

9. KILN DRYING

Lumber must be dried before it can be manufactured into a finished product especially if the final product is destined for export markets. In Venezuela, as in most countries, two methods used are: air drying and kiln drying. In air drying, lumber is merely stacked in the open (or in sheds) to allow natural air circulation. This method is slow, offers no control over temperature/relative humidity and often causes cracking and distortion in the lumber. Furthermore, particularly in areas where the relative humidity is high (zones near the Tropical Humid Forest), wood cannot be brought to a low enough moisture content by air drying alone.

Kiln drying offers a means to control temperature and relative humidity in drying.

9.1. Possible areas of interest for Canadian suppliers of goods and services in kiln drying.

In the next five years lumber output will continue to expand with changes in the product mix: pine production will increase notably in total supply and there will be an increasing demand for kiln drying, especially if the end product is destined for export markets. In this area Canadian suppliers have market potential for: