

THE ALSC SYSTEM

AMERICAN LUMBER STANDARD COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED

A Consensus Standard For The Formulation And Enforcement

Of Lumber Grading Rules And Design Values

- First efforts to standardize lumber began in 1922 when Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover responding to a request from the lumber industry offered the cooperation of the Dept in activities directed toward simplification, standardization and development of adequate quality guarantees for the lumber consuming public.
- First standard published under Dept. of Commerce in 1924.
- In 1941 National Lumber Manufacturers Association (NLMA) enters into a consent decree with U.S. court and court directs NLMA to create an impartial agency to oversee standardization, certification and accreditation for softwood lumber.
- 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

ALSC Membership

- Secretary of Commerce appoints ALSC membership from the following national groups:

Manufacturers

Retailers

Wholesalers

Architects

Engineers

Homebuilders

Wood Using Industries

Wood Treating Industry

Consumers

Wood Packaging Material

- Each organization submits its nominee to Secretary of Commerce.
- Individual is appointed for 5 year term.
- At present the ALSC membership has 23 members and 23 alternate members.
- The ALSC has responsibility to maintain PS 20.
- The ALSC develops policies to operate the programs it oversees and the Board of Review is responsible for carrying out those policies.

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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 agencies, wood treating industry

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 the Standard current

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

Has responsibility for keeping national grading rule (NGR) for dimension lumber current

Board of Review

- Membership on the ALSC is divided into 3 groups (rules writing agencies, non-rules writing agencies and others) for nominating members of the Board of Review.
- The full ALSC elects each member of the Board for a 3 year term
- Has responsibility to certify grading rules and all changes in those rules to conform with to PS 20
- Board meets at least on a quarterly basis but can meet more when necessary.
- Has responsibility to accredit agencies to supervise labeling of products under 3 accreditation programs
 - 1-Lumber Program
 - 2-Treated Wood Program
 - 3-Wood Packaging Material Program

AMERICAN LUMBER STANDARD COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED

