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C O S T   O F   S O F T W O O D S  
R E L A T E D   T O   S A W N   S I Z E S

Tables and graphs for selecting appropriate  
timber sizes

2nd Edition

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C O S T   O F   S O F T W O O D S  
R E L A T E D   T O   S A W N   S I Z E S

P r e f a c e   t o   2 n d   e d i t i o n

The first edition of this publication (October 1974) was based on sales prices of softwoods valid from 1.09.1974 up to 30.09.1976. With effect from 1.10.1976 sales prices for CYPRESS and PINE timber have been increased, whereas the calculation of Sales Tax for sawn timber has been changed \*). On 17.01.1977 increased prices for PODO timber came into effect.

Price increases for CEDAR timber are under consideration and will come into effect as soon as approval of the Price Controller is obtained.

As CYPRESS and PINE are the timbers most used in the construction industry, revision of the parts of the publication dealing with these timbers has been decided upon, data concerning PODO timber have been included, whereas for the cost of CEDAR reference is to be made to the tables and graphs in the previous edition. As soon as revised prices for this timber are available additional tables and graphs will be worked out.

J. Eygelaar  
February 1977

E R R A T A

1. The graph on page 7 should be read on page 19
2. The graph on page 19 should be read on page 7

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\*) no Sales Tax is charged for sawn (unplaned) timber; 10% Sales Tax is charged for planed timber, calculated over the total made up of cost of sawn timber plus planing charges.

PART I - COST OF SAWN TIMBER  
RELATED TO SIZE

Timber market situation in Kenya

Softwoods used in building construction in Kenya originate from comparatively young forests. Moreover, a considerable proportion of sawn softwood is supplied by sawmiller holding licenses for cutting of "thinnings" only. This leads to rather large supply of smaller sections, and a comparative shortage of timber in larger sections.

As a consequence of the above circumstances, the cost per unit (cubic metre) for larger cross-sectional sizes is considerably higher than for smaller sizes.

The above applies to timber sawn in thickness of 25 mm. (1") and over, for which the cost per unit increases with the width of the section.

For boards under 25 mm. (1") thick, extra sawing charges result in higher cost per unit than for thicknesses of 25 mm. and over. But also for these "thin boards", the cost per unit measure increases with the width of the section.

Cost tables and cost graphs.

Price lists of the main timber suppliers in Nairobi indicate prices per metre length for each of the current sawn sections, in standard lengths, excluding sales tax.

Standard random lengths mean:

1.800 to 6.000 m. by increments of 300 mm. for Cypress and Podo;

1.800 to 4.200 m. by increments of 300 mm. for Cedar.

When specific standard lengths are required, prices are raised by 10%.

Since 1.10.1976 no Sales Tax is due on sawn timber (unplanned).

In view of the small increments in the standard lengths most timber users will no doubt order timber within the standard length range. On the other hand, most users will require specific (and not random) lengths and will, therefore, be obliged to pay the 10% surcharge.

Based on the recently (1.10.1976) increased pricelists of one of the main timber suppliers in the Nairobi area (Timsales Ltd.), cost tables have been drawn up for the types of softwood most used in the construction industry: CYPRESS and PINE. Also tables for PODO timber using the increased prices valid from 17.01.1977 have been added. To the suppliers' listed prices 10% has been added for orders in specific standard lengths.

For each sawn section the cost per cubic metre has been calculated and tabulated.

In order to obtain a clear picture of the relation between cross-sectional size and cost per cubic metre, graph sheets show the cost of a number of thicknesses plotted against the width of each section.

#### Conclusion.

As, in Kenya, the supply of smaller sections of softwood is more ample than for larger sections, where possible, use of small timber sections should be preferred over choosing larger sections. As a consequence of the above, cost per unit measure (cubic metre) is lower for smaller sections which renders the use of smaller sections also financially more economical.

The following cost tables and graphs may facilitate exercising optimum economy in dimensioning of timber members.