

Testing of terrace deckings

Deckings for terraces are influenced by abiotic (rainfall, changes of temperature and moisture, sun radiation, dirt particles) and biotic factors (fungi, algae, insects). These have an impact on the optic as well as the usability of the products.

The EPH is a competent testing body for the determination of the resistance of deckings from wood and wood polymere composites (WPC).

Biological durability

- Wood destroying and discolouring fungi
- Algae

Field tests

- Horizontal or 45° weathering
- Soil contact

Artificial weathering

- Xenontest, QUV, leaching, alternating climate
- Accompanying investigations:
 - Colour changes (measurement, visual)
 - Water absorption, shrinking/swelling
 - Evaluation of structural changes

Slip resistance

- Pendulum test
- Ramp test
- Dynamic friction

Mechanical tests

- Bending strength and breaking behaviour
- Shrinking and swelling
- Creep behaviour
- Falling mass impact resistance

Investigation of claims

- Identification of fungi, algae and insects (microscopy, molecular biology)
- Wood species identification
- Expertises (wood quality, causes, cracks, discolouration etc.)

European Product standards for WPC

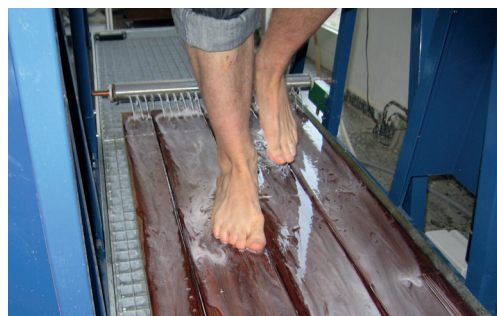
- EN15534-1 (Test method)
- EN 15534-4 (specification for deckings)



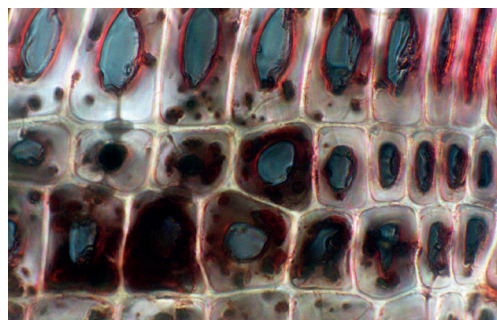
Fungus test of Thermally Modified Timber (TMT)



Weathering of samples



Ramp test for the determination of slip resistance



Wood tracheids, cross section: decay caverns caused by soft rot fungi (1000 x)

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EPH is approved testing body by the Association for quality of wood composites for WPC products. Tests can be performed also in the procedure for the certification "Quality Mark TMT".