

BULETIN EKSPOT KAYU-KAYAN

Timber Export Bulletin

DIKELUARKAN OLIH LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA/ISSUED BY THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD

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SUBJECT: Dark Red Meranti and Light Red Meranti

1. Among the various Malaysian timbers, Dark Red Meranti (DRM) and Light Red Meranti (LRM) are the most sought after in the timber trade. However occasionally some uncertainty arises especially among some overseas importers as to the differentiation between DRM and LRM.
2. It must be stressed that the basis for differentiation between DRM and LRM is the colour of the timber, and not the density. The heartwood of DRM ranges in colour from medium red to deep red and deep red-brown while in LRM, the heartwood is light pink to light red or light brown.
3. Trade Leaflet No. 69 lists out 12 main species which can produce DRM timber. These species are Shorea pauciflora (Meranti nemesu), Shorea curtisii (Meranti seraya), Shorea curtisii spp. grandis (Meranti seraya daun besar), Shorea singkawang (Meranti sengkawang merah), Shorea singkawang var. scabrosa (Meranti sangkawang bulu), Shorea ovata (Meranti sarang punai bukit), Shorea platyclados (Meranti bukit), Shorea acuminata (Meranti rambai daun), Shorea hemsleyana (Meranti daun besar), Shorea macrantha (Meranti kepong hantu), Shorea palembanica (Meranti tengkawang ayer) and Shorea platycarpa (Meranti paya).
4. It must be noted however that while DRM timber is consistently produced by S. pauciflora, S. curtisii, S. curtisii spp. grandis, S. ovata, S. singkawang, S. singkawang var. scabrosa and S. platyclados, only the darker coloured timber from S. acuminata, S. hemsleyana, S. macrantha, S. palembanica and S. platycarpa can be considered as DRM; the lighter coloured timber from these species should be considered as LRM.

5. Similarly, a few Shorea species which normally produce LRM timber do produce darker coloured timbers which can be classified as DRM (e.g. Meranti tembaga - Shorea leprosula).
6. Trade Leaflet No. 75 lists out 12 main species which can produce LRM timber. These species are S. acuminata (Meranti rambai daun), S. dasyphylla (Meranti batu), S. hemsleyana (Meranti daun besar), S. johorensis (Meranti pepijat), S. lepidota (Meranti langgang), S. leprosula (Meranti tembaga), S. macrantha (Meranti kepong hantu), S. ovalis (Meranti kepong), S. palembanica (Meranti tengkawang ayer), S. parvifolia (Meranti sarang punai), S. platycarpa (Meranti paya), and S. teysmanniana (Meranti bunga).
7. However, the lighter coloured timbers of S. acuminata, S. hemsleyana, S. leprosula, S. macrantha, S. palembanica and S. platycarpa are classified as LRM while the dark coloured timbers of these species are classified as DRM.
8. Therefore, the dividing line between species which produce DRM timber and those that produce LRM timber cannot be rigidly demarcated. It must also be noted that the terms Dark Red and Light Red are relative and that the paler shades of Dark Red may be classified by some as a darker shade of Light Red, or vice versa. However, if, during grading, the obvious pieces of Light Red are excluded from a Dark Red order, or vice versa this will do much to prevent complaints about faulty colour grading between DRM and LRM.
9. It should also be noted that MTIB has agreed to allow parcels of DRM sawn timber which comprise solely of timber from Nemesu (Shorea pauciflora) to bear the mark "DARK RED MERANTI (NEMESU)" as the Standard Name of the timber, if this is so desired by the buyer. The relevant documents connected with the transaction of such parcels must also use "DARK RED MERANTI (NEMESU)" as the Standard Name of the timber.
10. Nemesu timber can however also continue to be included in DRM parcels together with the other species which produce DRM timber, in which case the Standard Name to be used for the parcel shall remain as "DARK RED MERANTI".

