

Glossary of terms

Term	Explanation and/or Definition	Prolam can help with:
ACQ	Alkaline Copper Quaternary - a method of wood treatment more environmentally friendly but higher cost and less durable	Prolam have it as an option - with extra cost.
Attic	The roof space in between ceiling and roof	
Archipro	A monthly e-magazine about new architect and building news, circulated throughout all NZ to architects and builders	
Bandsawn	a finish type that gives a particular look if desired, for visual beams and lintels	Prolam offer this as an option
Batten	A long thin piece of rectangular shaped material supporting roof tiles or covering joints between panelings	
Beam	A straight structural member that acts primarily to resist non axial loads	
Bearer	horizontal wood members used to support a floor, usually fastened to and supported by posts	
Bollard	posts that are usually of large dimension and about 1 metre high - positioned in a row to create a barrier for large objects	Prolam manufacture these
Bolt Line	a laminating press assembly used for the manufacture of large members - where individual members are glued then clamped tightly	Prolam have 2 of these assembly lines
BRANZ	Building Research Association of New Zealand - NZ's independent organisation that studies for better buildings methods	
Bu	Bracing Units. A measurement of lateral support capacity. This rating decreases with height	Prolam posts have excellent Bu capacities
Build	A magazine published every 2 months by BRANZ about the Building industry	
CAD/CAM	Computer Aided Design - commonly used in all prototype and production runs	Prolam uses this extensively to achieve precision results
Camber	the small amount of curve in a beam as it supports its own weight	Prolam corrects this where needed - see 'pre-camber'
Cantilever	an overhanging member in construction - that is subject to the NZ Building code rules for how much is permitted	This can be calculated for Lintels on the Prolam Specifier
Carport	a structure with open sides and a roof to cover a car - sometimes supported on a side	Prolam have the right post for both if posts should provide bracing or not
CCA	Copper Chrome Arsenate - this is treatment most commonly used to achieve best wood preservation	Prolam has consents to treat the timber on-site
CHH	Carter Holt Harvey - a NZ manufacturer of timber products	
CLT	Cross Laminated Timber	
CLT panels	see also Cross Laminated Timber. Panels made from CLT	
CNC	Computerised Numerical Control - a computer guided machine used for cutting profiles, where the design has been pre-programmed	Prolam does not have a CNC machine as it is not needed in our processes

Codemark	A product certification scheme that guarantees a product meets the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code	Prolam has Codemarked posts
Code of Compliance	The final certificate signed off of a building consent, authorising the use of buildings	Prolam has council-approved Producer Statements (PS1s) to facilitate this as much as possible
COL	Cut Of Log - a term used to describe a non-selective grade of timber	
Commercial	the term used loosely to describe `area of work` - such as commercial building	
Crib wall	an interlocking system of wood beams creating a retaining wall	Prolam manufactures these
Cross Laminated timber	a technology where timber is formed by gluing layers together, alternatively at 90 degrees	Prolam does not yet do this
Cube	Length x Width x Depth - measurement of volume of timber	
Custom-build	used to describe the manufacture where specific requests of the customer are fulfilled	
Deck	a constructed outdoor flat area usually connected to a building	Prolam professionalises your deck - with our strong wood members that don't warp
Deflection	the amount of change in straightness to a wood member (like a beam) when it is subject to load	
Design it	see designIT	
DesignIT	designIT for houses is a software tool for all building practitioners to design members for houses	try our Prolam SPECIFIER
Destack	the term used to describe re-stacking filleted timber into a pack	while automated methods exist, Prolam still does it with strong, dedicated staff
Douglas Fir	also known as Oregon Pine - this is a slower growing species of timber that is similar to radiata but does not require treatment	Prolam offers this option on PL12 rated beams
Edgeform	is an LVL product that is used the same as traditional framing timber but stays straighter	Prolam has a similar product known as Smartframe LVL
Engineered timber	Wood products which are manufactured by the fixing together with adhesives or other methods of fixation to form composite material.	
Exposed beam	this is a visual beam that has been integrated into the design so it is part of the visual appearance	Prolam has the option of visual grade finish
Exposed truss	this is a visual truss that has been integrated into the design so it is part of the visual appearance	Prolam supplies visual grade timber to specialist truss craftspeople - for outdoor or indoor use
Fencing - post and rail	wood post and rail assemblies to give a 'ranch style' look	Prolam have these products
Fillet stick	sticks of uniform size (usually 20-25mm square) used to separate timber for drying	Prolam recycles many of these, constantly
Fixings	the fasteners used when joining wood components together	The Prolam Specifier prescribes these for you - the right ones for your job
Flitch beam	a beam made by sandwiching a piece of steel between 2 lengths of wood	These are considered by many as 'old technology' and in many cases Prolam has better all-wood options
Floor Framing		
Formwork	is an LVL product that is used the same as traditional framing timber but stays straighter	Prolam has LVL product known as Proform

