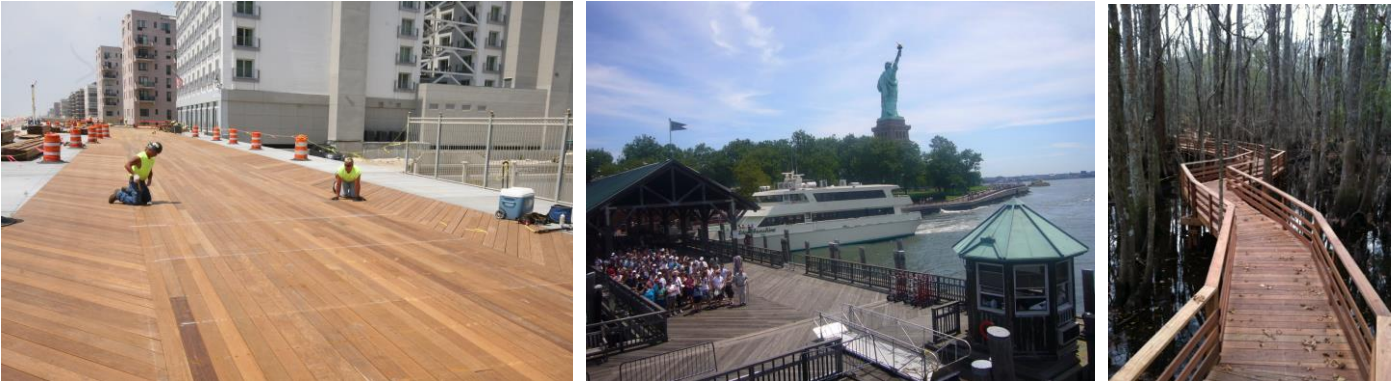
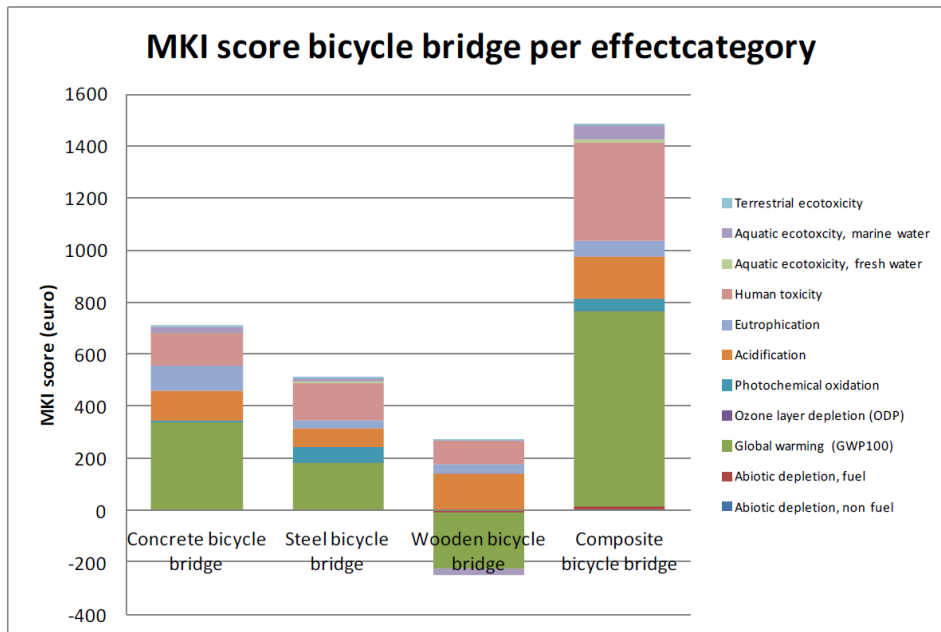


## Black Label™ Boardwalk Decking



### Wood Vs Non-Wood?

Timber bridges like timber boardwalks demonstrate the lowest MKI (environmental cost indicator) of all bridge construction types. But don't take our word for it. The Dutch Government conducted a comprehensive study in 2014 to evaluate the environmental impact of various building materials. Here are the results of that study.





