

Commercial Standard **CS233-63**

Supersedes CS233-60

## Laminated Hardwood Block Flooring

A recorded  
voluntary standard of the  
trade published by  
the U.S. Department  
of Commerce



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## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **OFFICE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

#### **Commodity Standards Division**

With the cooperation of the  
Forest Products Laboratory, Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Having been passed through the regular procedures of the Commodity Standards Division, and approved by the acceptors hereinafter listed, this Commercial Standard is issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, effective March 13, 1963.

LUTHER H. HODGES, *Secretary.*

#### **COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

Commercial Standards are developed by manufacturers, distributors, and users in cooperation with the Commodity Standards Division of the Office of Technical Services and with the National Bureau of Standards. Their purpose is to establish quality criteria, standard methods of test, rating, certification, and labeling of manufactured commodities, and to provide uniform bases for fair competition.

The adoption and use of a Commercial Standard is voluntary. However, when reference to a Commercial Standard is made in contracts, labels, invoices, or advertising literature, the provisions of the standard are enforceable through usual legal channels as a part of the sales contract.

Commercial Standards originate with the proponent industry. The sponsors may be manufacturers, distributors, or users of the specific product. One of these three elements of industry submits to the Commodity Standards Division the necessary data to be used as the basis for developing a standard of practice. The division by means of assembled conferences or letter referenda, or both, assists the sponsor group in arriving at a tentative standard of practice and thereafter refers it to the other elements of the same industry for approval or for constructive criticism that will be helpful in making any necessary adjustments. The regular procedure of the division assures continuous servicing of each Commercial Standard through review and revision whenever, in the opinion of the industry, changing conditions warrant such action.

#### **SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Under a similar procedure the Commodity Standards Division cooperates with industries in the establishment of Simplified Practice Recommendations. Their purpose is to eliminate avoidable waste through the establishment of standards of practice for sizes, dimensions, varieties, or other characteristics of specific products; to simplify packaging practices; and to establish simplified methods of performing specific tasks.

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The initial printing of CS233-63 was made possible through the cooperation of the Hardwood Plywood Institute.

# Laminated Hardwood Block Flooring

(Second Edition)

(Effective March 13, 1963)

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Commercial Standard is to establish a basis of common understanding for the quality requirements of laminated hardwood block flooring. General adoption of this voluntary standard will facilitate the procurement and use of this type of flooring, and architects, builders, distributors, applicators, engineers, contractors, and industrial users will be able to specify their needs from nationally recognized uniform grades. This should result in a better understanding between buyer and seller, and in fair competition among manufacturers.

## 2. SCOPE AND CLASSIFICATION

2.1 SCOPE.--This Standard covers the quality criteria for tongued and grooved laminated hardwood blocks for use as a finish floor where block flooring is desired. It also provides a method certifying and labeling those blocks that comply with the Standard.

2.2 CLASSIFICATION.--The laminated hardwood block flooring covered by this standard is of modified waterproof bond as described in paragraph 4.5.2, and is made of the wood species and grades indicated below:

2.2.1 *Species of wood.*--The face veneer of each block shall be, as specified by the buyer, of either red or white oak, beech, birch, cherry, hard maple, hickory, pecan, walnut, or other hardwoods known to be suitable for floors.

2.2.2 *Densities.*--For purposes of this standard, face veneers of the generally used species are classified by densities as follows:

***High Density:***

Beech, American  
Birch, yellow, sweet  
Hickory  
Maple, black (hard)  
Maple, sugar (hard)  
Oak, commercial red  
Oak, commercial white  
Pecan, commercial  
Teak

***Medium Density:***

Cherry, black  
Sapele  
Walnut, American

***Low Density:***

Poplar, Yellow

2.2.3--In determining density of softwoods for inner plies or of hardwoods not mentioned in the preceding list, use a specific gravity of 0.56 and above for high density, 0.41 up to and including 0.55 for medium density, and 0.40 and lower for low density. These are to be based on the oven-dry weight of the wood and the volume at 12% moisture content.

