



MALAYSIAN GRADING RULES

FOR

RUBBERWOOD SAWN TIMBER



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FOREWORD

The Malaysian timber industry is one of the major contributors to the economic growth in Malaysia. The industry has also successfully placed Malaysia as a major supply of quality timber and timber products which are made from forest and plantation timbers including Rubberwood. Malaysia is a leading producer of a wide range of products manufactured from Rubberwood such as furniture, furniture components, joinery and mouldings due to its beautiful grain, texture and colour as well as excellent working properties.

Realising the importance and contribution of this timber to the Malaysian timber industry, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) has embarked on an exercise to develop a uniform Guideline for its grading to facilitate the trading of this timber. The first edition of the Guideline was issued in 2004, followed with second edition in 2008 after several consultations with relevant sectors such as rubberwood producers and furniture manufacturers. It outlines the process and specifications for grading kiln-dried sawn and dressed timber. After introducing the Guideline for implementation by the industry, further consultations continued and the feedback received made it necessary to revise the Guideline. Realising the fact that the use of the Guideline was not very encouraging by the industry, further consultations and discussions were held with prominent industry players confine to suppliers, furniture manufacturers as well as exporters. Based on the feedback received by MTIB, further improvements and refinement were made to the new Guideline which was later renamed as **'Malaysian Grading Rules for Rubberwood Sawntimber'**. The present edition has divided the grading mechanism which is only applicable to sawntimber with refers to three(3) different grades namely Prime, Select and Standard grades.

Although the use of the Grading Rules is voluntary, traders and the processing industry in Malaysia especially Rubberwood producers and furniture, moulding and joinery manufacturers are strongly encouraged to use the Grading Rules in their procurement. The Grading Rules can be used as an authoritative reference document, with regard to the quality of the timber in the event of any disputes between trading parties. The Grading Rules also enables producers to segregate the sawn timber according to grades thus making it simpler and more efficient to supply and purchase according to the intended final use. The grouping of grades in the Grading Rules could also be useful method to set the intended quality with the right price which generally can be agreed upon between buyers and sellers.

Finally, MTIB wishes to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the members of the Technical Committee as well as the Working Group for their invaluable contribution and views in the formulation of this Grading Rules. MTIB also wishes to thank local Rubberwood suppliers and furniture manufacturers for their assistance and support during the preparation as well as the pilot implementation of this Grading Rules.

DR. JAJALUDDIN HARUN
Director General

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