

Summary

This manual is intended to serve as an educational resource and working tool for people actively involved in the drying of Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) lumber. The manual covers subject matter from the basic principles of drying through to the application of techniques specific to the drying of this species group. The range and depth of information presented has been selected to meet these objectives.

A great deal of attention is given to the diversity of material within the SPF grouping and how that impacts on decisions made concerning drying. The authors have tried to present solutions to cover a wide range of resource and operating conditions. The early chapters in the manual are intended to provide readers with the background they need to analyze the various potential solutions with regard to their own situation.

Studies conducted at our laboratories have provided a lot of the background for the material in the manual. Detailed results of testing conducted at FPInnovations on the drying of SPF can be obtained from the technical reports listed under Further Reading.

Lumber drying should not be considered just as the actions that take place in the kiln or the air drying yard. One of the objectives of this manual is to demonstrate how the kiln operator must maintain a wide field of view when managing the drying process. Joseph

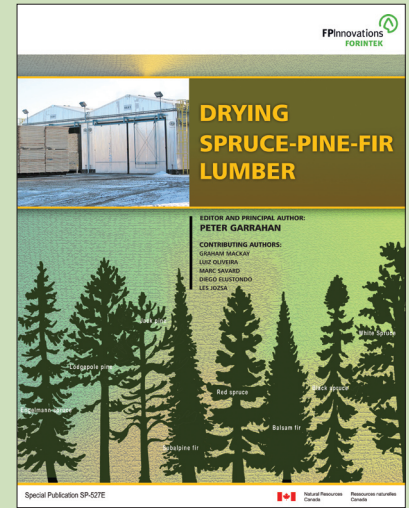
M. Juran, a quality management pioneer, described a process as "...a systematic series of actions directed to the achievement of a goal. Process performance and excess variation will directly affect an organization's financial performance." The objective is not to eliminate all variation but to understand it and minimize its impact on the operations' performance.

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