

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR TESTING MOISTURE CONTENT OF J-FRAME

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These notes have been prepared to guide building inspectors and others testing the moisture content of J-Frame.

Using a resistance type moisture meter

1. It is recommended that a resistance type moisture meter with a sliding hammer type electrode is used to test the moisture content of framing.
2. The resistance moisture meter should be calibrated to the New Zealand calibration standard (AS/NZS 1080.1).
3. Drive the sliding hammer electrode into the stud, with the probes driven to 1/3 of the depth of the timber being measured (15 mm for 45 mm thick J-Frame).
4. Take the measurement, and record the measurement and the location of the stud.
5. Test studs approximately mid-height, with the probes driven parallel to the grain into the inner side of the studs.
6. Repeat from step 3 by testing ten studs throughout the house.
7. After testing ten studs, use Table 5 to convert the moisture meter readings.
8. Acceptable moisture content for closing in a building is typically when nine out of ten corrected measurements are less than or equal to 20%.
9. In practice, this means 9 out of 10 unconverted meter readings must be 24 or less.

TABLE 5: Corrected moisture content for a resistance type moisture meter for untreated and treated J-Frame

	If a resistance type moisture meter reads:																									
	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60
	Corrected moisture content (Upper confidence interval for individual readings, %) is:																									
Untreated J-Frame	-	-	11	13	15	17	18	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	35	36	37
Boron treated J-Frame	8	10	12	14	16	18	19	20	22	23	25	26	27	28	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	38	39	40	41	42
CCA treated J-Frame	-	10	13	15	16	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	33	34	35	36	37	38	39

Note: Bolded values show the meter reading that corresponds with a moisture content of 20%.

This table can be used to predict a moisture content is below the corrected moisture content, 95 times in 100 times.

For more detailed moisture meter correction figures for J-Frame, refer to the Scion report; Moisture meter correction figures for J-Frame LVL framing. January, 2009.

For more information on the use of moisture meters, refer to BRANZ Bulletin BU585; Measuring moisture content in timber and concrete.