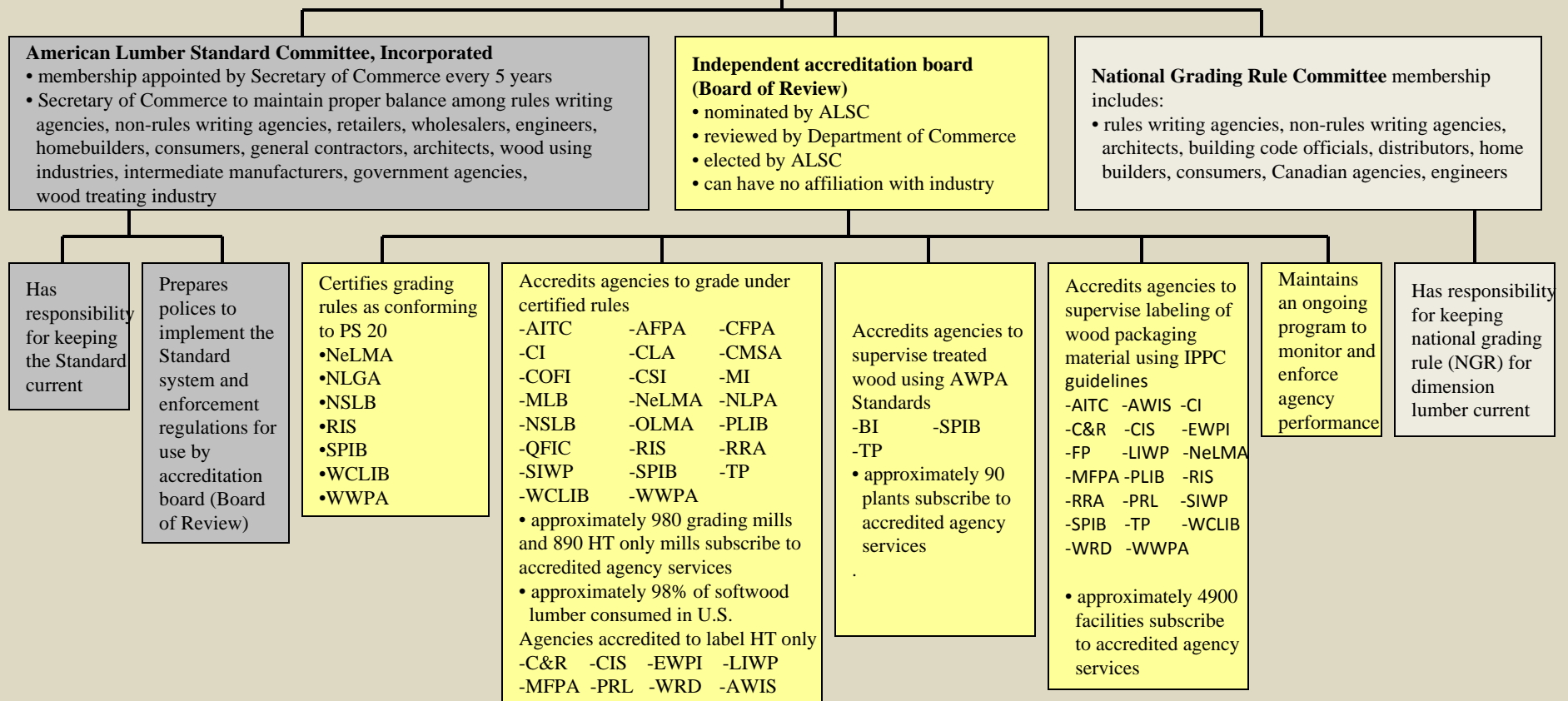
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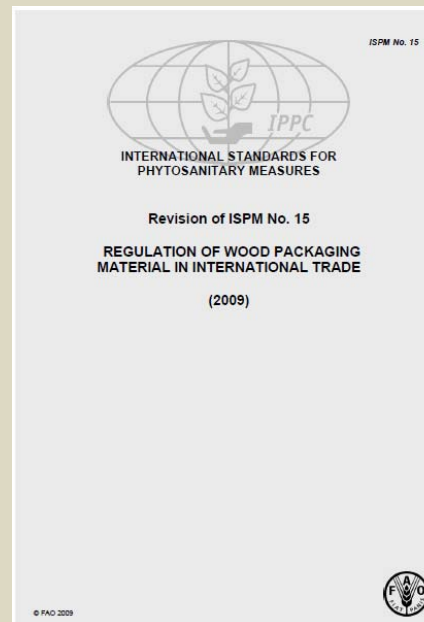
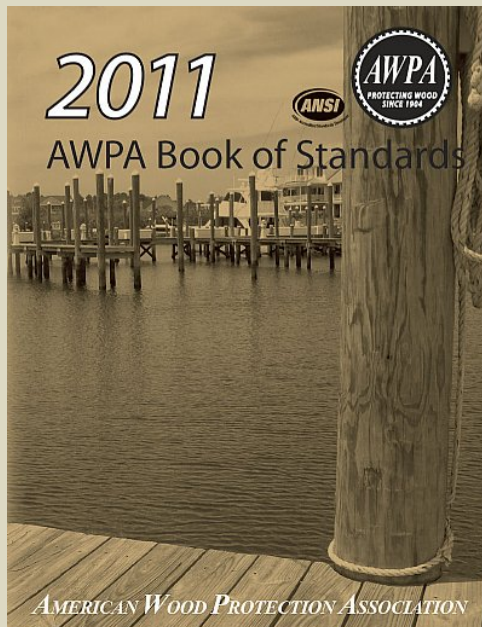
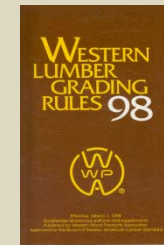
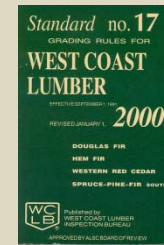
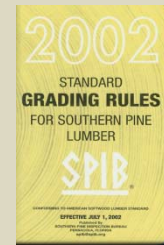
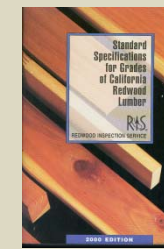
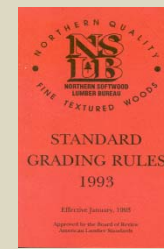
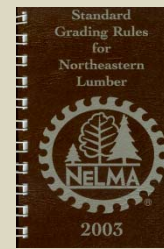
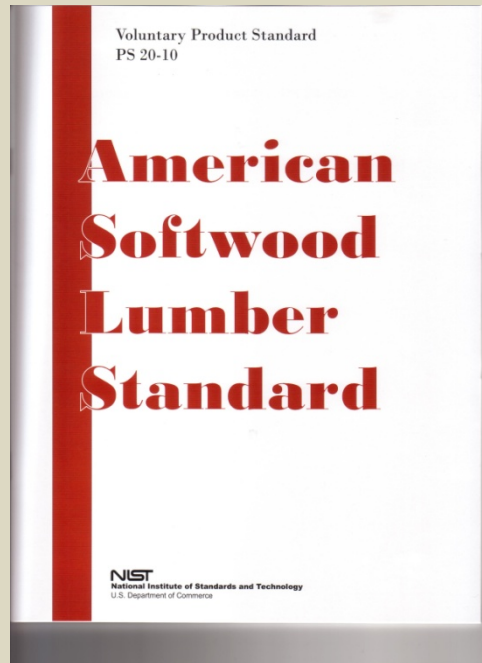
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How the ALSC Program Works

