

# OFF THE FLOOR

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The Electronic Bulletin of the Australian Timber Flooring Association

## US - AUSTRALIAN INSTALLATION AND FINISHING TRAINING SCHOOLS

Over 25 participants from around Australia competed the US Fundamentals School in the first week of March. The school was once again a resounding success and provided valuable theoretical and practical training for all involved.

The Intermediate and Advanced Schools will be held in May 2010 (18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>) with a full complement of US Instructors led by Daniel Boone. The schools will be held at Holmesglen TAFE in Melbourne and TAFE credits may apply once again to those eligible. Registration details are available for those that have completed the Fundamentals School on our website [www.atfa.com.au](http://www.atfa.com.au) under the 'atfa Courses' tab. As these courses are practical hands on places are strictly limited to 20 for each of the Intermediate and Advanced Schools - to avoid disappointment and with places already filling up, please register now!

atfa would like to thank all who were involved in the success of the Fundamentals School. Without the support from the Industry this school would not be possible.

**Daniel Boone – Head Instructor**  
**Christine Coates – Instructor/Administrator**  
**All Australian instructors and assistant instructors**  
**Educational Partners**

Boral Timber Flooring  
Bostik  
Clarke American Sanders/Nilfisk  
Coates and Associates  
Embelton  
Gunns

Holmesglen TAFE  
Hurford Hardwood  
Lagler Australia  
Loba Australia  
Norton  
Oakdale industries

Orica Woodcare  
Powernail  
Selley's  
Sika  
St Peters Enterprises  
Synteko  
Woodwise



## OVEN DRY TESTING EXPLAINED

**Do you have a job where you need to determine the exact moisture content of timber? If so then it's best to send a sample to atfa for oven testing.**

### Why choose oven dry testing?

Oven dry testing is the most accurate method of determining the moisture contents of timber flooring or timber subfloors. It is also the only recognised method for testing particleboard and plywood subfloors. Oven dry testing is necessary where either the timber species is not known or meter corrections are not available.

Testing is carried out in accordance with AS 1080.1 Timber – Methods of test – Method 1: Moisture Content, and as such the procedures of the standard which includes transport of samples must be followed. Failure to do so can cause less meaningful results.

### What is the process I need to follow to get timber tested?

To obtain best results just follow the 5 steps below:

1. Samples need to be representative of either a specific floor area of concern or in the case of a pack of flooring, the samples need to capture the variation present.

2. From flooring packs or the jobsite, view the end of boards and choose some wider boards as well as some narrower boards. If some boards are cupped include these. If from packs select some outside boards as well as some from within the pack. Boards that are cupped or where cover widths vary by more than 1 mm (80mm wide boards) can be indicative of higher moisture content flooring at the time of installation.

3. Provided the variation present can be captured, six samples each from different boards will provide a reasonable representation. If the flooring is all close to its nominal cover width (e.g. 80mm ± 0.5mm), then five samples from different boards including outside and inside boards from packs will suffice. Outside boards should be labeled as such. Do not use packing boards.

4. Test samples are not to be from within 400mm of the end of a board and where possible should be 300mm in length.

5. Samples are to be individually 'plastic wrapped' or put in separate sealed plastic bags. Samples should also be stored in cool conditions prior to dispatch to atfa, 7 Coachwood Court, Mackenzie, QLD 4156 or in Western Australia please send to 42 Omalley st Osborne Park WA 6017 with a copy of your request form.

### How long does the process take?

Testing takes approximately 2 days from the time that the samples are received and reporting can be expected a day or two later. When complete you will receive a certificate indicating test results carried out to AS 1080.1 and if desired it can also include other aspects with regard to compliance to AS 2796.1 or similar.

### How much does it cost?

Cost for atfa members is \$75.00

Cost for non-members is \$100.00

To request an oven dry test please download our order form

[http://www.atfa.com.au/pdfs/atfa\\_oven\\_dry\\_test.pdf](http://www.atfa.com.au/pdfs/atfa_oven_dry_test.pdf)

## IMPROVE YOUR CASH FLOW – SECURITY OF PAYMENT LEGISLATION

A collection of legislative schemes have been introduced across Australia to help people get paid for work, related goods and services provided in relation to the building and construction industry. The laws are designed to increase cash flow and provide a fast, cheap, and generally non-legalistic way of resolving payment for work done or materials or services supplied.