2.2.4 *Grades and finish.*--The face veneer of each block shall be of the following grades (see 3.1), as specified by the buyer, and each block shall be finished or unfinished (see par. 7.2) as specified by the buyer; however, the blocks are customarily furnished finished:

Grade A (Prime)  
    Finished  
    Unfinished  
Grade B (Standard)  
    Finished  
    Unfinished

**3. REQUIREMENTS**

3.1 **FACES.**--The face of each block shall be of the species of hardwood specified (see par. 2.2.1) and the grades specified (see par. 2.2.4) shall be in accordance with those described below.

3.1.1 *Grade A--(Prime).*--The face shall be made up of tight, smoothly cut veneer containing the natural character markings inherent in the species. If made of more than one

piece, the face veneer shall be matched at the joints to avoid sharp contrasts in color and grain. A few small burls, occasional pin knots, and slight color streaks or spots will be permitted. Sapwood will be permitted. Inconspicuous filling will be permitted. Knots (other than pin knots), wormholes, splits, shake, doze, and other forms of decay will not be permitted.

3.1.2 *Grade B—(Standard).*—The face shall be free from defects that preclude a sound surface. The face may contain slight imperfections in working. The veneer need not be matched for grain or color. It may contain mineral streaks, stain, discoloration, sound tight knots up to 3/4 inch in average diameter, and sound smooth burls up to 1 inch in average diameter. Sapwood will be permitted. Filling will be permitted. Brashness, open splits, shake, doze, or other forms of decay will not be permitted.

3.1.3 *Inner plies.*—Inner plies shall conform to the grading requirement of Inner Ply Grade as described below and in table 1. This grade veneer permits discolorations, stain, mineral streaks, patches, tight knots, tight burls, knotholes up to 3/4 inch in average diameter, wormholes, splits or open

*Table 1.—Summary of Characteristics and Defects Permitted in Inner Ply Grade and Back Grade Veneers*

Defects	Inner Ply Grade	Back Grade
Sound tight knots .....	Yes .....	Yes.
Sound tight burls .....	Yes .....	Yes.
Mineral streaks .....	Yes .....	Yes.
Discolorations .....	Yes .....	Yes.
Knotholes.....	Max. diam. 3/4 in .....	Max. diam. 2 in.; sum of diam. 4 in. in any 12-in. square.
Wormholes.....	Yes .....	Yes.
Splits or open joints....	Yes; 3/16 in. for one-half length of panel.	1 in. for one-fourth length panel; 1/2 in. for one half length of panel; 1/4 in. for full length of panel.
Cross breaks.....	Max. 3/4 in. in length	Yes.
Patches.....	Yes .....	Yes.
Sapwood.....	Yes .....	Yes.
Gum spots.....	Yes .....	Yes.
Bark pockets.....	Yes .....	Yes.
Brashness, shake, doze and decay.....	No.....	No.
Stain .....	Yes .....	Yes.
Rough cut.....	Small area .....	Yes.
Laps .....	No.....	No.

joints not exceeding 3/16 inch and not extending half the length of panel, cross breaks not greater in length than that of the permissible knotholes, and small areas of roughgrain. Brashness, shake, doze, or other forms of decay are not permitted.

3.1.4 *Backs.*—All backs shall conform to the back grading requirements described below and in table 1. The veneer for this grade is unselected for grain or color. Knotholes no greater than 2 inches in maximum diameter and no group of knotholes in any blocks exceeding 3 inches in diameter, and splits no wider than 1 inch are permitted. Splits 1 inch wide at widest point may be one-fourth of the panel length; those not more than 1/2 inch wide at widest point may be one-half of the panel length; those not more than 1/4 inch wide may be full-panel length. Mineral streaks, stain and discolorations not associated with rot or doze, shims, plugs, patches, knots, burls, worm or borer holes, and other characteristics are permitted, provided they do not seriously impair the strength or serviceability of the panel into which the veneer is incorporated.

3.2 ADHESIVES AND BONDS.—All adjacent surfaces of each ply in each block shall be uniformly and securely bonded over the entire area with an adhesive that will withstand the delamination test described in paragraph 4.5.2.

