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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### **Understanding the difference between IRON WOODS® DNA brand Red Balau vs Generic Red Balau/Batu (aka Mahogany) decking.**

Timber Holdings USA is committed to the protection of our customers from an unregulated market where misrepresentations of product quality, common names, generalization of trade names and species have become common practice. This include compliance with all international and domestic laws pertaining to the legal trade of forest products including but not limited to the U.S. Lacey Act Due Care requirements which requires accurate wood species identification.

Generic “Red Balau or Batu” is generally imported from Malaysia under the loose species identification of Shorea spp Balau Group. The Shorea spp Balau Group genus includes hundreds of subspecies making it very difficult to control durability.

The U.S. Forest Products Laboratory identifies Red Balau as Shorea spp. Balau Group as being very variable with a non-durable classification due to the volume of subspecies that can technically be included in the group.

To protect our customers from species confusion, all products sold under the IRON WOODS DNA RED BALAU trademark are sourced from Indonesia using Natures Bare Code™ DNA wood identification, chain of custody, controlled wood technology to specifically identify four highly durable subspecies SHOREA GUIISO, SHOREA KUNSTLERI, SHOREA COLLIN and SHOREA OCHROPHLOIA. Iron Woods DNA Red Balau is also independently inspected, graded, selected, certified, and warranted as to the specific grade specified and defined under our Iron Woods Grading Rules. These certificates and grading rules are available upon request.

Generic “Red Balau or Batu” is generally imported under the loose grade term of FAS (first and seconds), or various trademarks which represent no specific species or grading rules. These products may include unidentified mixed species, non-durable sapwood, borer holes, knots, shake, and other milling defects. A lack of specifically defined grading rules allows the mills to produce lumber with defects that can directly affect the performance and appearance of these materials supplied. This has led to the experience of inconsistency within the Red Balau, Batu, Mahogany decking market.

We support the efforts of consumers to protect themselves by requesting specific species, grade, and quality standards for the wood products they purchase. Failure by any supplier to provide such information is a strong indicator that the consumer might not be receiving the product they believe they have paid for.

Clarity creates accountability.