

# AMERICAN LUMBER STANDARD COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED

## A Consensus Standard For The Formulation And Enforcement Of Lumber Grading Rules And Design Values

1941—U.S. court directs present formulation of American Lumber Standard under which standard is promulgated under Department of Commerce procedures and Department of Commerce appoints American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC)

1952—Court finds ALSC and Board of Review are impartial agencies adequately constituted to determine competency of grading agencies and that the standards employed by the Board of Review are “adequate to promote competency in grading and in the public interest”

### PS 20 American Softwood Lumber Standard

- involvement of U.S. Forest Products Laboratory (Department of Agriculture) and National Institute of Standards & Technology (Department of Commerce) in formulation of design values in lumber grading rules
- acceptance of foreign lumber under the American Lumber Standard
- provides executive officer and staff for administration of ALSC, Board of Review, National Grading Rule Committee and field inspection staff
- General Counsel provides legal services for American Lumber Standard Committee, Board of Review and National Grading Rule Committee

**American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated**

- membership appointed by Secretary of Commerce every 5 years
- Secretary of Commerce to maintain proper balance among rules writing agencies, non-rules writing agencies, retailers, wholesalers, engineers, homebuilders, consumers, general contractors, architects, wood using industries, intermediate manufacturers, government representatives, wood treating industry.

**Independent accreditation board (Board of Review)**

- nominated by ALSC
- reviewed by Department of Commerce
- elected by ALSC

**National Grading Rule Committee membership includes:**

- rules writing agencies, non-rules writing agencies, architects, building code officials, distributors, home builders, consumers, Canadian agencies, engineers
- Has responsibility for keeping national grading rule (NGR) for dimension lumber current

Has responsibility for keeping the Standard current

Prepares policies to implement the Standard system and enforcement regulations for use by accreditation board (Board of Review)

Certifies grading rules as conforming to VPS 20

- NeLMA
- NLGA
- RIS
- SPIB
- PLIB (WCLIB)
- WWPA

Accredits agencies to grade under certified rules and label HT only

-AFPA	-CFPA	-COFI
-CLA	-CMSA	-NeLMA
-CSI	-MLB	-PLIB
-NLPA	-OLMA	-RRA
QFIC	-RIS	-TP
WWPA	-SPIB	

- approximately 910 grading mills and 980 HT only mills subscribe to accredited agency services
- approximately 98% of softwood lumber consumed in U.S.

Agencies accredited to label HT only

-AWIS	-C&R	-CIS	-EWPI
-LIWP	-MFPA	-PRL	-WRD

Accredits agencies to oversee treated wood using AWPA standards

- BI
- SPIB
- TP

- approximately 95 plants subscribe to accredited agency services

Accredits agencies to oversee labeling of heat treated wood packaging material using IPPC guidelines:

Heat Treated WPM

-AWIS	-WWPA
-C&R	-CIS
-EWPI	-FP
-LIWP	-NeLMA
MFPA	-PLIB
-RRA	-PRL
-TP	-SPIB
-WRD	

approximately 5500 facilities subscribe

Fumigated WPM

-EWPI	-LIWP	-PRL
-TPS	-PLIB	

Accredits agencies to oversee labeling of wood pellets using PFI standard:

- PFS
- SPIB
- TP

Accredits laboratories to analyze wood pellets manufactured to PFI standard:

- University of Maine
- Canadian BioEnergy Centre
- Timber Products
- Twin Ports Testing
- AJ Edmonds Co.

Maintains an ongoing program to monitor and enforce agency performance