

**SRI LANKA STANDARD 263 : 1974**

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# **BUILDING TIMBER**

**(METRIC UNITS)**

**PART 1 - RECOMMENDATION ON SIZES**

**PART 2 - SPECIFICATION FOR PERMISSIBLE DEFECTS**

**SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION**

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(METRIC UNITS)

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SLS 263 : 1974

Gr. 9

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SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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**FOREWORD**

This standard relating to timber used for building construction has been prepared by the Drafting Committee on Building Timber. This was approved by the Civil Engineering Divisional Committee of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, and was authorised for adoption and publication by the Council of the Institution on 21st May 1974.

This standard has been prepared in two parts. Part I deals with the recommended sizes of timber to be used in the building industry, while Part II defines and describes the defects that are commonly found in building timber. The defects have been classified into those that may be permitted within limits and that should not be allowed at all in building timber.

In the part on timber, sizes, the sections used for different purposes have been standardized, thereby effecting a reduction in the large variety of sections hitherto used. These sections are considered to be of adequate strength for the particular purpose.

The recommendations in regard to structural timber have been based on the use of timber which has a density of  $640 \text{ kg/m}^3$  ( $40.0 \text{ lb/ft.}^3$ ) at 12% moisture content. Reference should be made to the Forest Department for detailed information on the properties of different species of timber.

In order to get the best results from using this standard, it is necessary to take certain precautions in regard to handling timber. Timber, like any other building material, needs to be properly stored until it is used. For most purposes this means keeping it stacked under cover. Storage under cover is specified in order to permit timber purchased in an unseasoned form to be seasoned at site, or to prevent timber purchased in a seasoned form from warping or absorbing moisture. The use of seasoned timber is necessary for two reasons. One is to prevent shrinkage after fabrication or erection, and the other is to reduce the hazards of decay and insect attack. Dry timber is not subject to decay and some forms of insect attack. Briefly, the timber should be stacked at least 0.5 m (or 1.5 ft) above the ground on a suitable platform with the layers of timbers separated by "stickers". These stickers should be evenly spaced, and in vertical planes. If a roofed shed is not available a stack may be constructed and provided with adequate temporary covering to shield it from the weather.

All standard values given in this specification are in **SI** units. Equivalent values in imperial units are given in brackets for guidance. These equivalents have been calculated in accordance with "SLS 116 : 1972 Sri Lanka Standard on Principles of Conversion". The preferred lengths specified in Tables 1 and 2 are based on the multimodules **3M\***, **6M\*** and **12M\*** recommended for use in the building industry. The imperial values now in use together with the corresponding standard metric values are given in Appendix A,

## 1 SCOPE

This publication recommends sizes of timber to be used in the building industry and deals with permissible and non-permissible defects in building timber.

It is divided into two parts :

- Part I - Recommended sizes of timber for use in building construction.
- Part II - Recommendations regarding permissible and non-permissible defects in building timber.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this publication, the following definitions shall apply :

- 2.1 **Bow** - Curvature such that the face is concave or convex along the grain (see Fig. 1).
- 2.2 **Boxed heart** - Insawn or hewn timber, cut so that the pith with any associated defective wood falls entirely within the four surfaces throughout the length of the timber.
- 2.3 **Brittle heart** - The defective core of a log, characterised by abnormal brittleness which occurs in certain species of timber. There is no difference in colour from unaffected wood and a sawn cross-section shows a pitted condition, but the limits of the defect are never sharply defined.
- 2.4 **Check** - A separation of the fibres along the grain forming a crack or fissure in the timber not extending through the piece from one surface to another cf. split. It generally results from stresses set up in the timber during seasoning. The term is usually applied to converted timber. cf. shake.
- 2.5 **Collapse** - Flattening or buckling of the wood elements during seasoning which results in excessive and/or uneven shrinkage and may manifest itself in the form of surface corrugations (washboard effect).

*\*M, the basic module to be used in building work = 100 mm.*