

2.13 Application of panels in door skins

2.13.1 Selection of panels as door skins

The selection of wood-based panels for door skins depends on a number of factors of which the most important are:

- decorative appearance or design
- adequate strength and stiffness
- moderate to high levels of impact resistance
- good dimensional stability
- excellent surface finish
- ability to take finishes easily.

The selection of panels from the appropriate European Standard fulfilling the above requirements is given in *Table 2.20*.

2.13.1.1 Manufacture

It is important in the manufacture of doors that the door skin material is first conditioned to a moisture content close to that which it will achieve in service. Advice in the conditioning of boards is to be found in PanelGuide *Section 4.2.4*.

2.13.1.2 Finishes

Advice on the selection and application of finishes is provided in PanelGuide *Section 4.7*.

Table 2.20: Panel grades* for door skins

Selection	DOOR SKINS	SERVICE CLASS	PLYWOOD EN 636	PARTICLEBOARD EN 312	OSB EN 300	MDF EN 622-5	FIBREBOARD EN 622-3,4	CBPB EN 634
	Internal doors	1	636-1	-	-	MDF	HB, MBH	-
	External doors	3	636-3	-	-	MDF.H	HB.H, MBH.H	-

*The table provides the minimum grade of panel that satisfies the particular set of requirements: panels of higher quality may be substituted, and their selection may result in a reduction in required thickness.

Although all the panels meeting the grade specifications will satisfy a particular set of requirements, the level of performance of different brands of these panels may vary considerably; some may even be endowed with high levels of properties not directly covered by the table.