



Sapele – *Entandrophragma cylindricum*

Other Names: Aboudikrou, Sapelli, Sapele Mahogany

Region of Origin: West Africa

SPECIES OVERVIEW:

Sapele heartwood is medium to dark reddish-brown, characterised by a well-defined ribbon striped figure on quartered surfaces. The grain is interlocked or wavy and the texture is fairly fine. Sapele has a cedar-like scent when freshly cut and is moderately durable.

MAIN USES:

A prized finishing timber, Sapele has an extensive range of applications such as quality furniture and cabinetmaking, solid doors, boatbuilding and all high class interior joinery.

WORKING PROPERTIES:

Sapele machines well but care must be taken that fibres in the interlocking grain do not pick up. The wood can

be stained, varnished and polished well. It also glues, screws and nails well.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:

Relatively high crushing and medium bending strength, with low stiffness and has a poor steam bending classification.

AVAILABILITY:

Specifications stocked at Rosenfeld Kidson are: Sawn 25mm, 40mm, 50mm, 65mm and 75mm thicknesses in mixed widths.

GRADING:

Select.

DENSITY (kg/m ³)*:	620
DURABILITY:	Moderately durable

STRENGTH GROUP:	SD5
MOR (MPa):	112
MOE(GPa):	11.1
JANKA(kN):	6.4

SHRINKAGE GREEN TO 12% M.C.	Tangential	Radial
	4.0	2.0

*Air Dry Density (kg/m³) is average indication only and actual value may vary. Refer to timber properties tables over page for strength, shrinkage and durability classifications.



STRENGTH GROUPINGS:

Minimum values for strength groups (unseasoned timber)			
(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)			
Strength group	Modulus of rupture	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
S1	103	16300	52
S2	76	14200	43
S3	73	12400	36
S4	62	10700	31
S5	52	9100	26
S6	43	7900	22
S7	36	6900	18

Minimum values for strength groups (seasoned timber)			
(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)			
Strength group	Modulus of rupture	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
SD1	150	21500	80
SD2	130	18500	70
SD3	110	16000	61
SD4	94	14000	54
SD5	78	12500	47
SD6	65	10500	41
SD7	55	9100	36
SD8	45	7900	30

SHRINKAGE CLASSIFICATIONS:

Description of shrinkage	Shrinkage from Green to Oven-dry (12% MC)	
	(% before reconditioning)	
	Tangential	Radial
Very low	0 - 3.5	0 - 2
Low	3.5 - 5.0	2 - 3
Medium	5.0 - 6.5	3 - 4
High	6.5 - 8.0	4 - 5
Very high	> 8.0	> 5

DURABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS:

Grade of durability	Approximate service life (years)		
	Fully protected	Above ground, exposed	In-ground, exposed
Very durable	>50	>40	>25
Durable	>50	15-40	15-25
Moderately durable	>50	7-15	5-15
Non-durable	>50	0-7	0-5