



<p style="text-align: center;">OKOUME PLYWOOD CN CODE 44 12 31 10 (TARIC CODE 44 12 31 10 10) DEFINITIONS AND ADVANTAGES</p>

Manufactured on the Basis of Okoumé (Aucouméa klaineana) Okoumé plywood also designated under the name of "Multiplex" is made from thin wooden sheets. Those veneer sheets are resulting from a peeling process of Okoumé logs. They are trimmed, dried, bonded and laid up on top of each other, hot pressed so as to obtain a very much resistant product.

Light and easy to handle, its layers which are bonded at right angle confer to the product a good stability and an excellent bending resistance.

In addition Okoumé Plywood shows a high resistance to impact and weather.

The wood specie by itself presents the advantage to generate repetition and constancy in aspect when the plywood is produced. The finishing of the product at raw stage is by nature of good.

Extremely versatile in terms of application Okoumé plywood is particularly adapted to the most severe conditions when being used in the construction, boat building, vehicle building industries and as internal or external joinery fitting.

The mechanical properties do not vary much in view of its own consistency in density profile and aspect. They remain very close to those of solid wood but offer more regularity and better stability.


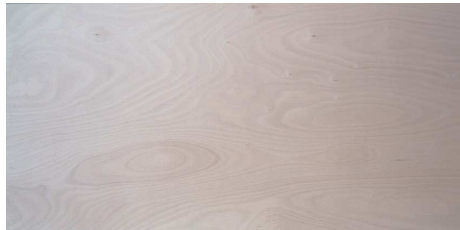


Okoumé as a wood specie is homogenous and therefore does not require by nature synthetic repairs.

Its faces can easily receive all types of finishing systems. As a matter of consequence, Okoumé plywood constitutes an ideal substrate for painting or vanishing finishing systems.



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SURFACE APPEARANCE CLASSES

The Standard or reference covering the surface appearance classes of Okoumé plywood is EN 635-2 which shows the following configuration in descending order:

Okoumé Plywood Face Class E	
Okoumé Plywood Face Class II	
Okoumé Plywood Face Class III	
Okoumé Plywood Face Class IV	
Okoumé Plywood Coated Face Primary paint coat (<i>Prime</i>) or Primary paper (<i>Paint</i>)	




The high classification of the face sides (E) (I) and (II) practically always (III) of the reverse sides allows the application of both paint and varnishes. Okoumé plywood is sometimes coated either with a primary paint coat or a primary paper pre-finishing coat.

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BONDING AND DURABILITY CLASSES OF THE OKOUME WOOD SPECIE

So far as durability is concerned the Okoumé wood specie at solid timber stage shows a durability level of Class 4 in accordance with EN 350 – 2.

EN 636 sets the definition of the bonding classes and uses in accordance with the conditions where the plywood is intended to be used.

The above classes refer to the conditions of use listed below:

<p>Class 1: For use in dry conditions</p>		
<p>Class 2: For use in humid conditions</p>		
<p>Class 3: For use in exterior conditions</p>		

As against to other wood species, the Okoumé wood specie combines several characteristics which allow the production of plywood types which when using the adequate bonding method cover the 3 different classes of usage

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FUNCTIONALITY & EMBLEMATICAL END USES

Okoumé Plywood is in most of the case being used in exterior conditions.

This product is dedicated to this type of end-use because of its durability. It constitutes a good base to receive opaque (paints) or transparent (varnishes) finishing systems.

Those surface treatments are applied in accordance with standard practice and following the recommendations of the suppliers of the finishing systems.

The most frequent further processing procedure consists in applying a first coat also called primer which aims to close the pores of the wood. This operation is followed by an application of 2 or 3 finishing coats.

<p>Okoumé Plywood (Façade)</p> <p>Preparation on the worksite. Using an Okoumé raw plywood</p>	
<p>Okoumé Plywood (Façade)</p> <p>Finishing on the worksite Using Okoumé raw plywood.</p>	



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FUNCTIONNALITIES & MOST FREQUENT END USES

In view of the frequency of this type of end-use, the Okoumé plywood manufacturers have developed 2 semi finished alternatives, allowing saving on both working time and work force. The final application however remains strictly the same.

Those semi finished alternatives include at manufacturing stage either a paper overlay or priming coat.

Those intermediate and temporary coatings are just replacing the first paint layer (or primer). They cannot remain without further surface treatment. They are aimed at receiving the finishing coats.

One has therefore to deal with the same Okoumé plywood, used following a different further processing system, but fulfilling a strictly identical functionality. The photographs below are self explanatory.

<p>Okoumé Plywood (construction)</p> <p>The already painted part (Left side of the photo.) has been made on the basis of Okoumé plywood coated with paper.</p> <p>The horizontal strip (Right side of the photo) is going to be painted directly on the worksite. In both cases it is a sole Okoumé Plywood with the same functionality</p>	
<p>Okoumé Plywood (construction)</p> <p>The painted parts in white colour are applied to an Okoumé plywood substrate</p> <p>The application is carried out at the end user's option either on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A raw core plywood - A Raw core plywood + paper - A raw core plywood + primer <p>Product & Functionalities are identical.</p>	

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FUNCTIONNALITIES & MOST FREQUENT END USES

<p>Okoumé Plywood (Boat Building)</p> <p>The structure is going to be partly surfaced with polyester, partly varnished.</p> <p>Product & Functionalities are identical</p>		
<p>Okoumé Plywood (Vehicle Building)</p> <p>The wall linings of this vehicle are either going to be varnished or painted.</p> <p>Product & Functionalities are identical</p>		
<p>Okoumé Plywood (Exterior joinery works)</p> <p>The plywood is surfaced with a finishing system: Paint or varnish.</p> <p>Product & Functionalities are identical</p>		