3.3 CONSTRUCTION.—Blocks shall be made of three or more plies with the direction of the grain of each ply approximately at right angles to the grain of the adjacent plies, except for 4-ply blocks in which the two center plies shall be laminated with the grain running in the same direction. All plies, except the center ply, shall occur in pairs, the two plies of each pair shall be of the same species or species with similar densities, thickness, and direction of grain, but placed on opposite sides of the core. In 4-ply blocks, the two center plies shall be of the same species, thickness and direction of grain. The face ply shall not be less than 1/8 inch in thickness before sanding and shall have a uniform bevel not exceeding 1/16 inch on the face edges, if finished (square edge, if unfinished). The maximum thickness of veneer is governed by the density of the individual ply as follows: High Density 3/16" Medium Density 3/16", and Low Density 1/4". Blocks shall be free from any degree of warp or twist that would interfere with the proper installation of the block flooring.

3.4 EDGES.—Each block shall have a tongue or corresponding matching groove on each of the four edges which will insure proper inter-membering with each adjacent block, and provide a finished floor surface within the tolerances provided under paragraph 3.5.

3.5 DIMENSIONS AND MEASUREMENTS.--The conventional size of laminated blocks shall be 9 x 9 inches, plus or minus 1/64 inch in length and width, other sizes are permissible providing they do not increase the degree of warp or twist. The conventional thickness shall be 15/32 inch plus or minus 1/64 inch. The length of the two face diagonals of each block shall be within 1/32 inch to assure squareness. Block flooring shall be measured and counted as of the actual surface that it will cover.

3.6 MOISTURE CONTENT.--Blocks shall be manufactured from properly dried and conditioned veneers, and each block shall have a moisture content at the time of shipment from the mill of not less than 5 percent or more than 12 percent. Because of the tendency of wood to change moisture content with changes in atmospheric conditions, no specific percentage of moisture content can be guaranteed when the blocks reach their destination. However, manufacturers shall exercise all possible care in seasoning, conditioning, bonding, finishing, handling, and packing the blocks to assure their delivery in suitable condition. The purchaser or distributor shall, of course, be responsible for the proper storing and handling of the blocks after they are received. Moisture content of the blocks at the time of shipment shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 4.5.1.

3.7 WORKMANSHIP.--The overall workmanship and manufacturing processes shall produce blocks free from defects except as permitted herein.

#### 4. SAMPLING, INSPECTION, AND TEST PROCEDURES

4.1 The manufacturer shall, at the purchaser's request, certify as shown in paragraph 5.1.1 that the laminated hardwood block flooring furnished on the purchaser's order was manufactured by using materials and practices known to produce flooring blocks to meet this Standard in all respects, including compliance with the following tests. When the purchaser requires that tests of the shipment be made in lieu of the manufacturer's self certification, standard test procedure, as given in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5.2.1, shall be used.

4.2 LOT.--A lot shall consist of all blocks of the same species and grade manufactured at one plant and submitted for acceptance at one time; each individual shipment shall be considered an inspection lot.

4.3 SAMPLING.--From each lot, select at random the number of blocks to be sampled for inspection and tests (see column 2 of table 2).

4.3.1 *Sampling and inspection.*--The inspections and tests given herein shall be made regularly during the production of all items labeled or otherwise designated as conforming to this Commercial Standard. These tests may also be used as acceptance tests by the purchaser, or by an independent laboratory as his representative, at the purchaser's option. Sufficient samples of flooring blocks shall be selected at random from each lot during production as are found necessary by experience to consistently maintain the quality of the blocks in full conformance with all of the requirements of the Standard.

4.4 INSPECTION.--Each of the sample blocks selected shall be visually and dimensionally inspected and tested to determine compliance as regards species, grade, number of plies, dimensions, finish, and all other visual characteristics. Any sample block containing one or more visual or dimensional defects or which fails the moisture content or bond test, shall be classed as defective. If the number of inspected blocks classed as defective is less than or equal to the acceptance number given in column 3 of table 2, accept the lot. If the number of defective blocks exceeds the acceptance number given in column 3 of table 2, reject the lot. Rejected lots may again be offered for inspection, provided the manufacturer has removed all non-complying blocks. The inspector shall again select and examine samples from rejected lots to verify compliance with the standard.