Some of the key attributes of the Schemes are that they:

- Cover both verbal and written contracts and agreements;
- Provide a right to be paid for work done and materials/services provided;
- Establish default payment terms where the contract is silent or uncertain;
- Prohibit "pay when paid" and "paid if paid" clauses;
- Provide for appointment of independent adjudication for payment disputes at a relatively low cost to the parties, who are required to decide matters quickly;
- Establish a process for the fast recovery of payments; and
- Ensure the findings of the Adjudicator are enforceable through streamlined court processes.

You don't have to have done work and/or delivered material to the actual construction site. The fact that you provide work and/or material to a person to be used at a construction site may entitle you to use the legislation.

Examples may include:

- Timber merchants providing timber flooring for an office fit out;
- Coatings and adhesives for a project at industrial/commercial/investment premises;
- Pre-fabricated structures for use on site;
- Security guard and traffic services for a construction site;
- Surveyors providing survey plans for Development Applications;
- Scaffold, Crane and transport hire.

Note that in most states contracts directly with the home owner are not captured by the law except where they are or should be an owner builder in QLD. However, this may change in the near future. Information on how the Act operates and the process can be found at the relevant government web sites in your State or Territory or by contacting Able Adjudication.

Web [www.ableadjudication.com.au](http://www.ableadjudication.com.au)

E-mail [info@ableadjudication.com.au](mailto:info@ableadjudication.com.au)

Phone 1300 922 303

## THE STAIN GAME

The **atfa** Victorian committee held a trade night on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with a focus on staining. The night was a success with over 80 locals attending to hear about the challenging art of direct staining. Eight companies demonstrated their products – Bona, Feast Watson, Glitsa, Loba, Polycure, The Traditional Stain Company, Livos and Uretahne Coatings.

**atfa** would like to thank the Victorian committee for organising the event, especially David Myer, Holmesglen Institute of TAFE for providing the venue, the demonstrating companies and all that attended.



## TOP OF THE CLASS – TIMBER TURNS IN A GOOD REPORT CARD ON NATIONAL SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAM

An eleventh hour decision by procurement officers working on the \$16.2 billion federal Building the Education Revolution (BER) scheme will give the NSW timber industry an ‘open-door’ opportunity to supply a wider range of flooring materials for the state’s schools enhancement program. The federal government’s economic stimulus package committed these funds over three years to provide new facilities and refurbishments in Australian schools to “meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers”. A BER communication procurement notice to the NSW forest products industry this month allows for a broadening of the timber flooring mix which previously stipulated only blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) and spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*) with a nominal width of 75 mm. The schools specification standard – Facilities Flooring and Decking SS383 – has been expanded to include timber species and mixes such as manna (ribbon) gum, silvertop stringybark, white and yellow stringybark, diehard stringybark, Dunn’s white gum, messmate, grey box, red mahogany and turpentine (see table below).

“We are working with forest associations to determine the ability of the industry to supply these timbers,” said BER procurement manger Anthony Lee. “The heat is on along the supply chain as many new school building projects in New South Wales are past the earthworks and foundation stage. The project’s demand for timber flooring for multi-

| FROM<br>Acceptable Species | TO<br>Acceptable Species (A) | Acceptable Mix (B) |                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                            |                              | New England mix    | Stringybark mix |
| 1. Blackbutt               | 1. Blackbutt                 |                    |                 |
| 2. Spotted Gum             | 2. Spotted Gum               |                    |                 |
|                            | 3. New England Blackbutt     | X                  |                 |
|                            | 4. Manna (Ribbon) Gum        | X                  |                 |
|                            | 5. Silver-top Stringybark    | X                  | X               |
|                            | 6. White Stringybark         | X                  | X               |
|                            | 7. Yellow Stringybark        |                    | X               |
|                            | 8. Diehard Stringybark       | X                  | X               |
|                            | 9. Dunn’s White Gum          | X                  |                 |
|                            | 10. Messmate                 | X                  | X               |
|                            | 11. Grey Box                 |                    |                 |
|                            | 12. Red Mahogany             |                    |                 |
|                            | 13. Turpentine               |                    |                 |

purpose school halls has put huge pressure on supply need.” Industry observers believe the BER projects under way in the state will require up to 90,000 sq m of flooring. With BER projects for school buildings started also across other states, the demand for timber flooring nationally will be gigantic, they say.

