



MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION

Timber Drying, Grading and Preservation

3 day course

Classroom, online or in-house

Course overview

Timber moves with moisture for the whole of its life, so a board dried badly will warp, split or shrink in the building it was installed in, months after anybody could connect the fault to the kiln. This course covers drying it properly. Delegates work through wood structure, moisture content and the fibre saturation point below which shrinkage begins. Air drying and its limits are covered. Kiln drying follows in operational detail: schedules by species and thickness, dry and wet bulb control, air velocity and the stress relief conditioning that prevents casehardening. Drying defects are diagnosed: checks, collapse, honeycomb, warp and case hardening, each traced to a schedule fault. Moisture measurement is addressed, including meter correction and oven dry testing. Grading follows, both visual and machine, against structural and appearance rules. Preservation is covered through pressure treatment, retention and penetration requirements, and the hazard classes that determine which product is used where. The course closes on storage, on handling after drying and on customer complaints.

What you will learn

- Relate wood structure and fibre saturation point to shrinkage
- Judge where air drying is adequate and where it is not
- Run kiln schedules by species and thickness with correct control
- Condition to relieve stress and prevent casehardening
- Diagnose checks, collapse, honeycomb and warp from schedule faults
- Measure moisture accurately and grade visually or by machine
- Specify preservative treatment by hazard class, retention and penetration

Who should attend

- Kiln operators and drying supervisors
- Timber graders and quality staff
- Treatment plant operators
- Production managers at timber processors
- Specifiers and buyers of structural timber

Course outline

- 01 Faults that appear months later
- 02 Wood structure and fibre saturation point
- 03 Air drying and its limits
- 04 Kiln schedules and dry bulb control
- 05 Conditioning and casehardening
- 06 Drying defects traced to schedule faults
- 07 Moisture measurement and grading
- 08 Preservation, hazard classes, retention and storage

Upcoming dates

Dates	Venue	Format	Fee per delegate
28 to 30 September 2026	Online	Online	R6,500
11 to 13 January 2027	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Classroom	USD 995
18 to 20 January 2027	Kampala, Uganda	Classroom	USD 995



Fees and how to register

This 3 day course is **R6,500** per delegate online, **R14,950** in the classroom in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Eswatini, and **USD 995** in the classroom elsewhere in Africa. In-house training is quotation on request. Book 2 or more delegates on this course and save 10%.

To register or request an in-house proposal, visit www.afrisciencegroup.com, email info@afriscience.co.za, or WhatsApp us on **+27 63 479 1136**.

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