Table 2.—*Sampling Table*

(1) Number of blocks in shipment	(2) Number of blocks to be sampled	(3) Number of blocks accept- ance number
1 to 200.....	5	1
201 to 650.....	15	3
651 to 1,000.....	20	4
1,001 to 1,500.....	25	5
1,501 to 2,000.....	30	6
2,001 to 3,000.....	40	8

4.5 TESTS.--Tests by the purchaser must be completed within 10 days after the product has reached destination. All inspection and testing shall be done by an independent, competent, recognized laboratory or association. Unless otherwise specified, the cost of such tests is to be borne by the purchaser, unless lot is rejected by the testing agency, and then the cost is to be borne by the manufacturer.

4.5.1 *Determination of moisture content.*--Either of the following methods may be used to determine the moisture content of laminated hardwood flooring blocks, except as limited and defined in paragraph 4.5.1.1. Any tested block found to be outside the limits specified in paragraph 3.6, shall be classed as defective.

4.5.1.1 *Electrical moisture meter method.*--A pronged meter, calibrated against the oven-drying method for the species, thickness, type of glue, and construction, shall be used. Those readings between 5.0 percent and 12.0 percent at the time of shipment will be acceptable. Any reading in dispute shall be tested by the oven-drying method, the results of which shall be final. Electrical moisture meter tests shall be made from the unfinished side of the block.

4.5.1.2 *Oven-drying method.*--Saw the sample blocks to be tested in half across the face grain. From one of the halves cut a piece 3 inches long by 2 inches wide along the freshly sawn edge, the section to be cut approximately equidistant from the two opposite manufactured edges. Remove all loose splinters, weigh immediately to the nearest tenth of a gram. This is the original weight. Dry in an oven maintained at a temperature of 212° to 220° F. (100° to 105° C.) until constant weight is attained. Reweigh the specimen. This is the oven-dry weight. Compute moisture content as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Original weight--Oven-dry weight}}{\text{Oven-dry weight}} \times 100 = \text{Moisture Content Percent}$$

4.5.2 *Delamination or glue bond test.*--From a block or blank, a 4 by 8 inch test piece is cut. In preparing the test piece, all tongue and groove portions must be removed. The 4-inch dimension shall be parallel with the direction of the grain of the face ply and the 8-inch dimension shall be perpendicular with the direction of the grain of the face ply. The test specimens shall then be submerged in boiling water for a period of 2 hours. Remove the specimen and after 20 hours drying at a temperature of 145° F. (± 5° F.) examine the edges for delamination. A specimen fails when any single visible de-



their own design provided that the conformance to the standard is clearly stated.

## 6. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

6.1 PACKAGING AND PACKING.--Unless otherwise specified, the blocks shall be shipped in standard commercial containers, so as insure acceptance by carriers for transportation at the lowest applicable rate and to give adequate protection against the normal hazards of transportation.

6.2 MARKING.--Unless otherwise specified, shipping containers shall be marked in accordance with standard commercial procedures.

## 7. NOTES

7.1 ORDERING DATA.--Purchasers should specify the face wood species, the face grade, whether finished or unfinished blocks are required, and exercise any desired option offered herein (see paragraphs 2.2.1, 2.2.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.5, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2 and 7.2).

7.2 Laminated hardwood blocks are customarily furnished finished but may be ordered unfinished for special jobs. A minimum requirement for finishing is one or more coats of acceptable floor finishes. The top coat or wearing surface shall be hard, glossy, and water repellent. Acceptable top coats are penetrating sealers, shellacs, lacquers, and varnishes.

7.3 INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS.--Wood flooring will give the best service if its moisture content, when laid, is close to that which it will ultimately attain in service; consequently, laminated hardwood flooring blocks should not be unpackaged or laid until all plastering, concrete, and masonry work is completed and entirely dry and until all exterior openings are enclosed. In order to obtain the maximum service and satisfaction from this type of flooring, mastic and nail installations should conform to the latest written recommendation and specification data of the manufacturer of the flooring or of the mastic.