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Also in 2014 post Hurricane Sandy the Army Corps of Engineers issued a memo addressing the life cycle financial costs of naturally durable tropical hardwoods versus various alternatives building materials for boardwalk reconstruction.

*SUBJECT: Impracticality of non IPE lumber for Boardwalk Decking*

*1. The purpose of this memo is to provide clear evidence and justification for the necessity of specifying IPE/Bethabara/Cumaru/Macaranduba tropical hardwood lumber species for Boardwalk decking.*

The following is a summary of current materials and their availability suitable for commercial boardwalk specifications. All of the materials discussed are readily available and certified under our comprehensive Legal Lumber™ compliance program. Some of the wood species listed are available with FSC certification for LEED/USGBC based specifications. All wood species discussed are available Black Label™ FEQ or Premium Select Grade qualities. FEQ is typically specified for Commercial Decking and Premium Select for Posts and Rails. All the wood species discussed are Class 1 Durability and Class A Fire Rated. All wood species listed pass U.S. Building code requirements for slip resistance and have on average a 20% lower heat retention than plastic or composite decking with one exception which we shall talk about shortly.

## **Black Label™ Ipe**

Ipe – *Tabebuia* spp (Lapacho Group) remains the premier exterior hardwood species having the highest natural resistance to termites and marine borers combined with a dimensional stability green to dry over any other species available. Ipe continues to be readily available in a broad range of nominal and rough dimensions ranging from 1x4 all the way up to 4x12 and lengths up to 20', free of heart center and free of sapwood.

Sourcing large volumes of fixed dimensions and lengths in Ipe remains a challenge and virtually impossible in longer lengths. Designers should develop specifications that allow the use of random lengths 6' to 20' in order to facilitate reliable supply and lowest cost.

Optimal net dimensions for Ipe boardwalk decking are as follows:

Air Dried 1x3.5, 1x5.5, 1.5x3.5, 1.5x5.5, 1.5x7.25, 2.5x5.5, 2.5x7.25, 2.5x11.25, 3.5x5.5, 3.5x7.25, 3.5x11.25.

*Note: When specifying for poorly ventilated decks always specify greater thickness to width ratios such as 1x3.5, 1.5x3.5, 2.5x5.5, 3.5x5.5.*

*Note: Face Screwing is the only installation method recommended in commercial boardwalk applications.*

Delivery typically begins from stocks and completes with 90 -120 days subject to project volume requirements.

While Ipe plays a significant role in the boardwalk industry it is not the only solution and it has some limitations. Several other wood species are equally recognized for their incredible performance in commercial and marine applications.

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## **Black Label™ Ekki/Azobe**

Ekki/Azobe (Lophira Alata) continues to be readily available in a broad range of nominal and rough dimensions ranging from 1.5"x3.5" all the way up to 16"x16" and lengths up to 39', free of heart center and free of sapwood.

Ekki is available both flat sawn for heavy timbers and decking and quarter sawn for smaller dimension decking, rails and site furnishings.

Ekki/Azobe is an excellent alternative to Ipe and is marine borer resistant. Somewhat less dimensionally stable than ipe, greater thickness to width ratios improve performance.

Optimal net dimensions for decking as follows:

Air Dried Moisture Content 20-25%

Nominal 1.5x3.5, 1.5x5.5, 2.5x5.5, 2.5x7.25, 3.5x5.5, 3.5x7.25, 3.5x11.25.

Net 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, 2x12, 3x6, 3x8, 3x10, 3x12, 4x8, 4x10, 4x12, 6x12 Rough Sawn or Dressed S4S

Custom Any Dimensions and lengths up to 16x16x54' Rough or Surfaced.

*Note: Face Screwing is the only installation method recommended in commercial boardwalk applications.*

Ekki/Azobe is one wood species where it is still possible to specify large volumes of single dimensions and lengths which make it ideal for large commercial constructions. Designers are however encouraged to develop specifications that allow the use of random lengths, 6' to 39', in order to facilitate reliable supply and lowest possible cost. Ekki/Azobe prices typically fall 10-20% below Ipe prices. Ekki/Azobe is also readily available as an **FSC Certified** product with associated price premium.

