



## SAIA Guidelines on Purchasing Solid Sawn Wood Planks

Items that should be considered when using this checklist as a tool for making purchasing decisions.

- Ultimately, the purchasing decision comes down to the purchaser. **This list is not intended to be used as a “Pass/Fail”**, but rather to arm plank purchasers with an aid in the decision making process.
- Only those items that are listed in **bold** and have an underlined reference are regulated. Other items in this list are based on best known practices within the industry.
- Many of these items have a “Yes” or “No” answer. However, many of them are not as simple as that. Certain quality management systems and visual grading techniques may have greater merits than others. As such, it is advisable to understand the manufacturer’s quality assurance process rather than just if it exists.
- All items should be checked. Address any unchecked items with the manufacturer or supplier.
- Questions may arise; it is recommended that the buyer contact their manufacturer and the SAIA directly for answers.

### Physical/Mechanical Properties:

- Each scaffold plank is **capable of supporting the one person loading requirement when the plank is supported on a 10-foot span.** ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.1
- All solid sawn wood planks shall be rated as “Scaffold Plank” grade and shall be certified by or bear the grade stamp of a grading agency approved by the American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC).** ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.4
- Planks sold, used or stored with elevated moisture content are sized using green or wet use stresses.** ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.8
- Plank surfaces (top and bottom) are not obscured by any coating or finish. Finishes or treatments are allowed provided that they are not opaque.** ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.12 and OSHA 1926.451(b)(9)
- If plank is proof loaded, it shall be in the flat-wise direction only.
- Design properties for species, grade & size are calculated per ANSI, OSHA and ALSC. (ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.7 App. B)

### Manufacture:

- Planks are to be graded by certified ALSC grader
- Planks meet the current grade rules of applicable agency (e.g. SPIB, WCLIB).
- Grading is audited by an independent third party.
- Material has only one manufacturer’s grade stamp.
- Grading occurred with material at the dimensions listed for product.
- Optional manufacturing processes:
  - Clip corners

- Rod the ends
- Seal the ends
- Strap (or gang nail) the ends
- Abraded surfaces are acceptable

Identification:

- Douglas fir scaffold planks may be hammer branded in addition to grade stamp for grade certification.
- Plank is embossed on edges for means of identification and ownership.
- Date of grading and/or sale is included on the plank.
- Plank is clearly identified that it is intended to be used as "SCAFFOLD PLANK".
- All chemically treated (e.g. fire-retardant) planks are readily identified as such. Identification should indicate that chemically treated planks are safe for either interior or exterior use or both.
- Grade stamp is approved by ALSC. ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.4 App. B and will include the following (ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.4 App. B, see also SAIA Solid Sawn Wood Scaffold Plank Pocket Handbook):
  - Manufacturing or re-grading mill identification number
  - Species
  - Moisture content level
  - Technical grade name (e.g. DI65, 171A, 171B)
  - Third party inspection agency
  - "SCAFFOLD PLANK" or similar verbiage

Literature:

- Planks are designed so that they do not deflect more than 1/60<sup>th</sup> of the span under design load. [OSHA 1926.451 \(f\)\(16\)](#), [ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.2](#)***
- Product name on literature matches product name on plank.
- Species used for production is identified.
- Spans established by NDS, ANSI A10.8-2011 App. C or OSHA 1926.451 App. A(a.1).
- Literature includes manufacturer recommendations on the following:
  - Proper storage and handling
  - Visual inspection
  - Mechanical evaluation

Manufacturer/Supplier:

- The manufacturer/supplier will supply a certificate of insurance upon request.
- The manufacturer/supplier will supply a certificate of grade upon request.
- The manufacturer/supplier is an active member in SAIA, Scaffold Shoring Forming Institute and/or other industry trade or professional associations.
- The manufacturer/supplier has ability to respond to technical questions and field problems.
- Manufacturer can identify all mill sources.

*This checklist was compiled by members of the SAIA Platform Council workgroup~©Scaffold & Access Industry Association*