## HISTORY OF PROJECT

In a letter dated July 30, 1962, the Hardwood Plywood Institute requested that Commercial Standard CS233-60 for

Laminated Hardwood Block Flooring be revised to include a classification of the wood species into three density groups. The proposal was reviewed by the Commodity Standards Division and by the Forest Products Laboratory. On August 27, 1962 the proposed revision was sent to the Standing Committee for approval by letter ballot.

Upon approval by a majority of the members of the Standing Committee a Recommended Revision of the standard was prepared and was temporarily designated TS-5614. The Recommended Revision was widely circulated to the trade on January 15, 1963, for consideration and final approval. Endorsements in the form of signed acceptances from individual producers, distributors, and users were received in sufficient numbers to indicate effective support for the revision. Accordingly the successful establishment of the revision designated CS233-63, was announced on February 13, 1963, to become effective for new production on March 13, 1963.

*Project Manager:* Wm. H. Furcolow, Commodity Standards Division, Office of Technical Services, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C.  
*Technical Adviser:* R. F. Blomquist, Glues and Glued Products Research Division of Solid Wood Products, Forest Products Laboratory, Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Madison 5, Wis.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE

The following individuals comprise the membership of the standing committee, which is to review, prior to circulation for acceptance, revisions proposed to keep the standard abreast of progress. Comment concerning the standard and suggestions for revision may be addressed to any member of the committee or to the Commodity Standards Division, Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce which acts as secretary for the committee.

*Representing Manufacturers:*

Mr. Leonard M. Wilson, The Modernwood Co., P.O. Box 360, Clinton, S. C. (Chairman).

Mr. M. E. Conrad, E. L. Bruce Co., Inc., Box 397, Memphis 1, Tenn.

Mr. E. P. Crozat, Higgins Industries Inc., P. O. Box 8169, New Orleans, 22, La.

Mr. Charles R. Roberts, Wood Mosaic Corp., 5000 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, Ky.

*Representing Distributors:*

Mr. Robert C. Fraunberger, Lumberman's Merchandising Corp., 148 East Lancaster Avenue, Wayne, Pa.

Mr. W. H. Leachman, Johnson & Wimsatt, Inc., Box 458, Springfield, Va. (Representing the National-American Wholesale Lumber Association).

*Representing Users:*

Mr. Benjamin F. Coats, Deluxe Floor Co., 709 Gelston Place, El Cerrito, Calif.

Mr. Frank C. Roper, Fol Door & Surfaces, Inc., 2028 E. 46th St., Cleveland 3, Ohio.

## ACCEPTORS

The manufacturers, distributors, users, and others listed below have individually indicated in writing their acceptance of this Commercial Standard prior to its publication. The acceptances indicate an intention to utilize the Standard as far as practicable, but reserve the right to depart from it as may be deemed desirable. The list is published to show the extent of recorded public support for the Standard, and should not be construed as indicating that all products made by the acceptors actually comply with its requirements.

Products that meet all requirements of the Standard may be identified as such by a certificate, grade mark, or label. Purchasers are encouraged to require such specific representation of compliance, which may be given by the manufacturer whether or not he is listed as an acceptor.

### ASSOCIATIONS (General Support)

American Institute of Architects, Washington, D. C.  
American Specification Institute, Chicago, Ill.  
American Walnut Manufacturers' Association, Chicago, Ill.  
Fine Hardwoods Association, Chicago, Ill.  
Hardwood Plywood Institute, Arlington, Va.  
Home Manufacturers Association, Washington, D. C.  
National Building Materials Distributors Ass'n, Chicago, Ill.  
National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, Washington, D. C.  
Purchasing Agents Association of Indianapolis, Ind., Indianapolis, Ind.

