

Technical Bulletin –

Understanding International Building Code /International Residential Code Definition of ‘Naturally Durable Wood’ for Code Compliance

The International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) require the use of Treated or Naturally Durable Wood having the durability of Redwood or Cedar as a minimum standard for deck constructions.

Both Redwood and Cedar have a durability class rating of Class 2 (moderate) or higher in above ground applications. It is important to note that the durability rating of wood is associated with heartwood. As such untreated sapwood of Redwood, Cedar or any other species must always be considered as non-durable.

This document has been prepared to assist the building inspection professional whose state or municipality has adopted IBC and IRC codes as the minimum standards basis for commercial and residential construction.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common/Market Names</u>	<u>Durability Class</u>	<u>IBC/IRC Compliant</u>
Ipe	Tabebuia spp (Lapacho Group)	Brazilian Walnut	High	Yes
Cumaru	Dipterix odorata	Brazilian Teak, Red Cumaru, Yellow Cumaru	High	Yes
Massaranduba	Manilkara bidentata	Brazilian Redwood	High	Yes
Teak	Tectona grandis	Teak	High	Yes
Red Balau	Shorea spp	Batu, Red Selangan Batu	High	Yes
Garapa	Apuleia leocarpa	Garapa Gold, Brazilian Ash	High	Yes
Cambara	Erisma uncinatum	Cambara, Cedrino	Moderate	Yes
Genuine Mahogany	Swietenia macrophylla	Genuine Mahogany	Moderate	Yes
Western Red Cedar	Thuja plicata	Cedar	Moderate	Yes
Redwood	Sequoia spp	Redwood	Moderate	Yes
Meranti (Dark Red)	Shorea spp	Meranti Batu, Mahogany	Low	No
Meranti (Light Red)	Shorea spp	Iuan, Mahogany	Low	No
Balau (Yellow)	Shorea spp	Yellow Selangan Batu	Moderate	Yes

References:

U.S Forest Products Laboratory Wood Technical Fact Sheets

Australian Timber Standard AS 5604-2005

Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry