

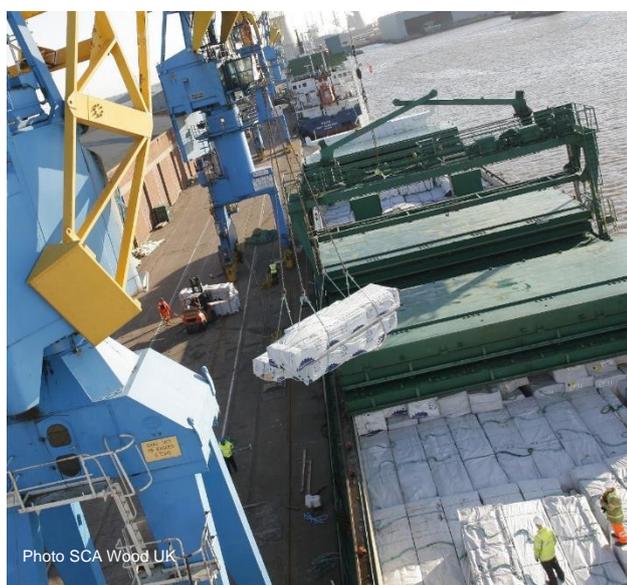
Joinery Timber *Update*

Stay ahead of timber developments with the Timber Trade Federation

Timber Supply & Brexit: Winter 2020

Planning ahead for 2021

Timber supply dynamics are changing



Wood product ordering in a changing market - Q1/Q2 2021

Despite product shortages and market pressures in a very challenging 2020, the actual volume of softwood being produced and imported into the UK is forecast to finish the year at the same level as at the end of 2019. However market dynamics are changing, with advance planning and forward ordering now becoming normal practice.

Joinery workshops which have previously relied on obtaining just-in-time (JIT) deliveries of timber and panel products may struggle to replenish their stocks in Q1 and Q2, unless they talk to suppliers now about their needs going forward. Volumes are available, but on much longer lead times, and many products are now being sold only on the basis of planned customer allocations.

Why is this happening?

Earlier in the pandemic many European sawmills were temporarily shut. During lockdowns across the UK and Europe there was a massive surge in demand for DIY and garden timbers. This was followed by an uptick in construction with firms across Britain, the USA and Europe simultaneously rushing to catch up on orders. With strong demand continuing up to Christmas and into 2021, softwood sawmills and panel producers have not had their usual 'quiet season' to restore stock levels.



Timber Trade Federation

growing the use of wood

www.ttf.co.uk @TimberTradeFed

Photo: Interholco laminated hardwoods



Photo: International Timber laminated Accoya®



Photo: Malaysian Timber Council hardwoods



Strengthening purchasing strategies

The Timber Trade Federation is advising all joiners and wood-using manufacturers to strengthen their purchasing strategies now in preparation for a tight supply situation continuing well into 2021.

Import logistics will also be an issue in the early part of 2021. Obtaining haulage vehicles, and in some cases vessels, due to increased competition from other sectors also experiencing disrupted supply chains, plus the challenge of post-Brexit customs documentation and plant health requirements, may place further pressure on lead times.

In summary...

The past year has been very testing in terms of timber supply and challenges are likely to continue:

- Volumes are likely to be available but with much longer lead times on almost all products.
- Supplies of softwood and panel products are likely to remain on allocation for much of 2021.
- Imports of all wood products may be impacted by the bedding in of new customs procedures and documentation.
- Availability of HGVs for within-UK transport may cause further delays.

For information visit our Brexit Hub:
tff.co.uk/brexit-and-the-timber-industry/



Timber Trade Federation
growing the use of wood

www.tff.co.uk @TimberTradeFed