

# Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber

Management of Change Form



Name of Person Requesting the Change: William Griffin

Date of Requested Change: 11/14/2025

Request Title: Changes to Patio 1 and Patio 2 Grade Rules

Printed Date: 2Q2026

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

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

Modifies the Southern Pine Patio 1 and Patio 2 grade rules for clarity.

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

Rules for Patio 1 and Patio 2, currently published in the Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber, are primarily representative of Western species, as they reference those Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) grading rules and are currently referred to as “guidelines” in the current print of the SPIB Grading Rules. To address the specific needs and defects of Southern Pine, promote grade marking in the interest of fair competition, and enable shipment checks at delivery points, the following changes are proposed to provide clarity.

Proposal: (*Show new, revised, or deleted text exactly as it would appear in the legislative format: ~~Line through text~~ to be deleted. Underline text to be added. If possible, avoid using the “track changes” tool; instead, use the “strikethrough” and “underline” features in the font menu. Please note section(s) to be deleted if revisions are extensive and include replacement text. Please make every effort to include the text within this section, not as a separate attachment. Do not include unaffected sections, tables, or figures unless it is necessary to demonstrate the relationship of proposed revisions.*)

See attached redline

**Supporting Information:**

No supporting information

END FORM

than 3/8" in 4" and 1/2" in 5" and 6"; scant of standard dressed thickness not more than 1/4".

## 430. PATIO DECKING

Some mills manufacture decking under Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) Rules. The Southern Pine Inspection Bureau has provided a guideline below for applying these rules to Southern Yellow Pine lumber. For a complete set please contact WWPA. There are two grades of Patio Decking: **PATIO-Patio 1** and **PATIO-Patio 2**. Patio Decking is available in nominal 1-1/4" nominal thickness, s-surfaced dry to either 1" or 1-5/32" (29mm) thick, and 5-1/2" (140mm) wide. One inch thick stock is manufactured with 1/4" radius edges. Stock 1-5/32" thick has Patio Decking is manufactured with 3/8" radius edges. Standard lengths are 6' and longer in multiples of 1'.

### 430.1. Recommended Spans for Patio Decking

Grade	Dressed Thickness	Nominal Width	Support Spacing
<b>Patio 1 or Patio 2</b>	1-5/32"	6"	24" OC

Table 400-10: Recommended spans for Patio Decking

**430.2.** Face side knots are measured and limited to a size determined by an average of the maximum and minimum diameters.

## 431 PATIO 1 [Patio 1]

Characteristics permitted and limiting provisions are:

### NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Decay (Unsound Wood)** – not permitted

**Knots (Wide Face)** – Sound, firm, encased, and pith knots, if tight and well-spaced, are permitted in the following sizes or their equivalent displacement:

Nominal Width	Knots <sup>(1)</sup>	Encased Knots <sup>(2)</sup>	Unsound Knots
6"	2-3/4"	1"	Not Permitted

Table 400-11: Patio 1 knot sizes

(1) ~~Narrow face knots and spike knots are~~ Knots limited to a displacement of 50% of the cross section in 1-5/32" and 44% in 1" thickness

(2) Encased knots are limited to two of maximum size or equivalent smaller per 12' of length

(3) ~~Knots are measured by the displacement method. Any knot touching the edge is an edge knot and may not be increased in size~~

**Holes** – pin holes (1/16"), 15 per square foot or one medium hole (1/4") for each 4' of length

**Pitch** – medium

**Pitch Pockets** and **Bark Pockets** – small (1/16" in width and 6" in length, or 1/8" in width and 4" in length, or 1/4" in width and 2" in length)

