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**TYPICAL QUALITY GRADE MARKS  
APPROVED GRADE INSPECTION AGENCIES  
UNDER AMERICAN LUMBER STANDARD COMMITTEE (ALSC)**

The Board of Review of the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) has certified the following rules:

**Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber**; published by the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB), 4709 Scenic Highway, Pensacola, FL 32504; phone 850-434-2611; fax 850-433-5594

**Standard Grading Rules for West Coast Lumber**; published by the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB), Box 23145, Portland, OR 97281-3145; phone 503-639-0651; fax 503-684-8928

**Western Lumber Grading Rules**; published by the Western Wood Products Association (WWPA), 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204-2122; phone 503-224-3930; fax 503-224-3934

**All untreated and treated timber and lumber products that require a grade shall be made from untreated wood that has been graded in accordance with Specification 4162-4164 requirements and in accordance with the Grading Rules as described above. Each piece shall bear a legible grade mark from an accredited agency similar to those shown on this Appendix.**

**ALSC BOARD-ACCREDITED AGENCIES, INCORPORATED & TYPICAL GRADE STAMPS**

**Typical Grade Stamp**



**Agency Names & Addresses**

**Continental Inspection Agency, LLC**  
PO Box 785  
Lodi, CA 95241  
209-367-3840  
916-718-5217  
209-367-3840 (fax)  
drdodgerman@sbcglobal.net (e-mail)

1. Approval as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. WCLIB Rules
  - b. WWPA Rules
  - c. RIS Rules
  - d. NGR portion of the NLGA Rules
2. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services under all rules.

**Typical Grade Stamp**



**Agency Names & Addresses**

**Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NeLMA)**

272 Tuttle Road  
PO Box 87A  
Cumberland Center, ME 04021  
207-829-6901  
207-829-4293 (fax)  
Info@nelma.org (email)

1. NeLMA is a rules writing agency.
2. Approval of rules they publish and as an inspection agency including mill supervisory services under:
  - a. NeLMA Rules
  - b. NSLB Rules
  - c. NGR, Posts & Timbers, & Beams & Stringers portions of WCLIB Rules
  - d. NGR, Selects & Common Boards, 4/4 Shop, Heavy Shop, Posts & Timbers, & Beams & Stringers under the WWPA Rules.
  - e. NGR portion of the SPIB Rules
  - f. NGR portion of the NLGA Rules
3. Approved to supervise glued & machine-graded lumber.
4. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services under all rules.



**Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB)**

33442 First Way South  
Suite 300  
Federal Way, WA 98003  
253-835-3344  
253-835-3371 (fax)  
Info@plib.org (e-mail)

1. Approval as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. WCLIB Rules
  - b. WWPA Rules
2. Approved to supervise glued and machine graded lumber.
3. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.

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**Typical Grade Stamp**



**Agency Names & Addresses**

**Redwood Inspection Service (RIS)**

405 Enfrente Drive  
Suite 200  
Novato, CA 94949  
415-382-0662  
415-382-8531 (fax)  
info@calredwood.org (e-mail)

1. RIS is a rules writing agency.
2. Approval of rules they publish and as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. WCLIB Rules
  - b. WWPA Rules
3. Approved to supervise machine graded lumber.
4. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.



**Renewable Resource Associates, Inc. (RRA)**

3091 Chaparral Place  
Lithonia, GA 30038  
770-482-9385  
770-484-2541 (fax)  
rra.inc@mindspring.com (e-mail)

1. Approval as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. SPIB Rules
  - b. NGR, Selects and Finish, Boards, Posts and Timbers, and Beams and Stringers portions of the WWPA Rules
  - c. NGR, Posts and Timbers, and Beams and Stringers portions of the WCLIB Rules
2. Approved to supervise glued lumber and machine graded lumber.
3. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.

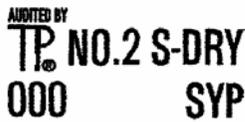


**Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB)**

4709 Scenic Highway  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
850-434-2611  
850-433-5594 (fax)  
spib@spib.org (e-mail)

1. SPIB is a rules writing agency.
2. Approval of rules they publish and as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. SPIB Rules
3. Approved to supervise glued and machine graded lumber.
4. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.

**Typical Grade Stamp**



**Agency Names & Addresses**

**Timber Products Inspection (TP)**

P.O. Box 919  
Conyers, GA 30012  
770-922-8000  
770-922-1290 (fax)  
jmoore@tpinspection.com (e-mail)

1. Approval as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. SPIB Rules
  - b. WCLIB Rules
  - c. WWPA Rules
2. Approved to supervise glued and machine graded lumber.
3. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.