Timber promoters contacted were disappointed that despite advice from industry at least six months ago, the BER procurement program had not expanded the species list beyond blackbutt and spotted gum much earlier. “This has put a serious chink in the supply chain which now has short notice to meet the demands of the schools building program.”. Chief executive of the Timber Merchants Association Victoria Peter Roberts said he believed there were no restrictions on timber flooring species and Victorian ash and Tassie oak were accepted for sports floors. “If anything, the schools program seems to be dragging its feet in Victoria, but there have been no supply problems for merchants. Timber Queensland chief executive Rod McInnes said the roll out of the schools building program was keeping industry busy. “The state program has put a preference on the use of Queensland timber and there is no limitation to any particular species, provided they meet Australian standards,” he said. “There is nothing about winning jobs on the basis of timber species and both structural cypress and pine are being used along with Queensland hardwoods for flooring.” BER projects are generating thousands of jobs in local communities – for manufacturers and material suppliers, builders and tradespeople across the construction industry, people working in the service and hospitality industries, as well as architects, engineers and small business. *Source: article and table – Timber & Forestry e-news 2010*

## ATFA UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to register for the upcoming **atfa** events. For registration details email [lauran@atfa.com.au](mailto:lauran@atfa.com.au)

**Bamboo Forum** 1 day, Brisbane, 15 April

**Queensland Golf Day** 1 day, Brisbane, 23 April

**Engineered, Laminate and Pre-Finished Forum** 1 day, Sydney, 5 May

**US Intermediate (2 days) & Advanced (3 days) Schools** Melbourne, 18 – 22 May.

For registration details see website [http://www.atfa.com.au/courses/installation\\_finishing.html](http://www.atfa.com.au/courses/installation_finishing.html)

## BUILDING APPROVAL TRENDS TO END OF JANUARY 2010

(released March 2<sup>nd</sup> by ABS)

- ABS Building Approvals show that the number of dwelling units approved fell 7.0% in January 2010 following a rise last month.
- The number of dwellings approved fell in Victoria (-15.9%), Queensland (-7.4%) and Tasmania (-27.0%).
- There was a fall in the number of approvals for private sector dwellings other than houses (-29.1%) this month following strong increases in November and December 2009.
- The number of approvals for private sector houses rose 0.3%.
- Victoria (+4.9%), Queensland (+0.7%), South Australia (+4.6%) and Western Australian (+4.2%) recorded more private sector house approvals this month according to the ABS.
- The value of total building approved fell 24.6% in January with the value of both residential (-6.2%) and non-residential building approvals (-41.9%) falling.

Further information is available in *Building Approvals, Australia (cat no. 8731.0)* on the ABS website at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## ATFA WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS

|                 |                                     |                   |                                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mark Taylor     | Floortec Timber Floors              | Robert Harvey     | R Harvey Flooring Contractors   |
| Jenny Kim       | GloryWood                           | James Beard       | Eco Sphere                      |
| Tim Perkins     | George Fethers & Co Trading Pty Ltd | Robert Kopp       | R A Kopp Building Pty Ltd       |
| Danny Davila    | Westech Flooring Pty Ltd            | Mark Creed        | Kingfisher Floors               |
| Nicholas Barnes | Pro Flooring                        | Wei Lu            | Kingswell International Pty Ltd |
| James Schulhin  | James Schulhin Floors               | Nikola Stojcevski | Trumpe Timber Floors            |
| Tim McIntyre    | Cork Interiors                      | Farlan Iriks      | Formula Floors                  |
| Joshua Triplett | Everlast Floors                     | Jayde Bowen       | Northside Timber Flooring       |
| James Simmons   | First for Floors                    | David Stringer    | Stringer Custom Floors          |
| Paul Millington | Addiction to Timber                 | Elie Rashkidi     |                                 |
| David Leeke     | Leeke Constructions                 | Xiang Fan         |                                 |
|                 |                                     | Bill Markov       |                                 |