**Pitch Streaks** – one medium (1/6 nominal width by 1/3 length) per 12' of length.

**Pith** – not limited

**Shakes** – light (1/32") ~~heart~~ shakes not exceeding 1/2 the length. If through limited as splits

**Slope of Grain** – 1 in 6

**Stain** – medium over entire face

**Timber Break** – not permitted

**Worm-Eaten Pitch** – not permitted

### MANUFACTURING CHARACTERISTICS

**Cross Break** – not permitted

**Manufacture** – Standard E (See Section 722(e))

**Planer Tear** – not permitted

**Saw Cuts (Saw Kerfs)** – not permitted

**Skips** – ~~one very light on face; light on edge and back not exceeding 1/4 the area~~ very light (1/64") on face not exceeding 10% of area; light skip (1/32") on edge and back not exceeding 1/4 the area

**Wane** – ~~Not permitted on face. 1/2" deep, 1" wide on back~~ 1/2" deep, 1" wide on back

#### DRYING CHARACTERISTICS

**Checks** – medium (1/32" x 10") seasoning and roller checks. If through, limited as splits

**Splits** – short (equal in length to the nominal width of the piece), one on each end

**Warp** – medium (See Section 752)

#### REVERSE SIDE CHARACTERISTICS

**Reverse Side** – Wane - 1/2" deep, 1" wide. Unless otherwise specified, characteristics on reverse side are limited to those permitted on the face of Patio 2

### 432. PATIO 2 [Patio 2]

Characteristics permitted and limiting provisions are:

#### NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Decay (Unsound Wood)** – not permitted

**Knots (Wide Face)** – sound, firm, encased, and pith knots, if tight and well-spaced, are permitted in the following sizes, or their equivalent displacement:

Nominal Width	Knots <sup>(1)</sup>	Encased Knots <sup>(2)</sup>	Unsound, Loose Knots & Knot Holes <sup>(3)</sup>
6"	3-1/2"	2"	1-1/2"

Table 400-12: Patio 2 knot sizes

(1) ~~Combination knots and narrow face knots and spike knots~~ are limited to a displacement of 50% the cross section ~~in 1-5/32" and 44% in 1" thickness~~

(2) Encased knots and unsound knots are limited to two of maximum size or equivalent smaller per 12' of length

(3) Loose knots ~~and knot holes~~ are limited to one of maximum size or two equivalent smaller per 12' of length

(4) ~~Knots are measured by the displacement method. Any knot touching the edge is an edge knot and may not be increased in size~~

**Holes** – pin holes (1/16"), 30 per square foot or one medium ~~hole~~ hole (1/4") for each 3' of length

**Pitch** – medium

**Pitch Pockets** and **Bark Pockets** – medium (1/16" in width and 12" in length, or 1/8" in width and 8" in length, or 3/8" in width and 4" in length)

**Pitch Streaks** – two medium (1/6 nominal width by 1/3 length) per 12' of length.

**Pith** – not limited

**Shakes** – medium (1/8" wide) if through, limited as splits. Single surface shakes may be up to 1/24 the length

**Slope of Grain** – 1 in 6

**Stain** – not limited

**Timber Break** – ~~not limited~~ limited to sound knot size

**Worm-Eaten Pitch** – not permitted

#### MANUFACTURING CHARACTERISTICS

**Cross Break** – not permitted

**Manufacture** – Standard E (See Section 722(e))

**Planer Tear** – not permitted

**Saw Cuts (Saw Kerfs)** – not permitted

**Skips** – light (1/32") on face not exceeding 10% of area; hit and miss - 1/16" on edges and back

**Wane** – 1/8" deep, 1/2" wide, 1/4 length on face. 1/2 thickness, 1/4 width, and 1/4 length on the back in an occasional piece

#### DRYING CHARACTERISTICS

**Checks** – surface seasoning checks not limited. Medium (1/32" x 10") roller checks; If through, limited as splits

**Splits** – medium (equal in length to twice the nominal width of the piece), one on each end

**Warp** – heavy (See Section 752)

#### REVERSE SIDE CHARACTERISTICS

**Reverse Side** – Wane – 1/2 thickness, 1/4 width (1-1/2"), and 1/4 length. S-spots and streaks of heart center decay well scattered, limited to 1" wide. Unless otherwise specified, other characteristics on the reverse side may be approximately 25% greater than those listed for the face excluding knots. Individual wide face knots are limited to 3-1/2".

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