
8. In the centre, they should be spaced 150mm (6") apart.
9. Start from the centre of the board and work towards the edge, in order to prevent bubbling in the sheets.
10. Once fixed, feather the edges with seam filler. Remember this contains water so the ply will need time to acclimatise again **BEFORE** you install your vinyl floor.
11. Once the filler is dry, sand it so it is flush with the ply.
12. Now you are ready to fit your vinyl.



Figure 1: First, loose-lay the boards, ensuring the seams are staggered.

Where possible, always have the factory-cut edges facing each other.

The edges you have cut yourself should be facing the wall.



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FG1_Installation Guide | Version_02 | Nov_2023

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FG1_Installation Guide | Version_02 | Nov_2023

FG1 Installation Guide

A guide to installing FG1 the correct way and get a stable and comfortable vinyl floor. Available as high quality double-side A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

FG1-08

Plywood Applications FG1 (5.5mm/9mm)

FG1™
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

PLYWOOD APPLICATIONS AND ITS MANY USES

The unique cross-grain construction of plywood results in a strong and stable panel so that even thin and/or lightweight varieties are suitable for challenging applications.

Several structural and non-structural hardwood, softwood and mixed core varieties are produced for a wide range of applications including walls, roofs, flooring, furniture, vehicle manufacturing as well as marine plywood for boats or areas exposed to high humidity or wetting.

For structural use, it is vital that you choose a plywood that complies with the required British Standard. Please contact our Sales Team for advice.

The plywood applications guide opposite is not intended as an exhaustive list. If you have a specific project in mind, please contact our Sales Team.

WHAT IS PLYWOOD EXACTLY?

Plywood is a sheet material that is used mainly in construction, flooring and furniture applications and consists of just two materials: wood and glue.

At least three layers of wood, referred to either as "plies" or "veneers", are bonded (glued) together with adhesives. Each of these plies is positioned at right angles to the layers above and below, which improves strength and reduces shrinkage.

The two outer veneers are commonly referred to as the "face" and "reverse" and are graded based on their appearance and quality. The "core" is the layer sandwiched between the two outer veneers. Plywood adhesive is graded for internal and external use.

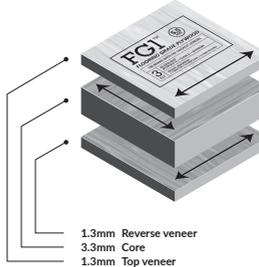
A GUIDE TO FACE VENEER GRADES

Veneer grades refer to the finished appearance of the face which allows buyers to select a material suitable to their application. Grading rules vary depending on the country of manufacture. Below is a UK grading system and may not be accurate for all plywood types.

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
B	Neatly cut one-piece being almost defect-free and sanded smooth
BB	Minor defects are permitted within strict limits provided they are filled and sanded smooth
C+/C-	Permits all defects, open or closed, although limited in number and size. However, open defects are sanded for the UK market.



TYPE	APPLICATION AND USE
Hardwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceilings • Walls (external) • Heavy-duty floors • Furniture / packing cases • Van lining
Softwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete shuttering • Internal joinery • Floors • Furniture / packing cases
Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat building (not waterproof) • Outdoor furniture • Areas of exposure to high humidity/wetting
FG1™	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooring Grade Plywood (certified BS 8203:2017) • Suitable for all flooring applications



ABOVE: Each of the plies are positioned at right angles to the layers above and below which greatly improves strength and reduces shrinkage.
PLEASE NOTE: The measurements shown in the illustration above apply to FG1™ only, whose thicker top and reverse veneers greatly exceed the minimum requirements of BS 8203:2017.



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FG1™ is a brand of Lionvest Trading (UK) Ltd. FG1 Plywood is manufactured by Sember Mas Indah Plywood in Indonesia which is a member of the TFT Woodexperts Diamond Mark Certification Scheme.

FG1 Plywood Applications

For customers who want to know more about application, veneer grades and various uses. Available as high quality A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

FG1-09

Plywood Sustainability
FG1 (5.5mm/9mm)

FG1™
FLOORING GRADE PLYWOOD

THE No.1 SUSTAINABLE CHOICE FOR
YOUR FLOORING PROJECT

FG1™ Flooring Grade Plywood has superior 1.3mm top and reverse veneers which are more than 50% thicker than those defined as the minimum requirement in Annex A of BS 8203:2017, making them by far, the thickest available on the UK market.