### FIRMS AND OTHER INTERESTS

American Cyanamid Co., Wallingford, Conn.  
Ashton, C. J., & Co., Royal Oak, Mich.  
Auto-Nailer Company, Atlanta, Ga.  
Benson Veneer Co., Inc., Benson, N. C.  
Bogher, Harry, Architect, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Borden Chemical Company, New York, N. Y.  
Bruce, E. L. & Co., Memphis, Tenn.  
Brust & Brust, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Burnet-Binford Lumber Co., Indianapolis, Ind.  
Camlet, J. Thomas, Architect, Garfield, N. J.  
Cannon & Mullen, Architects, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Central of Georgia Railway Co., Savannah, Ga.  
Chicago Mill & Lumber Co., Chicago, Ill.  
Clarke Veneers & Plywood, Jackson, Miss.  
Conrad & Cummings, Binghamton, N. Y.  
Deluxe Floor Co., El Cerrito, Calif.  
Detrick Sales Corp., Louisville, Ky.  
Detroit, City of, Public Works, Detroit, Mich.

Fellheimer & Wagner, Architects, New York, N. Y.  
Flannagan, Eric G., & Sons, Henderson, N. C.

Gans, Carl H., New York, N. Y.  
Gillett Veneer & Plywood Co., Gillett, Wis.

Harbor Sales Co., Inc., Baltimore, Md.  
Higgins Industries Inc., New Orleans, La.  
Hoboken Wood Flooring Corp., Kearney, N. J.

Larson Plywood Company, Inc., Sheboygan, Wis.

Law, Law, Potter & Nystrom, Madison, Wis.  
Leidigh & Havens Lumber Co., Salina, Kans.

Lester Brothers, Inc., Martinsville, Va.  
Loeb, Laurence M., Architect, White Plains, N. Y.

Lumbermens Merchandising Corp., Wayne, Pa.  
Lumber Products, Portland, Oreg.

Miller, Miller & Associates, Terre Haute, Ind.

Modernwood Co., Clinton, S. C.  
Morgan Co., Oshkosh, Wis.  
Morgan Sash & Door Co., Lawton, Okla.  
Morrison-Merrill & Co., Salt Lake City, Utah

National Casein Co., Chicago, Ill.  
Nelson Plywood Corp., Gillett, Wis.  
Newton Lumber & Mfg. Co., Colorado Springs, Colo.

O & N Lumber Co., Menomonie, Wis.

Patzig Testing Laboratories, Des Moines, Iowa  
Pioneer Wholesale Supply Co., Salt Lake City, Utah  
Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pivnick, Ben., Plywood and Veneer Co., Detroit, Mich.  
Potlatch Forests, Inc., Warren, Ark.

Reid, William H., Whittier, Calif.

Rinn-Scott Lumber Co., Chicago, Ill.  
Ritchie, James H., & Associates, Boston,  
Mass.  
Robbins Door & Sash Co., Woodbury Heights,  
N. J.

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Chicago, Ill.  
Seneca Lumber & Millwork, Inc., Fostoria,  
Ohio  
Southern Hardwood Producers, Inc.,  
Memphis, Tenn.  
Southern Plywood Corp., Pensacola, Fla.  
Spiegel, Inc., Chicago, Ill.  
Stoetzel, Ralph, Inc., Architects, Chicago,  
Ill.  
Swan Lake Moulding Co., Klamath Falls,  
Oreg.

Timberline Inc., Kansas City, Mo.  
Triangle Distributors, Inc., Tupelo, Miss.  
Twin City Hardwood Lumber Co., St. Paul,  
Minn.

University of Texas, Austin, Tex.

Van Dyke, James H., Associates, Architect,  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Vogel, Willis A., Architect, Toledo, Ohio

Wanke Panel Co., Portland, Oreg.  
Welch, Carroll E., Architect, Huntington,  
N. Y.  
Wheaton Lumber Co., Inc., Wheaton, Md.  
Wood Mosaic Corp., Louisville, Ky.

Young, Ray, Mill & Manufacturers, Radburn,  
Fair Lawn, N. J.

#### U. S. GOVERNMENT

General Services Administration, Washing-  
ton, D. C.

Interior, Dept. of, Washington, D. C.

Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.

Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C.

