

## HYPLANK - GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

HYPLANK SCAFFOLD PLANKS ARE ONLY INTENDED FOR USE AS SCAFFOLD PLANKS ie. for the support of persons, equipment and materials on scaffold constructed and loaded in accordance with AS 1576 and AS 1577.

USE FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE VOIDS CONTINUED USE AS SCAFFOLD PLANKING -

HYPLANK USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE (OR SUBJECT TO TRAUMA) SHOULD:

- Have edge labelling on both sides planed off.
- Be indelibly and permanently marked by painting or stencilling as no longer suitable for use as a scaffold plank.

Other structural laminated veneer lumber products are available for general construction uses. Please contact futurebuild or the technical enquiries number below.

## HYPLANK - TYPICAL DEGRADE EFFECTS & GUIDELINES FOR CONTINUED USE

ITEM		OBSERVATION	POSSIBLE CAUSE / EFFECT	ACTION
1.	Mould	On surface.	Indicates onset of fungal attack which may or may not have become sufficiently established to result in loss of strength.	Do not use planks pending validation for continued use. Wash mould off and then allow planks to dry, examine for soft patches or other evidence of decay (see 5a). If no decay, proof test and return validated planks for service.
2a.	Burns	In aggregate, more than 75 mm across the width of the plank and less than 1 mm maximum depth.	Welding slag or torch burns causing loss of section and loss of strength.	Proof test plank to validate for continued use.
2b.		In aggregate, more than 75 mm across the width of the plank and more than one veneer thickness (or 3 mm) maximum depth.	As above.	Either remove defect by docking affected portion or discard plank.
3.	Saw cuts	In aggregate, more than 75 mm across width of the plank and more than 1 mm deep. Edge cuts more than 10 mm deep.	Notches, such as saw cuts can result in a disproportionate loss of strength.	Discard plank or dock affected portion.
4.	Notches or holes	Any notches or holes other than nail holes.	Holes or notches made in planks to permit penetrations, bolting etc and may result in excessive loss of strength.	Discard planks or dock affected portion.
5a.	Discoloured patches	Not identified as due to paint/stain, cement, oil or other common substances with moderate pH.	Could be fungal decay or chemical degradation leading to softening of wood and loss of strength.	Affected zone exhibits softer wood than surrounding areas - discard plank or dock. Otherwise, proof test to validate continued use.
5b.		Oil, grease, paint or other substance on surface with potential to increase slipperiness.	Slip hazard.	Withdraw planks from service. Gently scrape material and/or wash from surface with detergent. Clean planks may be returned to service.
6a.	General discolouration	Plank surface grey in colour, likely to be accompanied by fine splits (checks) in surface veneers. No evidence of defibration or softening of the surface.	Normal bleaching by the sun. Surface checking is also a normal and not critical early effect of weathering (see 7a).	No action required.
6b.		Dark grey or bleached, accompanied by softening of the wood surface and defibration - ridges of harder wood, parallel to the grain may be left and soft wood readily removed by scratching or rubbing.	Chemical degradation or advanced weathering leading to loss of strength.	Discard planks exhibiting defibration or softening of the wood fibre on the surface. For planks subjected to strong acids and alkalis, proof testing at intervals related to time, usage cycles and exposure is recommended.

ITEM		OBSERVATION	POSSIBLE CAUSE / EFFECT	ACTION
7a.	Splits	Surface splits, discontinuous and usually not extending deeper than the 3rd layer of veneer.	Called 'checks' and result from the weathering effects of constant wetting and drying.	No action required. Checking of this type is normal and has little effect on structural capacity.
7b.		End splits, extending through the full thickness but not more than 300 mm in length.	Result from moisture differentials near the end of planks and the moisture induced shrink and swell characteristics.	No action required. Where splits exceed 300 mm, dock and paint seal end of plank to limit the ingress of moisture.
8.	Splits in edges	Splits in edges between plies. Individually more than 150 mm long and allowing insertion of a knife blade to a depth of more than 10 mm.	Possibly a manufacturing defect. Bond defects usually apparent after first exposure to moisture. (Not to be confused with numerous small checks associated with weathering) - unless extensive unlikely to be critical.	Remove plank from service and invite inspection by manufacturer.
9.	Lifting veneer	Veneer lifting from surface, bubbles etc or more particularly veneer separation at face scarf joint.	Defective manufacture, usually evident very early in the life of the plank. Poorly made scarf joints may be critical.	Remove plank from service and invite inspection by manufacturer.
10.	Any observation suggesting planks have been used as 'duck boards, sole plates, formwork, or for any other purpose other than as scaffold planks.		Planks may be damaged - damage need not be readily apparent but previously damaged planks may break suddenly under normal loading.	Discard for further use as scaffold planks - tag, paint or otherwise clearly and permanently distinguish as not to be used for scaffolding purposes.
11.	Any plank that has been observed as subjected to unusually severe loading - impact loading from falling objects, excessively loaded ( more than 210 kg) with stacked materials, subjected to vehicular traffic etc.		Plank may have been damaged - weakening may not be immediately obvious but plank may break under normal loading on some future occasion.	Immediately remove from scaffolding, discard, tag, paint or otherwise clearly and permanently distinguish affected planks as not to be used for scaffolding purposes.
12.	Corner damage at end/s	Part of the width of the plank near the end/s (more than 15% of width) has been broken away reducing the width of bearing at the end support.	Usually the result of dropping and the loss of width may result in the plank rolling at the affected support.	Dock affected end and paint seal to reduce moisture ingress.
13.	Loss of section	Corner or other part of cross-section area exceeding 400 mm <sup>2</sup> broken away.	The result of damage and depending upon the loss of cross-section will reduce strength.	Either reject for continued use as a scaffold plank or dock affected portion.

**NOTES:**

1. Proof test load should be twice the Working Load Limit (WLL) and plank should be tested with critical defect as near as possible to the load point but on the opposite face to the load application. For planks longer than their maximum span and where there is no clearly defined suspect weak point, testing with planks in a number of positions and orientation is suggested. Portable test rigs are available for this purpose - contact futurebuild.
2. Literature published by futurebuild contains further information including Product Specification, Working Load Limits and maximum spans for use in accordance with AS 1577.