



# THE DAMPTESTER

## A COMPACT SIMPLE TESTER FOR DETECTING MOISTURE IN WOOD, WALLBOARD OR PLASTER



The DampTester is a hand-held moisture tester using the well-proved principle of electrical resistance to determine the presence of moisture in wood and other building materials. Measurements in wood are based on the AS/NZS1080 Standard. The DampTester enables users to rapidly test building framing before cladding is applied thereby avoiding problems at a later stage. It is equally useful for detecting the presence of leaks in completed buildings thus allowing corrective action before permanent damage occurs.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The electrical resistance of materials such as wood depends on the amount of moisture present. The DampTester has two pins which are inserted into the sample. The electrical resistance between these pins now forms part of an electric circuit and can be measured. Using a accepted standard the moisture content of timber can be interpreted from this resistance reading. The circuit decides whether the resistance is lower than, between or higher than certain values and lights one of three LED lamps.

### USING THE DAMPTESTER

Gently insert the pins into the sample until good contact is achieved. Press the button. One of the LEDs will light up. If the green LED lights then the sample is presumed dry at below 16% moisture content. At this level rot will not occur and cladding can be applied without the danger of shrinkage occurring. If the red LED lights then the sample is above 20% moisture content and is likely to be unstable and may rot if it is kept in this state. If the yellow LED lights then the moisture content lies between 16 and 20% and caution should be exercised. If no LEDs or more than one LED light up then the battery probably needs replacing. Do this by undoing the two screws on the back of the case, carefully opening the case and replacing the 9V battery.

### PRECAUTIONS

Keep the unit clean, dry and safe from physical damage. Using excessive force or a twisting motion is likely to break the pins. The DampTester is designed to be used on the surface of lightly treated pine timber and may respond differently on other timbers or materials. Heavily treated pine or hardwoods may appear a few percent wetter than they actually are. The nominal temperature of use is 20 deg C. It will read 1% wetter for every 5 deg above 20 deg C and 1% dryer for every 5 deg below 20 deg C. Recently wetted or dried timber may have an internal moisture content different from that measured on the surface by the DampTester. If in doubt employ a calibrated moisture meter with sliding hammer electrode and correct it for timber type and temperature.

#### CARREL-ELECTRADE LTD

MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PRODUCTS  
POSTAL ADDRESS: P O BOX 11078, ELLERSLIE 1542, AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND  
FACTORY AND OFFICE: 661 GREAT SOUTH ROAD PENROSE 1061  
TELEPHONE: +64-9-525 1753 FACSIMILE: +64-9-525 1756  
EMAIL: sales@ carrel-electrade.co.nz WEB: www.carrel-electrade.co.nz