

# OKOUME

Technical Wood Sheet (*Aucoumea klaineana*)

**Family:** Burseraceae | **Continent:** Africa  
**Botanical Name(s):** *Aucoumea klaineana*.  
**CITES:** This species is not listed in the CITES Appendices (Washington Convention 2023).



## DESCRIPTION OF LOGS

Diameter	From 60 to 120 cm
Thickness of sapwood	From 2 to 5 cm
Floats	Yes
Log durability	Moderate (treatment recommended)

## DESCRIPTION OF WOOD

Colour reference	Light red
Sapwood	Clearly demarcated
Texture	Fine
Grain	Straight or interlocked
Interlocked grain	Slight

**Notes:** More or less dark pinkish white to red brown, darkens with age.

## PHYSICS AND MECHANICS

Values for mature wood at 12% moisture content. 1 MPa = 1 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Property	Avg. value
Specific gravity	0.44
Monnin hardness	1.6
Coef. volumetric shrinkage	0.33 % / %
Total tangential shrinkage (St)	6.9 %
Total radial shrinkage (Sr)	4.6 %
Ratio St/Sr	1.5
Fibre saturation point	40 %
Thermal conductivity ( $\lambda$ )	0.16 W/(m.K)
Lower heating value	18,710 kJ/kg
Crushing strength	36 MPa
Static bending strength	62 MPa
Modulus of elasticity	9,690 MPa

## NATURAL DURABILITY & PRESERVATION

Resistance to fungi	Class 4 — poorly durable
Dry wood borers	Class D — durable*
Resistance to termites	Class S — susceptible
Treatability	Class 3 — poorly permeable
Use class	Class 2 — inside or under cover (dampness possible)

\* sapwood demarcated, risk limited to sapwood

## PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT REQUIREMENT

Against dry wood borers	Not required
Temp. humidification	Use not recommended
Perm. humidification	Use not recommended

## SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect	High
Sawteeth recommended	Stellite-tipped
Cutting tools	carbide
Peeling / Slicing	Good / Good

**Notes:** Some difficulties in planing due to interlocked grain. Tendency to woolliness. Filing is necessary in order to obtain a good finish.

## ASSEMBLING

Nailing and screwing	Good
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## COMMERCIAL GRADING

Appearance grading for sawn timbers. According to the ATIBT grading rules (2017), the main choices are: FAS (First And Second), n°1 Common and select, n°2 Common (see details of these rules on the ATIBT website). Visual grading for structural applications According to French standard NF B 52-001-1 (2018), strength class D18 can be provided by visual grading.

## DRYING

Drying rate	Rapid
Risk of distortion	Slight risk
Risk of casehardening	No known specific risk
Risk of checking	Slight risk
Risk of collapse	No known specific risk

## FIRE SAFETY

Thickness > 14 mm	M3 (mod. inflammable)
Thickness < 14 mm	M4 (easily inflammable)
Euroclasses grading	D-s2, d0

## MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Cameroon	Mfumu
Congo	N'kumi
Equatorial Guinea	N'goumi / Okume
Gabon	Angouma / Okoumé
United Kingdom (importated tropical timber)	Gaboon
United Kingdom (temperate timber)	Okoume
United States of America (importated tropical timber)	O

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## END-USES

- Blockboard
- Boxes and crates
- Current furniture or furniture components
- Formwork
- Interior joinery
- Interior panelling
- Moulding
- Sliced veneer
- Veneer for back or face of plywood
- Veneer for interior of plywood