

HMS VICTORY TIMBER SPECIFICATION

PRINCIPLES of SUPPLY of PLANKING

The nine principles listed below have been approved by the HMS Victory Technical Committee¹ as the baseline for the generation of the Technical Specification/Statement of Requirements for the Timber Supply Contract.

1. HMS Victory is to be replanked as she was originally planked i.e. strakes of planking comprising individual planks.
2. The timber for external and internal planking, along with knees, is to be oak, specifically *Quercus robur* or *Quercus petraea*.
3. Given the need to ensure that all timber placed into the ship is well seasoned and free from defects, it will be necessary to build the required thickness of planks, especially the thickest planks, by laminating.
4. At each Stage of the project, the number of laminates necessary to achieve the required thickness of timber should be minimised. In practice, this is likely to mean that individual planks in Phase 1 will be constructed of a greater number of laminates than those in Stage 4.
5. Only heartwood will be acceptable – no planks will be permitted to contain sapwood. Planks will be fitted to the frames heart facing.
6. Where possible, the outer face of the plank should be quarter sawn. Again, this is an ideal that we may need to compromise on in the early Stages of the project given the available timber and the relatively modest performance increase quarter sawn gives against the alternative of deferring the start of the project until such time as the ideal specification is available. Where laminated planks are supplied, the individual layers are to be sawn like-for-like to reduce stresses.
7. No compromise on presence of knots, shakes, rot, sapwood etc will be permitted²
8. Resorcinol resin is the adhesive to be used in laminating all timbers in a workshop environment.
9. If at any stage it is necessary to laminate timbers in-situ, then a modern gap-filling adhesive should be used.

¹ HMS Victory Technical Committee Meeting 25th June 2020.

² This shall be taken to mean Log Defects such as Heartshake, Star Shake, Cup Shake and Rind Gall, and in Planks/Boards as Knots, End Splitting, Shape Splitting, Bowing, Curving, Twisting, Bending, Thunder Shake, Brashness, and evidence of insect and fungal attack.