SUMITOMO FORESTRY CO.,LTD.

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For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

New Product Developed by Sumitomo Forestry's Tsukuba Research Institute and Sumitomo Forestry Crest

Sumitomo Forestry Launches Full-scale Sales of Light, Cheap and Attractively-Designed Wooden Fire-prevention Door Using Balsa

Sumitomo Forestry Crest Co., Ltd. President and Representative Director: Yoshihiro Yoshioka; Head Office: Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture), which is a Group company, manufacturer and distributor of wooden housing components, housing systems and fixtures, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd., announced today that it is launching full-scale sales of original wooden fire-prevention doors, made from balsa known as the lightest timber in the world, which are lighter, cheaper and more attractively-designed than existing products.

Sumitomo Forestry's Tsukuba Research Institute and Sumitomo Forestry Crest have taken a leading role in the development of wooden fire-prevention doors to meet the need for these products in three- and four-story buildings in urban areas, and in constructions for mixed use such as medical facilities with adjacent accommodation[1]. This is the first trial of fire-prevention door development by the Sumitomo Forestry Group coupled with fire-prevention door sales by Sumitomo Forestry Crest.

Interior of door with balsa filling in the center

Used as a solution to the problem of weight experienced by current products, balsa is an extremely fast-growing tree species – taking six to ten years between planting the saplings and harvest – that is used as the material in such applications as rotor blades for wind power generation and model aircraft. On the other hand, past problems making it difficult to use balsa in the construction and building materials field have included its softness and failure to hold nails and screws. On this occasion, the Group has combined its strengths to successfully commercialize these fire-prevention doors for indoor use. Reducing the weight of the product is expected to improve ease of transport, construction and opening/closing during use. The doors are also environmentally-friendly products, with the raw material balsa being sourced from plantation timber raised from saplings and processed by Group company PT. Kutai Timber Indonesia.

Previously, fire-prevention doors of 40–50 mm thickness were required to guarantee flame retardancy, compared to the 36 mm doors usually used in general housing, but these new fire-prevention doors are also 36 mm thick. This will now enable uniform design of doorways.

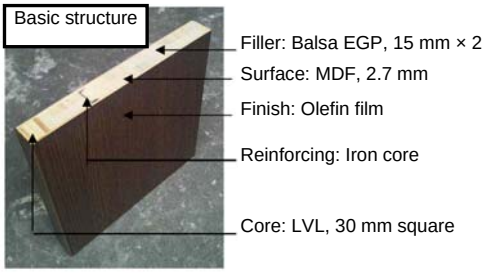
In addition, door designs including colors and patterns can be matched with floorings and other products offered by Sumitomo Forestry Crest, which enables a sense of uniformity for interior spaces.

Because they can be used in hotels, commercial facilities, welfare facilities, hospitals and other places in addition to housing, this product may lead to the creation of a new market for the Sumitomo Forestry Group. Going forward, Sumitomo Forestry will continue to utilize the combined strengths of the Group to develop and sell highly competitive products.

1. Uses for fire-prevention doors include use in fire prevention zones in spaces detailed under the Building Standards Act as mixed use, such as medical facilities with adjacent accommodation, and in spaces such as staircases where fire spreads easily in semi-fire resistant buildings of four-stories, or of three-stories with floor area of over 200 m^2.

■ Product Overview

Product Name	Original wooden fire-prevention door
Sales Territory	Nationwide
First-Year Sales Targets	100 sets/year
Retail price	From 150 thousand yen approx. per set (over 20% cheaper than current products)
Weight	25 kg approx. (over 35% lighter)
Thickness	36 mm (10% approx. thinner)[2]



2. Using laminated veneer lumber (LVL) as the core material and balsa as the filler reduces weight and improves flame retardancy. Inserting an iron core reduces bowing of the door when heated and enables a door thickness of 36 mm, which is the same as normal doors.

■ Deformation Performance

*20 minutes flame retardancy *Smoke retardancy *Hazard prevention[3]

3. Obligatory performance as defined in the Building Standards Act to prevent serious injury to persons caught when the fire prevention system closes.

About Sumitomo Forestry

Founded in 1691, Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. and its Group companies have broadened business activities focused on wood. Based on its corporate philosophy—"utilize timber as a renewable, healthy and environmentally friendly natural resource, and contributes to a prosperous society through all types of housing-related services"— and with its approximately 250,000 hectares of owned and managed forest, the global network that spans more than 20 countries and expertise and technology in housing-related businesses, Sumitomo Forestry Group is developing the Forestry and Environment Business, the Timber and Building Materials Business, the Housing Business, the Overseas Business, the Lifestyle Service Business and other businesses both in Japan and abroad. Adding such businesses as wooden biomass power generation and Timber Solution, it will continue to pursue the potential of timber.

President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.