FG1 is constructed using only responsibly sourced materials from legal and sustainably managed forests that meet the stringent requirements of UKTR and FLEGT as well as FSC.



DID YOU KNOW?

New trees consume far more CO2 than older trees. In fact, when trees start to decay, they release the carbon they have been storing back into the atmosphere.

However, a tree that is cut down continues to sequester carbon for the life of the timber, which could be well over 100 years.

New trees planted in place of older ones will be more effective at lowering the carbon in the atmosphere.

This process is just one part of what makes wood a carbon neutral product and makes FG1 a great sustainable choice for your flooring project.

For information on UKTR and FLEGT regulations, visit: gov.uk/guidance/regulations-timber-and-flegt-licences

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FG1 Plywood Sustainability

For customers who want to know more about FG1's sustainability credentials. Available as high quality double-side A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

FG1-10

LIONVEST TRADING (UK) LTD

PLYWOOD KNOWLEDGE
Helping you make informed choices

Plywood Bonding BS EN314-2:1993 and Plywood Specification BS EN636:2003

EN314-2 and EN636 both work together as "harmonized standards" to clarify which plywoods are suitable under different conditions. These tests then determine the class that a particular plywood can be specified under.

PRODUCT	ORIGIN	HARDWOOD SPECIES	PLYWOOD BOND PERFORMANCE	BRITISH STANDARD	DOES IT MEET CFA APPROVAL?	USAGE
Merchant Grade MLH (Mixed Light Hardwood)	China	Poplar	BS EN314-2 Class 2	BS EN636-2 Class 2	✗	Only humid (not wet) conditions
Q-Mark (Trade endorsed)	China	Eucalyptus	BS EN314-3 Class 3	BS EN636-3 Class 3	✗ Class 3 is a suitable alternative but not guaranteed by B.S.	Exterior and exposure to weather
F01	Indonesia	Meranti	BS EN 314-2 Class 3	BS EN636-3 Class 3	✓	Exterior and exposure to weather

PLEASE NOTE: Chinese plywood is shipped via containers AND conventional shipping. Indonesian plywood is ONLY available via container.

BS EN314-2

Plywoods are produced using bonds. The types of bonds used are based on whether the plywood is for use in dry, humid or exterior conditions.

BS EN314-2 plywood bonding quality requirements define three classes on the basis of test requirements that the plywood bond must meet (see table below).

These classes are determined by laboratory tests in which the different plywood boards are tested to destruction to assess how well the bond has survived the weathering process.

The integrity of the plywood bonds after the tests will determine its bond class. Once that has been established, assessment to EN636 can begin.

CLASS	USAGE
Class 1	Dry conditions (interior, dry use only)
Class 2	Humid conditions (protected external service; damp internal uses and limited exposure during construction)
Class 3	Exterior conditions (exposure to weather over substantial periods or continuous exposure to relative high humidity)



ENERGY GRADES

is used in the UK to specify the class of the plywood which allows decisions on the suitability of

most defect-free and sanded smooth

within strict limits provided they are

closed, although limited in number and are sanded for the UK market.

REGULATIONS

on (EUTR) and Forest Law Trade (FLEGT) no longer apply in (Ireland and Wales).

its Placing on the Market (CE) Regulations apply in Great Britain the requirements remain the same as in 2013, designed to prohibit timber within the EU.

conform to EUTR.



 Bvfa
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 LIONVEST TRADING (UK) LTD
Worldwide Wood Flooring Importers, Distributors & Agents

Plywood Knowledge: Glue Bonding & British Standards

A very handy guide to BS EN314-2:1993, BS EN636:2003, classes and usage. Available as high quality double-side A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.



LIONVEST TRADING (UK) LTD



PLYWOOD KNOWLEDGE

Helping you make informed choices

Q-MARK PLYWOOD

Q-Mark plywood is constructed with a natural eucalyptus veneer combined with a eucalyptus core. The panel is constructed from at least three thin veneers bonded together (3-ply) with a suitable adhesive. Each veneer is oriented at a right angle to its adjacent ply to create durable properties.

STANDARDS

Products sold into the construction sector must meet the Construction Products Regulation legislation to demonstrate its performance. There are two material components in plywood: wood and glue. How these two components react will define how the plywood performs.