**West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB)**

P.O. Box 23145  
Portland, OR 97281-3145  
503-639-0651  
506-684-8928 (fax)  
bshelley@wclib.org (e-mail)

1. WCLIB is a rules writing agency.
2. Approval of rules they publish and as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. WCLIB Rules
  - b. WWPA Rules
  - c. NGLA Rules
  - d. NGR, Scaffold Plank, Radius Edge Decking, Finish and Boards portions of the SPIB Rules
3. Approved to supervise glued and machine graded lumber.
4. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.

**Western Wood Products Association (WWPA)**

522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97204-2122  
503-224-3930  
503-224-3934 (fax)  
info@wwpa.org (e-mail)

1. WWPA is a rules writing agency.
2. Approval of rules they publish and as an inspection agency including mill supervisory service under:
  - a. WWPA Rules
  - b. WCLIB Rules
3. Approved to supervise glued and machine graded lumber.
4. Approved to provide heat treatment audit services.

With few exceptions (See Note A), all approved grade stamps include the following five elements:

**Visually Graded Lumber<sup>1</sup>:**

(a) TRADEMARK®	(c) Grade Designation
(b) Mill Identification	(d) (e) Species Seasoning

- a. *Trademark* – indicates identity of agency quality supervision
- b. *Mill Identification* – product manufacturer name, brand or assigned mill number
- c. *Grade Designation* – grade name (number or abbreviation)
- d. *Species Identification* – name or abbreviation of individual species or species combination
- e. *Condition of Seasoning<sup>a</sup>* - moisture content classification at time of surfacing
  - 1. *S-Dry* – 19% maximum moisture content
  - 2. *MC15* – 15% maximum moisture content
  - 3. *KD* – kiln-dried to moisture content indicated in grading rules
  - 4. *S-Gm* – over 19% moisture content (unseasoned)

<sup>a</sup> - *HT* – designation for Heat-Treated – while not a seasoning designation, the abbreviation HT may be found in conjunction with the above seasoning abbreviations (See notes below). The HT definition can be found in the grading rules.

**Machine-Graded Lumber<sup>1</sup>:**

Grade stamps on machine-graded lumber include the five elements listed above for visually graded lumber. Grade designations for the two types of machine-graded lumber, machine stress rated (MSR) lumber and machine evaluated lumber (MEL), are distinctive from those used for visually graded lumber grades.

**Machine Stress Rated Lumber (MSR) Stamp:**

(b) Mill Identification	(d) Species	(e) Seasoning
(a) TRADEMARK®	(c) ####Fb-#. #E	
Machine Rated		

MST grade designations are composed of the assigned extreme fiber in bending (Fb or f) in psi and the assigned modulus of elasticity (E) in millions of pounds per square inch. Examples include 1650f-1.5E; 2100f-1.8E; and 2400f-2.0E. The phrase “Machine Rated” or “MSR” is also required on machine stress-rated lumber stamps.

**Machine-Evaluated Lumber (MEL) Stamp:**

(a) TRADEMARK®	(b) Mill Identification
(d) Species	(e) Seasoning
(c) M-xx	
####Fb	##.#E      ####Ft

MEL Grade designations use the format M-xx; where xx indicates a one or two digit number. Examples include M-12; M-15; and M-19. In addition, the assigned extreme fiber in bending (Fb or f) in psi, the assigned modulus of elasticity (E) in millions of pounds per square inch, and the assigned tension parallel to grain (Ft) in psi are required elements of machine evaluated lumber stamps.

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**Glued Lumber:**

(a) TRADEMARK®	(b) Mill Identification
(d) Species	(e) Seasoning
(c) Grade Identification (Type Glue/Appropriate Use)	

Grade stamps on glued lumber include all the information indicated for visually graded lumber. In addition, the grade stamp includes a designation or abbreviation indicating the type of glue joint and appropriate use. Examples include “Stud Use Only,” “Vertical Use Only,” “Certified End Joint,” and “Certified Exterior Joints.”

**NOTE:** Grade Stamp Layout – The placement of the required elements within a grade stamp may vary, depending on the preferences of the specific supervising agency. The sample grade stamp facsimiles that accompany the agency listing herein provide a good example of the typical placement of elements preferred by that particular agency. Contact the agency, whose trademark appears on the lumber, for specific information related to the agency’s grade stamping policies.

**NOTE A:** Grade stamps for timbers are not required to include the condition of seasoning. An approved grade stamp may include only a) trademark, b) mill identification, and c) HT designation. Grade stamps are permitted to include information that is not required, so long as the additional information is not confusing, misleading or deceptive. Contact the agency, whose trademark appears on the lumber, for specific information related to the agency’s grade stamping policy.

American Lumber Standard Committee, Inc.  
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310-972-1700 (phone) 301-540-8004 (fax) [alsc@alsc.org](mailto:alsc@alsc.org) (e-mail) [www.alsc.org](http://www.alsc.org) (url)