The ALSC program is a three tiered program with oversight.

ALSC -- establishes policies and procedures that are used to develop a quality control program for the labeling of lumber, treated wood and wood packaging material. ALSC continually reviews these procedures with input from all effected parties to assure appropriateness.

Board of Review – uses the polices and procedures developed by the ALSC to accredit agencies and laboratories under the various ALSC programs.

Agency -- provides service to the mills that produce products under the various ALSC programs so the products can be labeled as complying with the ALSC requirements.

Board of Review (BOR) Oversight of the Various Programs

- BOR uses requirements established by the ALSC to accredit an agencies that provide supervisory services to mills, plants or facilities that manufacture and label lumber, treated wood or wood packaging material products as meeting the requirements of the ALSC programs.
- BOR monitoring procedures of the 3 accreditation programs are very similar in structure.

Board of Review Oversight of the Various Programs (cont.)

BOR uses a full time staff to continually monitor each accredited agency for compliance with the accreditation requirements by:

- Conducting reviews of the accredited agency/lab office and inspection/lab records at a minimum of once a year to determine compliance to the requirements.
- Conducting a minimum of 2 surveys per year on each accredited agency to obtain information on the performance of the accredited agency. Surveys are developed by randomly selecting a minimum of 10% of the mills using the services of an agency.
- BOR staff makes unannounced inspections at the mills, treating plants or wood packaging material operations for compliance to the requirements .
- When problems are encountered the product in question is held for correction by the agency. The agency corrects the problem and furnishes a written report to BOR detailing the steps taken by the agency to correct the problem and prevent recurrence.
- When a problem is found the mill is placed on a list for return inspections by ALS staff to assure the agency has addressed the problem.

Board of Review (BOR) Oversight of the Various Programs (cont.)

- Once accredited if the agency does not meet the requirements of the ALSC, the BOR can take one of the following actions:
 - Do nothing
 - Place the agency on probation
 - Suspend the accreditation of the agency
 - Withdraw BOR accreditation of the agency
- Since 1970 the BOR had de-accredited 4 lumber agencies, 2 treated agencies, 1 heat treat only agency and 1 wood packaging material agency.
- The most recent being in August 2009 when the BOR de-accredited Forest Products Services as a heat treat only agency and a wood packaging material agency for non-compliance to the requirements.

Documents Involved in an ALSC Densified Fuel Accreditation Program

In addition to required legal documents that may be executed between PFI and ALSC for the implementation of the program the following documents are involved.

- **PFI Documents (required):**

- *Pellet Fuel Institute (PFI) Standard Specification for Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel*
- *Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel QA/QC Handbook*

- **PFI Documents (informational):**

- *PFI North American Grading and Quality Management System for Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel*

- **ALSC Documents (required):**

- *Densified Fuel Policy*
- *Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel Enforcement Regulations*

How the Program will Work

- Once the ALSC approves the involvement of ALSC in the program along with the appropriate documents for implementation, applications for accreditation as an agency or laboratory can be filed with the Board of Review.
- Staff will review the application for compliance with the requirements and furnish it to the Board for consideration.
- Board will rule on the request and if accredited the agency or lab can begin providing the service for which it is accredited.
- The Board will the begin its monitoring of the agency or lab for compliance to the requirements.

INFORMATION

- ALSC website address is:

www.alsc.org

- ALSC phone number 301.972.1700--Tom Searles, John McDaniel or Russell Reck
- As the program gets implemented, I am sure there will be many questions and things will develop that have not been considered. Feel free to contact Tom, Russell or me.
- Once approved all documents pertaining to the ALSC Densified Fuel program will be available on the website.

Questions?