

# Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber

Management of Change Form



Name of Person Requesting the Change: William Griffin

Date of Requested Change: 3/9/2026

Request Title: Integration of 2025 ALSC Board of Review–Approved National Grading Rule Changes into the SPIB Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber

Printed Date: 2Q2026

Change Category:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Editorial change to existing content                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Rule – Removal                       |

Description of Proposed Change: *(In very few words, what does the proposed change accomplish?)*

Changing the 2021 SPIB Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber to match the current version of the National Grading Rule. ALSC Board of Review-approved changes integrated include:

- Clarifying and “average of \_\_\_” hole or equivalent smaller holes are allowed per \_\_\_ linear feet. The blank value is grade-dependent.
- Changing surface shake allowance from 3’ to 4’ in No. 2 and Standard grades.
- Clarifying a surface shake is permitted in Stud grade.
- Figures 3 – 22 were changed substantially as has some of the wording surrounding the figures. Section 700 which has excerpts from the NGR and the NGR Interpretations was updated to reflect the current version.

Rationale: *(Briefly explain why the proposal should be adopted?)*

Changes to the NGR have altered what should be printed in the 2021 SPIB Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber. Changes are being incorporated in newly printed editions to prevent confusion and conflicts in information.

Supporting Information:

**Changing No. 2 / Standard Surface Shake Rule:**

**Shakes** – if through at ends limited as splits; away from ends through shakes up to 2’ long, well separated; if not through, single shakes shall not exceed 3’-4’ long or 1/4 the length, whichever is greater. In pieces less than 8’ long, surface shake 1/2 the length, through shakes 1/4 the length.

“Average of” addition in No. 3 knot size table

displacement.

Nominal Width	At Edge Wide Face	Centerline Wide Face	Holes (Any Cause)
2"	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"
3"	1-1/4"	1-1/4"	1-1/4"
4"	1-3/4"	2-1/2"	1-3/4"
5"	2-1/4"	3"	1-7/8"
6"	2-3/4"	3-3/4"	2"
8"	3-1/2"	4-1/2"	2-1/2"
10"	4-1/2"	5-1/2"	3"
12"	5-1/2"	6-1/2"	3-1/2"
14"	6"	7"	4"

Average of  
One hole or  
equivalent  
smaller holes  
per 1 lin. ft.

**Table 300-5: No.3 knot and hole sizes**

Example of New Figures

**KNOT MEASUREMENT (cont.) as interpreted by the National Grading Rules for Dimension Lumber:**

*Figure 5a 3-Face Knot*

Knot size =  $(A + B) / 2$

*Figure 5b 3-Face Knot*

Knot size =  $(A + B) / 2$

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**KNOT MEASUREMENT (cont.) as interpreted by the National Grading Rules for Dimension Lumber:**

*Figure 5c 4-Face Knot*

Knot size =  $(A + B) / 2$

**KNOT LOCATION as interpreted by the National Grading Rules for Dimension Lumber:**

The allowable size for knots on wide faces, when appearing away from the edge, shall be proportionately increased from the size specified for knots located at the edge of the wide face to the size specified for knots located along the center line. The increase shall start at a distance from the edge equal to 1/2 the diameter of the allowable edge knot (Figure 6).

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**KNOT LOCATION (cont.) as interpreted by the National Grading Rules for Dimension Lumber:**

*Figure 6*

Maximum edge knot  
Proportionate increase  
Maximum centerline knot

The size of knots on wide faces are permitted to be increased proportionately from the size permitted at the edge, to the size permitted at the centerline.

*Knots appearing on wide faces shall be considered as located at the midpoint of its displacement (Figure 7a and 7b).*

*Figure 7a*

Pith of knot  
Knot location reconsidered at midpoint of knot displacement

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Shake in Stud grade

**Shakes** – Surface shake permitted. If through at ends, limited as splits; elsewhere through shakes 1/3 the length