Four sider	a machine imperative to get all 4 sides smooth and finishes the timber to a specified dimension	Prolam products all pass through our Four Siding machine
Futurebuild	a NZ company that manufactures LVL products	Prolam has LVL product known as Smartframe LVL15
GL17	a high grading timber beam commonly used in New Zealand	Prolam has a high spec hybrid beam called the PLX20
glued laminated timber	see Glulam	
Glulam	Glued laminated timber, also abbreviated glulam, is a type of structural engineered wood product constituted by layers of dimensional timber bonded together with durable, moisture-resistant structural adhesives.	in many places it is better known as Prolam
Glulam grades	these were developed by Australian and New Zealand industries and is a measurement of elasticity in MpA	Prolam products follow this terminology with the measurement being prefixed with PL
H1.2	H1.2 The minimum level of preservative treatment required to protect the timber from attack by insects other than termites.	
H3.2	Exterior treated for exposure to weather but not for in-ground use, or contact with ground	
H4	Treated for ground contact	
H5	Treated for in-ground use	
H6	Treated for in-ground use and marine grade	
high chord	see hyCHORD®	
high frame	see hyFRAME®	
high joist	see HyJOIST®	
high one	see HyONE®	
high plank	see HyPLANK®	
high span	see HySPAN®	
hyJOIST®	I shaped beams made by FutureBuild LVL	Prolam has similar products - Projoist
hyPLANK®	wood planks made by Futurebuild for scaffold use	
hySPAN®	general purpose LVL products by Futurebuild	Prolam has a big range of similar products, engineer certified
hy90®	LVL products developed by Futurebuild in 90mm thick	Prolam has LVL product known as Smartframe LVL15
hyBOUND®	LVL boundary joist used for lateral support	Prolam has LVL product known as Smartframe LVL15
hyCHORD®	made by FutureBuild LVL - these are members in a truss that give reinforcing for high load applications	Prolam has LVL product known as Smartframe LVL15
hyFRAME®	made by FutureBuild LVL for a portal frame solution	Prolam has LVL product known as Smartframe LVL15
hygrotherma l	a term used to describe the effect of the movement of heat and moisture through buildings	
Hyne 17C	high grade laminated wood beams by Hyne Timber	Prolam has a big range of similar products, engineer certified

Hyne 18C	high grade laminated wood beams, with sanded finish	Prolam has a big range of similar products, engineer certified
Hyne Timber	a timber products company based in Queensland Australia	
Hyne21C	very high grade laminated wood beams by Hyne Timber	Prolam has a big range of similar products, engineer certified
HyONE®	a high strength and stiffness beam made by FutureBuild	Prolam has high performance beams
I Beam	a beam with the end profile in the shape of a capital I, made from either steel or wood	Prolam have wood I Beams
I-Built®	a NZ company that manufactures and imports wood products including laminated beams and I-beams	Prolam has many similar products
In-ground	a term used for use below ground level - especially for posts	Prolam has posts that are approved for inground use
Joist	these are the intermediary support members that hold the weight of a top member or floor	Many Prolam beams are used as joists
Kiln	Kiln dried is a special process to dry green timber to 12-15% moisture content	At Prolam we have our own kilns - drying is done on-site
laminated	the process of layering separate piece or pieces to make one piece	Prolam is a specialist in this - we have the latest and most efficient technologies
laminated timber	the laminating process applied to timber	Prolam has technology to just select the strongest parts of timber to laminate
laminated timber beams	laminated timber made to set dimensions and to an engineered rating	Prolam does lots of these
laminated veneer lumber	also known as LVL. This is timber made from thin peeled veneers of wood, glued together	Prolam has this product - they're light, strong and don't deform
lamination	the term for the process of joining 2 members together	Prolam has perfected this process
Laserframe®	general purpose structurally graded timber used for framing	Prolam does not try specialise in this
LRV	Light Reflectance Value - LRV measures the percentage of light a paint color reflects	Prolam specifies that painted finishes be paint with LRV of 45% or more
LIB88s	a type of wood I Beam sold by Lumberworx	Prolam has similar products - Projoist
Lineal metre	the running metre length only	
Lintel	A beam that carries the load of a wall across a window or door opening	
Lintel 17	the structural grade of a GL17 lintel	Prolam has high performance lintels - rating as high as 20 grade
Loading	this term when it is used for the timber industry - is to describe a given weight or force amount to something	Prolam is very conversant with the imperatives required by loadings
LSL	Laminated Strand Lumber - the same as LVL.	
Lumber	the generic term used in some areas for timber	
Lumberworx	a New Zealand manufacturer of engineered timber	
LVL	see - Laminated Veneer Lumber	

