

# Guide to *BS5534* Roofing Battens



**New requirements for roofing battens**



**ONLY BATTENS THAT HAVE BEEN PRE GRADED TO BS5534 CAN BE CALLED ROOFING BATTENS. ON SITE GRADING IS NO LONGER AN ACCEPTED PRACTICE.**

## **What are the different types of batten available at Alsford Timber?**

1 BS5534 factory Graded Blue Batten: these meet all aspects of BS5534 and have been pre-graded and marked in accordance with BS5534. It is ideal to ensure these are manufactured with TRADA accredited third party quality assurance and process controls to ensure both procedures and the product is compliant.

### **ONLY THESE BATTENS CAN BE USED FOR ROOFING**

2 Type A Green Treated Battens: manufactured from Side Boards. These are battens that were traditionally used for roofing.

**'TYPE A', GREEN TREATED BATTENS HAVE MANY USES INCLUDING DRY LINING GARDEN TRELIS AND VARIOUS OTHER CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS. THEY SHOULD NOT BE USED ON ANY ROOFING APPLICATION AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE END USE IS IDENTIFIED SO THE CORRECT PRODUCT IS SOLD.**

## How to Recognise BS5534 Battens

BS5534 requires that battens shall be graded and marked. Although BS5534 doesn't state where and how a roofing batten should be graded it is not practical to grade on site. Not only will the documentation not meet BS5534 but every batten will require marking by the grader. It is Alsford Timber opinion that only a high speed modern scanning line can give the consistent results that ensure a compliant product.

Each batten shall be marked with:

- Supplier
- Origin (typically Timber Species code)
- "Graded BS5534"
- Size

The associated documentation should include all of the above as well as type and method of preservative.



<b>Do.....</b>	- Check if the batten is graded. If it's being used for roofing – it MUST be factory graded
<b>Don't.....</b>	- Sell 19x38 for roofing. It is NOT a recognised size.
	- Take chances. Recommend fully graded batten for all roofing work.

### Recommended Minimum Timber batten Sizes (Roofing and Vertical Work)

Application	Basic Minimum Size Batten			
	Up to 450mm Span		Up to 600mm Span	
	Width (mm)	Depth (mm)	Width (mm)	Depth (mm)
<b>Slates (Double- Lap)</b>				
Natural: sizes or random	50	25	50	25
Fibre-cement or concrete	38	25	50	25
<b>Clay and Concrete Tiles</b>				
Double - lap	38	25	38	25
Single -lap	38	25	50	25

**Notes:** Tolerances on basic sizes: width +/-3mm; depth -0, +3mm; based on measurement at a reference moisture content of 20%. Battens for spans greater than those given in Table above for other slates, tiles and shingles such as timber shingles and shakes or metal tiles, or other proprietary roofing products should be in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.