

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Black Label™ vs competitive brands or generic decking and cladding.

In an industry where the quality of products is often misrepresented through generic trade names and species, Black Label™ stands out by ensuring clarity and precision for our customers.

To eliminate any confusion regarding species, Black Label™ ensures that all products bearing our brand are subject to independent inspection, stringent grading, meticulous selection, certification, and warranty based on the precise grade defined by our GMX Group Grading Rules. Compliance certificates can be provided upon request.

Case Study: Black Label™ Ipe

The Lapacho Group of *Tabebuia*, as identified by both the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, is noted for its exceptional resistance to decay, termites, and marine borers. This group can be visually identified by lapachols (yellowish powder) in the wood cells, seen when the timber is cross-cut. However, specific subspecies within this group can only be distinguished microscopically. Therefore, claims that certain subspecies are selected for their color or other attributes are inaccurate.

Without defined grading rules, mills can produce lumber with defects that negatively impact the performance and appearance of these materials, resulting in inconsistencies within the Ipe market.

Generic “Ipe” is often imported under the broad grade term FAS (First and Seconds) or under brands without specific species or grading guidelines. These products may contain non-durable sapwood, borer holes, knots, shakes, and other milling defects.

Premium Quality: Black Label™

The Black Label™ Premium Select Architectural Grade is carefully chosen to be free of defects on all sides, representing the highest industry standards. Detailed grading rules are available upon request.

We encourage consumers to protect themselves by requesting specific species grades and quality standards for their wood products. If a supplier fails to provide this information, it is a strong indication that the product may not meet expected standards.

Transparency fosters accountability. The more you know, the better we appear.