LVL beam	a wood member for load carrying in construction	Prolam has this product - they're light, strong and don't deform
LVL timber	wood members formed by LVL technology	Prolam has this product - they're light, strong and don't deform
Machined, Machining	the process of making rough sawn timber to a specific dimension or shape	Prolam has all the processes on-site
Macrocarpa	a low to medium density softwood used for timber in small amounts	Prolam can supply products in macrocarpa on request
MCA	Micronised Copper Azole - a high performance copper-based wood preservative used in residential applications	Prolam has approval and consent for this on-site, and also to dispose of waste when needed
MDF	Medium Density Fibreboard - a panel made from small wood particles pressed and glued together, not often used in construction	
MiTek	a New Zealand company specialising in metal fixings for timber fastening	Prolam work with these as they combine to achieve engineer certified results
Moisture	humidity affecting materials that is detrimental for the construction environment	
Nelson Pine	Nelson Pine Industries is a Japan-owned company based in Nelson making MDF and LVL	
Non-visual	the term used to describe the finish specified for products in construction not seen	Prolam has this option - it is a finish just as strong but not so visually appealing
NZS3604	this is the NZ Building Code that is the reference for construction rules in NZ	Prolam's software program focusses on adapting to and surpassing NZS3604
Oregon pine	see douglas fir	
Overlength	a term used to describe items that are longer than what the most economic freight costs allow for	for Prolam the threshold for overlength is 7.2m
Pergola	an attractive wood feature that complements a house or deck with beams supported at roof height by posts	Prolam makes a lot of these
Piles	posts (usually short ones) that connect a substructure to the ground	
Pith	this is the soft spongy tissue in the centre of a tree, of little or no strength	Prolam products are graded for both strength, and visual use. Pith is disallowed in most grades
PL12	very commonly used Prolam products where the wood has a structural performance rating of 12	Prolam are the professionals for the ability to structurally grade timber - no one does it as well
PL17	a Prolam reference denoting the PL17 products	these are exceptionally strong products - the correct grade wood is not available
PL6	a Prolam reference denoting low grade wood, not suitable for structural use	Prolam offers posts in PL6 grade
PL8	a Prolam reference denoting medium-strength timber of structural grade	products in PL8 and PL12 are our most commonly sought after products
Planer	an essential machine in our processes to make the edges smooth	Prolam's planer is maintained by our dedicated team of engineers
POA	Price on application	Some products are special runs, special needs - and we'll get you a quote
Post	An upright supporting a structure	