## ACCEPTANCE OF COMMERCIAL STANDARD

### CS233-63, LAMINATED HARDWOOD BLOCK FLOORING

If acceptance has not previously been filed, this sheet properly filled in, signed, and returned will provide for the recording of your organization as an acceptor of this Commercial Standard.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Commodity Standards Division  
Office of Technical Services  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We believe that this Commercial Standard constitutes a useful standard of practice, and we individually plan to utilize it as far as practicable in the

production<sup>1</sup>      distribution<sup>1</sup>      purchase<sup>1</sup>      testing<sup>1</sup>  
of this commodity.

We reserve the right to depart from the standard as we deem advisable.

We understand, of course, that only those articles which actually comply with the standard in all respects can be identified or labeled as conforming thereto.

Signature of authorized officer \_\_\_\_\_ (In ink)

(Kindly typewrite or print the following lines)

Name and title of above officer \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fill in exactly as it should be listed)

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City, zone, and State \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Underscore the applicable words. Please see that separate acceptances are filed for all subsidiary companies and affiliates which should be listed separately as acceptors. In the case of related interest, trade associations, trade papers, etc., desiring to record their general support, the words "General support" should be added after the signature.

(Cut on this line)

## TO THE ACCEPTOR

The following statements answer the usual questions arising in connection with the acceptance and its significance:

1. *Enforcement.*—Commercial Standards are commodity specifications voluntarily established by mutual consent of those concerned. They present a common basis of understanding between the producer, distributor, and consumer and should not be confused with any plan of governmental regulation or control. The United States Department of Commerce has no regulatory power in the enforcement of their provisions, but since they represent the will of the interested groups as a whole, their provisions through usage soon become established as trade customs, and are made effective through incorporation into sales contracts by means of labels, invoices, and the like.

2. *The acceptor's responsibility.*—The purpose of Commercial Standards is to establish, for specific commodities, nationally recognized grades or consumer criteria, and the benefits therefrom will be measurable in direct proportion to their general recognition and actual use. Instances will occur when it may be necessary to deviate from the standard and the signing of an acceptance does not preclude such departures; however, such signature indicates an intention to follow the standard, where practicable, in the production, distribution, or consumption of the article in question.

3. *The Department's responsibility.*—The major function, performed by the Department of Commerce in the voluntary establishment of Commercial Standards on a nationwide basis is fourfold: First, to act as an unbiased coordinator to bring all interested parties together for the mutually satisfactory adjustment of trade standards; second, to supply such assistance and advice as past experience with similar programs may suggest; third, to canvass and record the extent of acceptance and adherence to the standard on the part of producers, distributors, and users; and fourth, after acceptance, to publish and promulgate the standard for the information and guidance of buyers and sellers of the commodity.

4. *Announcement and promulgation.*—When the standard has been endorsed by a satisfactory majority of production or consumption in the absence of active, valid opposition, the success of the project is announced. If, however, in the opinion of the standing committee or of the Department of Commerce, the support of any standard is inadequate, the right is reserved to withhold promulgation and publication.

# federal register



## COMMERCIAL STANDARD

### Action on Proposed Withdrawal

In accordance with § 10.12 of the Department's "Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards" (15 CFR Part 10, as revised (35 FR 8349) dated May 28, 1970), notice is hereby given of the withdrawal of Commercial Standard CS233-63, "Laminated Hardwood Block Flooring." It has been determined that this standard is no longer technically adequate and revision would serve no useful purpose due to the fact that the subject is adequately covered by the Hardwood Plywood Manufacturers Association standard HPMA-LF-71.

This action is taken in furtherance of the Department's announced intentions as set forth in the public notice appearing in the FEDERAL REGISTER of August 7, 1973 (38 FR 21288), to withdraw this standard.

The effective date for the withdrawal of this standard will be March 4, 1974. This withdrawal action terminates the authority to refer to this standard as a voluntary standard developed under the Department of Commerce procedures.

Dated: December 26, 1973.

RICHARD W. ROBERTS,  
*Director.*

[FR Doc.74-103 Filed 1-2-74;8:45 am]