

A Guide to BS EN 942

This standard is for joinery timber which can be classified as wood and wood based products graded for non structural use within a building excluding sheet materials.

This standard superseded BS1186.

The standard applies to timber once it has been incorporated into its end use in the building.

The centre piece of the standard is the following table which clearly details the limits of timber features/natural defects according to class and face.

FACTOR	J2	J5	J10	J20	J30	J40	J50
MAXIMUM KNOT SIZE	2MM	5MM	10MM	20MM	30MM	40MM	50MM
SPIRAL GRAIN							
RESIN POCKETS BARK POCKETS							
FISSURES, SHAKES							
EXPOSED PITH							
DISCOLOURED SAPWOOD							
AMBROSIA BEETLE DAMAGE							
REACTION WOOD							
SPLITS							
BIOLOGICAL ATTACK							
WANE							

NOT PERMITTED

PERMITTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

The table shows seven classes J2, J5, J10, J20, J40, J50 and each group there is an allowable size of knot and other feature/defect in any visible face.

J2, J5, J10, J20 relate to high quality or specialised joinery requiring special selection of the timber prior to processing and are unlikely to be achieved by using commercially available grades of European Softwood.

J40 and J 50 are for general purpose joinery and are available from commercially grades of European Softwood.

In addition to the limits of features/defects detailed above the standard also looks closely at moisture content.