

**Profile: Roger Galpin BSc AIMMM
Wood Products Expertise and Chain of Custody Consultant**



Roger Galpin is a graduate in Timber Technology from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College and is an Associate of the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (Incorporating the Wood Technology Society, erstwhile Institute of Wood Science). He has been involved with the technical issues concerning forest products for over 30 years, and has been involved with the preparation of hundreds of reports in relation to the use of timber and wood products, particularly in construction. His daily involvement with different timber and wood processing companies enables him to offer an up to date view on industry best practice where timber is concerned.

Career History

2001 – to date, The Wood Shop Limited

Mr Galpin left TRADA in 2001 to establish The Wood Shop, a company concerned with the promotion of quality wood products and best practice through assessment, representation, technical support and promotion. A major part of this work is the assessment of wood products in the joinery, construction and lifestyle sectors. In addition, it provides expert witness and timber consultancy services for lawyers, insurance companies and loss adjusters as well as the Police involved with forensic investigations.

Through The Wood Shop Consultancy, Mr Galpin offers technical and practical expertise in the correct specification & use of timber & wood products. Over the years he has prepared reports in relation to the domestic and commercial use of timber in a wide range of lifestyle and building projects, from bridges and boardrooms, furniture and flooring, windows and weatherboards, through to doors and decking. He also offers condition assessments of timber products to determine performance, fitness for purpose and cause of failure. He has advised on the use of timber in old & new buildings and carried out condition surveys involving in-situ strength grading of structural timbers & identification of fungal & insect infestations.

Mr Galpin is a professionally trained Expert Witness, most recently in 2015 when he was certified as an Expert Witness by Cardiff Law School having completed the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness scheme. As such he is conversant with the requirements of CPR 35 and has gained a broad experience in preparing legal reports, dealing with solicitors, conferences with counsel and giving evidence in court.

As a consultant, he maintains a close contact with the wood products industry, both through his inspection and promotional roles with The Wood Shop Consultancy and also as a lead auditor and Associate Consultant to Exova BM TRADA, a leading UK certification body (www.exovabmtrada.com).

Mr Galpin's experience as a lead auditor for FSC and PEFC chain of custody schemes has been invaluable in the successful development of The Wood Shop Consultancy's own chain of custody consultancy business which now serves an enviable client list of leading companies in the timber, joinery and wood product sectors in introducing and maintaining the clients' chain of custody procedures.

See www.timberconsultancy.co.uk and www.chain-of-custody.co.uk for further information.

The Wood Shop Consultancy

Qualifications: Member of the Society of Expert Witnesses. Member of the Expert Witness Institute. Professionally trained as Expert Witness - Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness training in Civil Procedure Rules (2015). Listed in Law Society Directory, UK Register of Expert Witnesses, ExpertSearch.co.uk, Expertwitness.co.uk. Professional member of TRADA and UK Timber Trade Federation. Level 3 (highest level) FSC and PEFC Lead Auditor and Exova BM TRADA Associate Consultant for Chain of Custody and FSC Project Certification.

1989 – 2001 Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA):

As a technical consultant for 10 years, 5 years as Head of Technical Consultancy, Mr Galpin was involved in advising on the correct specification and use of timber and wood based products within the lifestyle and construction industries. This included the undertaking of weekly site and laboratory investigations to evaluate the performance of timber and timber components used for a wide variety of purposes. Mr Galpin was also involved with delivering training courses and seminars to members of the timber trade, wider construction industry and to professional forums such as RICS, RIBA, Local Authority departments etc.

As the increase in expert third party work at TRADA mirrored the growth in the Expert Witness “industry” as a whole, Mr Galpin was responsible for developing TRADA’s Expert Witness services, attending many of the training courses, promotional events and conferences that were run by professional bodies within the legal industry.

As an approved expert, listed in the various Expert Witness Directories, Mr Galpin specialised in undertaking a growing amount of Expert Witness work himself, gaining experience in preparing legal reports, dealing with solicitors, conferences with counsel, and giving evidence in court.

Qualifications: Visual Strength Grader and Wood Machinist.
Member of Academy of Experts, Expert Witness Institute and the Society of Expert Witnesses.

As Product Certification Manager with BM TRADA Certification (1999-2001), Mr Galpin was closely involved with the assessment of joinery and construction products and was responsible for the administration and development of a wide range of industry product quality schemes, including the Timber and Brick and Timber Frame Industry Alliance (now the Structural Timber Association), BWF Timber Window Accreditation Scheme, BM TRADA and Certifire Fire Door Schemes, Timber Decking Association (Deckmark), and Visual and Machine Strength Grading schemes. He was also a member of various British and European Technical Committees relating to the use of timber (BSI; Euro codes; UK Timber Grading Committee; Timber Decking Association; Euro pallet).

Qualifications: IRCA Certified Auditor for Quality Management Systems (ISO 9000)

1988 – 1989 Protim Services Limited: Timber Surveyor. Invaluable experience gained in building construction methods in and around London through the undertaking of condition surveys and identification of damp, fungal decay (dry rot and wet rot) and insect infestations.

1986 – 1988 George Wimpey PLC: Engineer in timber frame housing department. Drawing and design office experience; CAD systems; timber frame structural design and consultancy.