

Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber

Management of Change Form



Background Information

Name of Person Requesting the Change: Multiple

Date of Requested Change: 1Q2025

Request Title: Condensing of the 600 (MGL) Section

Printed Date: 2Q25

Change Category

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal to align with National Grading Rule | <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal to align with SPIB governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal to align with ALSC Enforcement Regs | <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal based Resource Monitoring Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal to align with PS 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Rule - Addition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editorial change to existing content | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Rule – Removal |

Description of Proposed Change

Condense and clarify in the 600 section by deleting, moving, and renaming sections.

Rationale

Mechanically graded lumber (MGL) is defined by both strength and visual characteristics in the 2021 Standard Grading Rules. However, the visual requirements for Machine Stress Rated (MSR) lumber and Machine Evaluated Lumber (MEL) are identical. Having separate visual grading rules for MSR and MEL only makes the document longer and more confusing.

In addition, equations for specific gravity quality control that are given in the text are repeated for both MSR and MEL, even though they are the same.

Proposal

Add:

- The following section introduction:

Visually graded lumber is adequate in most traditional applications, but for more demanding engineered uses, such as commercial/industrial roof and floor systems, glued laminated beams, etc., Mechanically graded lumber (MGL) can often be used instead of steel or concrete. Mechanically graded lumber (MGL) has four subsets.

- MSR Scaffold Plank (see sections 511 & 512)
- Machine Stress Rated Lumber (MSR)
- Machine Evaluated Lumber (MEL)
- E-Rated Structural Laminations

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The general descriptions, design values, visual grading requirements, and additional information about MSR, MEL, and E-Rated Structural Laminations are described in the following sections.

Proposal (continued)

Remove:

- Section 612 (MEL Visual Grading Rules)
- Section 601.1 & 601.2 (specific gravity quality control equations, listed in MSR Quality Control Section)

Re-order, such that section title order is as follows:

Old Order	New Order
Machine Stress Rated Lumber	Introduction to Mechanically Graded Lumber
Visual grading requirements (MSR)	Machine Stress Rated Lumber
MSR grades with 1000 psi Fb or greater	Machine Evaluated Lumber
MSR grades with less than 1000 psi Fb	Specific Gravity Quality Control for MSR and MEL
Machine Evaluated Lumber	Visual Grading Requirements (MSR and MEL)
Visual grading characteristics (MEL)	MSR and MEL grades with 1000 psi Fb or greater
MEL grades with 1000 psi Fb or greater	MSR and MEL grades with less than 1000 psi Fb
MEL grades with less than 1000 psi Fb	E-Rated Structural Laminations
E-Rated Structural Laminations	Visual Grading Requirements
Visual Grading requirements	

END FORM