

28th August 2019

Re: Durability and suitability of imported Japanese cedar for weatherboards

Dear Graham,

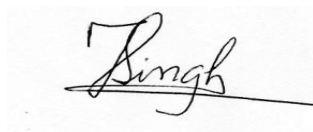
Your imported timber samples were analysed by our Wood Anatomy specialist confirming it to be **Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*)**.

Japanese cedar heartwood is rated as durable in the northern hemisphere (Bootle 1983). Stake tests are a standard method for determining a natural durability classification. Testing conducted at Scion on imported Japanese cedar heartwood at Whakarewarewa test site had an average life exceeding eight years giving them a durability classification of 2. Imported western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) stakes tested on the same site had a similar durability classification. Locally grown Japanese cedar heartwood stakes had a significantly lower durability classification of 3, similar to that of locally grown western red cedar, redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), and macrocarpa (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) heartwood. We have not tested Japanese cedar as weatherboards but tests of uncoated macrocarpa, local western red cedar and local redwood weatherboards have all been in place here at Scion since 1987 and show no significant decay.

Stake tests of H3.1 LOSP treated pine, currently also accepted as suitable for use as weatherboards in New Zealand, had an average life similar to that of the locally grown species stakes.

Based on these results and on the overseas durability classification, imported Japanese cedar heartwood weatherboards should easily meet the minimum durability requirement of 15 years.

Yours sincerely,



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