- Durable veneers
- Durable core
- For exterior conditions

SPECIFICATION

CERTIFIED	CE / EN 314-3 / EN 636-3
VENEERS	Eucalyptus
CORE	Eucalyptus
LENGTH	2440mm
WIDTH	1200mm
THICKNESS AVAILABLE	3/6/9/12/15/18/21/24/27/30mm

Further grading details and full CE marking information along with declarations of performance are available on request.



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Plywood Knowledge: Q-Mark

A helpful guide to BM Trada's Q-Mark Plywood. Available as high quality A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

LION-02

LIONVEST TRADING (UK) LTD



PLYWOOD KNOWLEDGE
Helping you make informed choices

MLH — Mixed Light Hardwood (Merchant Grade)

MLH plywood is constructed with an engineered poplar veneer combined with a combi core. The panel is constructed from at least three thin veneers bonded together (3-ply) with a suitable adhesive. Each veneer is oriented at a right angle to its adjacent ply to create durable properties.

STANDARDS

Products sold into the construction sector must meet the Construction Products Regulation legislation to demonstrate its performance. There are two material components in plywood: wood and glue. How these two components react will define how the plywood performs.

- Controlled engineered veneers
- Stable core
- For humid conditions



SPECIFICATION

CERTIFIED	CE / EN 314-3 / EN 636-2
VENEERS	Poplar
CORE	Combi
LENGTH	2440mm
WIDTH	1200mm
THICKNESS AVAILABLE	3 / 6 / 9 / 12 / 15 / 18 / 21 / 24 / 27 / 30mm



Further grading details and full CE marking information along with declarations of performance are available on request.

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Worldwide Wood Flooring Importers, Distributors & Agents

Plywood Knowledge: MLH

A helpful guide to MLH (Mixed Light Hardwood). Available as high quality A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.





Worldwide Wood Flooring Importers, Distributors & Agents

PLYWOOD: A GUIDE TO GLUE BONDS & BRITISH STANDARDS

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW:

At Lionvest Trading, we have always offered three Plywood grades – all of which are manufactured using only hardwood veneers, and are suitable for demanding end uses.

HARDWOOD IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- Excellent strength
- Stiffness
- Resistance to creep (deformation)

There are two main components in Plywood: wood and glue. How these two interact will ultimately define how the Plywood performs and, therefore, its designated use.

Plywood, its glue bond and British Standards are all interwoven. The two British Standards below define a straightforward outcome.

1. BS EN314-2:1993 — BONDING QUALITY

Classifies Plywood by bonding quality ONLY and specifies requirements for bonding Classes, according to their end uses. The bonding quality is determined by the adhesive type and core veneer quality (defects such as knots and splits).

- **Bond Class 2 (EN314-2)**
Suitable for use in humid conditions or exposure to occasional wetting
- **Bond Class 3 (EN314-2)**
Suitable for unprotected exterior conditions or exposure to frequent wetting

After exposure to a simulated hostile weather environment accelerated in a laboratory, the Plywood is then tested to destruction to assess how well the glue bond survives the weathering process.

Once the bonding quality has been established to **EN314**, then assessment to **EN636** can begin.

2. BS EN636:2003 — SPECIFICATION

Classifies Plywood by taking into account the bond quality and the biological durability of the wood species used, which refers to the natural capacity of the wood to resist fungal decay and detrimental effects due to beetles.

- **Specification Class 2 (EN636-2)**
Suitable for use in humid conditions or exposure to occasional wetting
- **Specification Class 3 (EN636-3)**
Suitable for unprotected exterior conditions or exposure to frequent wetting

EN314 and EN636 are harmonised, meaning that in order for a Plywood to achieve EN636 Class 2, the minimum bonding quality must be EN314 Class 2.

So, even if a Plywood achieves EN314 Bond Class 3, when it is then assessed to EN636 – it might only achieve EN636-2 because of the limited biological durability of the wood.

Usage
Exterior and exposure to weather
Exterior and exposure to weather
Only humid (not wet) conditions

STANDARD ARE:
Class 3 Exterior.
ness of 0.75mm
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Grade Plywood.
structures stipulate the
in order to: (a) ensure
lly compliant and

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want if the
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Plywood Knowledge: MLH

A very detailed guide to BS EN314-2:1993, BS EN636:2003, classes and usage. Available as high quality double-side A4 printed handout and digital PDF to add to your website or email out.

LION-04



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