EFFECT OF COMPRESSION RATIOS ON SOME PROPERTIES OF DENSIFIED ACACIA HYBRID, EUCALYTUS UROPHYLLA AND PINUS MERKUSII WOOD BY THERMO-MECHANICAL TREATMENT METHOD

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SUMMARY

Thermo-mechanical treatment is a method to improving durability and physical-mechanical properties of wood. In this study, effect of compression ratios (CR) on quality of densified Acacia hybrid (*Acacia mangium x Acacia auriculiformis*), *Eucalytus urophylla* and *Pinus merkusii* were investigated. The samples were initially subjected to natural drying to approximately 35±5% moisture content, and then cut to the dimensions of 400 (l) × 120 (w) x different thicknesses (t) mm. The softening and compression process was performed on the heat press BYD 113/4, andthe samples were densified with compression ratios of 10%, 20%, 30%, 40% and 50%. According to the results of this study, compression ratio clearly affects the recovery set (RS) of the wood (the largest RS for *Eucalyptus* and the smallest for *Pinus*); density, static bending strength and elastic modulus of wood increase as the compression ratio increases. To meet the requirements of group III timber according to TCVN 1072-71, with *Acacia hybrid* wood, the compression ratio must be greater than 30%, with *Eucalyptus* wood the compression ratio is greater than 20% and with the *Pinus* wood the compression ratio is greater than 40%.

Keywords: Acacia mangium x Acacia auriculiformis, compression ratio, Eucalyptus urophylla, Pinus merkusii, thermo-mechanical treatment.

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