

BS 8201:2011



BSI Standards Publication

Code of practice for installation of flooring of wood and wood-based panels

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ISBN 978 0 580 69012 9

ICS 91.060.30

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:

Committee reference B/543

Draft for comment 11/30209204 DC

Publication history

First published February 1987

Second (present) edition, October 2011

Amendments issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 72, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI and came into effect on 30 October 2011. It was prepared by Technical Committee B/543, *Round and sawn timber*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 8201:1987, which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

This British Standard includes recommendations relating to the work involved in laying flooring and illustrates some typical constructions on which it may be laid.

This is a full revision of the standard, and introduces the following principal changes:

- information and recommendations have been rationalized in consideration of current best practice;
- new materials and product availability;
- materials are included in a new Section 2; and
- details provided are now in relation only to wood and wood-based panels installed as, or as a component part of, finished wood flooring

General recommendations applicable to all types of wood flooring are contained within Section 1, Section 2, Section 3 and Section 9, with recommendations specific to individual types of flooring given in Sections 4 to 8. Because some recommendations are applicable to more than one individual type of floor, this involves some repetition. It was considered that a limited degree of repetition to ensure reasonable completeness of each section would be preferable to excessive cross-referencing.

Annex A describes the test method for use in conjunction with the recommendations given in 12.4.6.

Increasingly, in addition to material selection based on performance capabilities, suitability and appearance, consideration is being given to the specification of wood and wood products with regard to legality and sustainability of source.

Whilst this aspect of material specification is not within the remit of British Standards (this might be set to change with the desire of the European Commission to see environmental criteria included in EN product standards) the committee believe it to be of sufficient importance that reference to provisions being made in the UK to address this issue is included in the new Annex B.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Section 1: General

Introduction

This British Standard gives recommendations and guidance on the material, environment and installation variables that in combination have a fundamental effect on the achievement of satisfactory performance and serviceability of finished wood flooring.

The content of the document has been modified to reflect more appropriately wood and wood-based panels installed as finished flooring and, of necessity, as underlayment for finished wood flooring but not for subsequent installation of carpet or resilient flooring.

The installation and use of wood-based panels as primarily a load-bearing surface has been cross referenced to BS 8103-3.

The words “timber” and “wood” in this British Standard cover softwoods, hardwoods and wood-based panels, as appropriate in the context.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for laying the following types of flooring:

- a) board;
- b) pre-assembled board;
- c) strip;
- d) mosaic;
- e) overlay;
- f) parquet;
- g) block;
- h) end grain flooring;
- i) multi-layer; and
- j) wood-based panels.

This British Standard does not cover the protection afforded to a floor by floor coverings or surface finishes.

This British Standard does not cover floors for temporary structures or floors intended for limited use. Different considerations might apply to these floors.

NOTE For laminate flooring, see BS 8425.

Bamboo flooring is also not covered by this British Standard.

The hygrometer test for dampness of concrete bases is given in Annex A. Guidance on the selection of wood species is given in Annex B.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Standards publications

BS 1187, *Specification for wood blocks for floors*

BS 1202-1, *Specification for nails – Part 1: Steel nails*

BS 1210, *Specification for wood screws*

BS 1297, *Specification for tongued and grooved softwood flooring*

BS 4050-2, *Specification for mosaic parquet panels – Part 2: Classification and quality requirements*

BS 6100-8, *Building and civil engineering – Vocabulary – Part 8: Work with timber and wood-based panels*

BS 8103-3, *Structural design of low-rise buildings – Part 3: Code of practice for timber floors and roofs for housing*

BS 8204-1 *Screeds, bases and in situ floorings – Part 1: Concrete bases and cementitious levelling screeds to receive floorings – Code of practice*

BS 8204-4:2004 *Screeds, bases and in situ floorings – Part 4: Cementitious terrazo wearing surfaces – Code of practice*

BS 8417:2011, *Preservation of timber*

BS EN 204, *Classification of thermoplastic wood adhesives for non-structural applications*

BS EN 300:2006, *Oriented strand boards (OSB) – Definitions, classification and specifications*

BS EN 301, *Adhesives, phenolic and aminoplastic, for loading bearing timber structures – Classification and performance requirements*

BS EN 312:2003, *Particleboards – Specifications*

BS EN 636:2003, *Plywood – Specifications*

BS EN 1313-2, *Round and sawn timber – Permitted deviations and preferred sizes – Part 2: Hardwood sawn timber*

BS EN 1991-1-1, *Eurocode 1 – Actions on structures. Part 1-1: General actions – Densities, self-weight, imposed loads for buildings*

NA to BS EN 1991-1-1, *UK National Annex to Eurocode 1 – Actions on structures. General actions – Part 1-1: Densities, self-weight, imposed loads for buildings*

BS EN 1995-1-1, *Eurocode 5 – Design of timber structures – Part 1-1: General – Common rules and rules for buildings*

BS EN 13226, *Wood flooring – Solid parquet elements with grooves and/or tongues*

BS EN 13228, *Wood flooring – Solid wood overlay flooring elements including blocks with an interlocking system*

BS EN 13629, *Wood flooring – Solid pre-assembled hardwood board*

BS EN 13986, *Wood-based panels for use in construction – Characteristics, evaluation of conformity and marking*

BS EN 14342:2005, *Wood flooring – Characteristics, evaluation of conformity and marking*

BS EN 14904, *Surfaces for sports areas – Indoor surfaces for multi-sports use – Specification*

DD CEN/TS 15676, *Wood flooring – Slip resistance – Pendulum test*

Other publications

[N1] Property Care Association. *Remedial Timber Treatment Code of Practice*. Huntingdon: PCA, 2008.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the terms and definitions given in BS 6100-8 and the following apply.

- 3.1 base/subfloor**
element that supports the flooring
- 3.2 battens**
solid wood or laminated wood to enable timber flooring to be mechanically fixed and raised off a solid subfloor or base
NOTE Battens are usually floating. They may be used with cradles or other levelling systems.
- 3.3 block flooring**
softwood or hardwood blocks either square edged or with a system of interlocking into each other
- 3.4 concrete subfloor**
mass concrete base (floor slab) onto which wood flooring, or a finishing screed prior to installation of wood flooring, is to be applied
- 3.5 damp-proof membrane**
continuous layer of impervious material installed under a concrete slab between the slab and the ground
- 3.6 end grain block flooring**
flooring of softwood or hardwood blocks with the wearing surface at right angles to the grain
- 3.7 end matched**
joint at the end of the strip or board, square-ended and tightly abutted, usually interlocking in the form of a tongued and grooved joint
NOTE This term does not in any way refer to the colour or grain pattern of the timber.
- 3.8 face**
better or preferred surface of the element
- 3.9 fixed floor**
method of construction where the flooring is fixed directly to the base
NOTE E.g. fixed to joists or glued down to the base. [See Figure 1 and Figure 3a).]
- 3.10 floating floor**
method of construction where the flooring is fixed to a floating batten or laid upon a base, with a resilient underlay between, without being positively fixed to the base
NOTE See Figure 2.
- 3.11 flooring**
upper layer of a floor providing a finished surface; including wood board and strip, block, mosaic, overlay and parquet, and wood-based panel products