

D-06: Evaluation of plywood produced in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lankan plywood industry is presently dominated by private plywood mills where the major raw material is rubber wood (*Hevea brasiliensis*). Various parameters affecting the production process of a selected plywood mill in Kegalle were evaluated, and some suggestions were made to solve manufacturer's constraints.

Plywood production process in the mill under study was comparable to that followed in other countries, except some stages that differed and most of the equipment in the factory was locally fabricated. Properties of the plywood manufactured in the mill were studied in terms of the recent Sri Lanka Standard (SLS 261: 1991). Properties of imported plywood selected from one batch were also measured for comparison. Mean glue shear strength of the plywood produced in this factory was 1.55 Nmm^{-2} which satisfied the Sri Lankan standard. Mean glue shear strength values at resistance to micro-organisms test and at water resistance test were 0.85 Nmm^{-2} and 0.76 Nmm^{-2} respectively, which were also above the values given in the Sri Lankan standard. These values in local plywood were higher than those of imported plywood, indicating that local plywood had better veneer bonding properties, durability values against deteriorating organisms and water resistance.