

TECHNICAL NOTES

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

MADISON, WISCONSIN

No. 85

SHRINKAGE OF VENEER FROM BOILED AND STEAMED LOGS

According to present practice, logs which are to be cut into veneer are either steamed or soaked in hot or boiling water for several hours to soften the wood. The claim is sometimes made that the veneer from boiled logs is likely to shrink and swell less with changing moisture content than the veneer from steamed logs. This point was made the subject of investigation by the Forest Products Laboratory at a plant using both methods of preparing the logs.

Thirty sheets of 1/12-inch rotary-cut birch veneer, 60 inches square, were selected from about six logs prepared in each way. The sheets were carefully measured, passed through a textile drier, and measured again.

The average moisture content of the boiled veneer and that of the steamed before drying were practically the same, being 64.8 and 65.5 per cent, respectively. The average moisture content for both kinds after passing through the drier was 10 per cent, and the moisture contents of all dried sheets were between 7 and 13 per cent.

The shrinkage caused by drying was found to be the same for both kinds of veneer. When the dried sheets were resoaked, they expanded to their original dimensions, and when subjected to a second drying shrank as uniformly as before.

Although these tests were very crude, they indicate that the shrinkage of veneer from boiled and steamed logs is practically the same. The variation is no greater than is found between pieces from different logs which have undergone the same treatment.