Precamber	a term used to describe items that are curved a small amount during fabrication	Prolam does this service so our products are straight once in service
preprimed	to cover the surface of wood with a special paint before the main paint is put on	Prolam offers this option on our product finishes
Pro Joist	this term denotes the beams of Prolam in an I shape	Prolam Pro-joists are very popular especially for mid-floors
Prolam Specifier	the Online Calculating software tool belonging to Prolam	Prolam Specifier has had huge success - 6000 kiwis are users, and get free PS1
Prowood	the parent company of Prolam	Prolam is all you need to remember, for laminated wood
Rafter	A framing member that runs up and down the slope of a roof	
Red Stag	a timber mill based in Rotorua	Prolam is pleased to have engineered their own timber for their new constructions
Residential	denotes the application of homes and dwellings	Prolam's products are well suited to Residential use
RF	Radio Frequency press - essential for laminating pieces of timber together	Prolam's RF is used constantly for small dimension products, while the bolt-line is for bigger products
Rimboard	The structural component that fills the space between the sill plate and bottom plate of a wall.	Prolam Rim Board is structurally laminated timber
Risk Matrix	A matrix that is used during risk assessment to define the level of risk and is a simple mechanism to increase visibility of risks and assist management decision making.	Prolam products help negate and reduce the risk matrix in most cases
Roof framing	small dimension timber (usually 100x50mm) fabricated into shapes (like trusses) for making the constructions	often non-engineered timber is used, but Prolam does offer the better LVL (see LVL)
Rough sawn	wood as originally cut, without smoothing or sanding	
Sanded and sealed	the finish achieved on wood products when they are sanded smooth, and then sealed with a painted on sealant	prolam offers this option, it makes your product right ready to paint
Seismic	the description for earthquakes and their effects	Prolam products are designed to perform well in earthquakes
SG8	standard grade timber of timber for framing and lintels, with a Modulus of Elasticity (stress grade) of 8	Prolam PL8
SG12	high structural grade of timber for framing and lintels, with a Modulus of Elasticity (stress grade) of 12	Prolam PL12
SG17	very high structural grade of timber for framing and lintels, with a Modulus of Elasticity (stress grade) of 17	Prolam has a PLX20 beam
Shear	breakage - when a metal or wood part breaks sharply at a particular point due to fatigue or overload	Prolam products are tested to have maximum durability possible
SmartFrame	multipurpose LVL for framing or other building requirements	Prolam keep this quickly available
Snow-load	the description of forces that can be encountered from snow. NZ is divided into different zones for this	The Prolam Specifier analyses the snow zone area into when specifying your products
SolidStart I-Beams	a wood I Beam made by Ibuilt	Prolam have similar products
Span	the term used to describe lengths, especially for rating the product with forces applied	Prolam products are designed to maximise span potential

Span table	the tables used when comparing the requirements of strength versus height	Prolam span tables are NZS3604 approved and council approved - you'll get a PS1
Square metre	Length x width	
Strength grade	the differing strengths that are measured and put into a performance level - see also Glulam grades	Prolam are professionals for this - we have modern tests to ensure this
Strength rating	see Glulam grades	
Strength-to-weight	a comparison that allows the performance in resistance to breakage, as compared to weight	Prolam products have special technology to maximise this
Structural performance	the term used to describe the strength of a structure made up from a combination of components	Prolam products put strength into the structures, as well as durability and straightness
Structural rating	see Structural performance	
Structural timber	timber that is used to form a framework or underlying support for a structure	Prolam products are used for key important parts
Sustainability	the term describing the way an object is used without compromising the ability of future generations to secure it	Prolam takes sustainability seriously - and all timber is from sustainably harvest plantations
Tension and compression	the term used to describe the effect to a beam once load is applied	Prolam beams are engineered with this in mind - the top is compressed and the bottom is under tension
Timber	wood that is sawn into usable shapes and sizes for use in building	Prolam adds value to timber
Timberlab	A New Zealand company manufacturing timber products	Prolam has an excellent manufacturing facility
Timber strength rating	see Glulam grades	
Treated	a term describing when preservative applied to wood.	Prolam has the full treatment processes on site
truFORM®	LVL developed for use as concrete formwork beams	Prolam has a large range of LVL
truframe®	LVL framing timber made by Futurebuild®	Prolam has a large range of LVL
Truss	a structure made from wood timber components (usually in triangle shape) for giving the top shape to a building	Prolam supplies to specialist truss manufacturers nationwide
Veranda	A roofed, open-air gallery or porch, attached to the outside of a building. A veranda is often partly enclosed by a railing	Prolam engineered timber makes quality verandas
Visual	a term describing 'able to be seen'	Prolam visual products are finished ready for the customers own preferred finish - of paint or stain for example
Visual laminated timber	timber pieces made from visual grade components	Prolam has this option of finish on many products

Wind zone	the wind withstanding ability requirements area belonging to a construction	The Prolam Specifier analyses the wind zone area into when specifying your products
Xlam	A New Zealand company manufacturing timber products	Prolam has an excellent manufacturing facility