Delivery is typically starting 60 days and completing with 120 -150 days subject to project volume requirements.

Some projects currently using Ekki/Azobe include the famous Statue of Liberty Island Pier and Boardwalk and vehicular/pedestrian bridge decks throughout the United States and Europe.

Also used for Boardwalk Stringers, Marine Piling, Marine Fenders, Sheet Piling, Crane Matts, Rail Road Ties and other high abuse applications Ekki/Azobe's amazing qualities are well known and well respected.

## **Black Label™ Cumaru**

Cumaru (Dipterix odorata) continues to be readily available in a broad range of nominal and rough dimensions ranging from 5/4x6 all the way up to 12x12 and lengths up to 20', free of heart center and free of sapwood.

Cumaru is an excellent alternative to Ipe for commercial applications where it is not in direct contact with marine borers. Less dimensionally stable than ipe, greater thickness to width ratios improve performance.

Optimal net dimensions for decking as follows:

Kiln Dried 1x5.5 12-16% Moisture Content to assure dimensional stability in application.

Air Dried 1.5x3.5, 1.5x5.5, 2.5x5.5, 2.5x7.25, 3.5x5.5, 3.5x7.25, 3.5x11.25. Moisture Content 18"

*Note, When specifying for poorly ventilated decks always specify greater thickness to width ratio's, such as 1x3.5, 1.5x3.5, 2.5x5.5, 3.5x5.5.*

*Note: Face Screwing is the only installation method recommended in commercial boardwalk applications.*

Cumaru is one wood species where it is still possible to specify large volumes of single dimensions and lengths which make it ideal for large commercial constructions. Designers are however encouraged to develop specifications that allow the use of random lengths, 6' to 20', in order to facilitate reliable supply and lowest possible cost.

Cumaru prices typically fall 10-20% below Ipe prices. Cumaru is also readily available as an FSC certified product with associated price premium.

Delivery is typically starting 60 days and completing with 120 -150 days subject to project volume requirements.

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## **FASTENERS**

At Tropical Forest Products we believe that fasteners should be as strong and durable as the decking they are charged to hold down. First Developed for Atlantic City, Black Label Boardwalk Screws represent the state of the art in Boardwalk Deck Connection. Boardwalk screws should be manufactured using T-316 stainless steel heavy gauge wire to improve corrosion resistance. Heavy gauge and deep threads provide superior deck to stringer connections improving structural integrity and resistance to all nature has to dish out. While designed to outlast the decking that they hold down, their gauge and strength should allow for their easy removal and re-use should decking replacement be required. You know the old adage, "Anything worth doing is worth doing well" At Tropical Forest Products "We take life cycle performance seriously"

### T316 Stainless Steel Screws 'Or Approved Equal'

5/4" x 4" and wider - Nominal Decking #10x2.5" (2 screws/connection point)

2" x 4" and wider - Nominal or Net Decking #12x4" (2 screws/connection point)

2"x4" - Nominal or Net Decking may be installed #14x4 (1 screw at connection point) (Atlantic City Spec)

3"x6" and wider - Nominal or Net Decking #14x6" (2 screws/connection point)

4" x6" and wider – Nominal or Net Decking Typically Lag or Through Bolted.

Boards should be pre-drilled and pre-countersunk before screw installation.

## **TECHNICAL DATA**

Technical Data including Mechanical Properties and Design Values including Decking, Stringer and Beam Span Charts are available upon request.

Having pioneered the naturally durable hardwood markets starting with our first installation in Atlantic City in 1971, Tropical Forest Products has developed the resources that engineers can rely on for heavy timber design and construction. For more information, please email us at [info@wearetropical.com](mailto:info@wearetropical.com) , call us at 786-395-2974 or visit our website [www.wearetropical.com](http://www.wearetropical.com)



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