

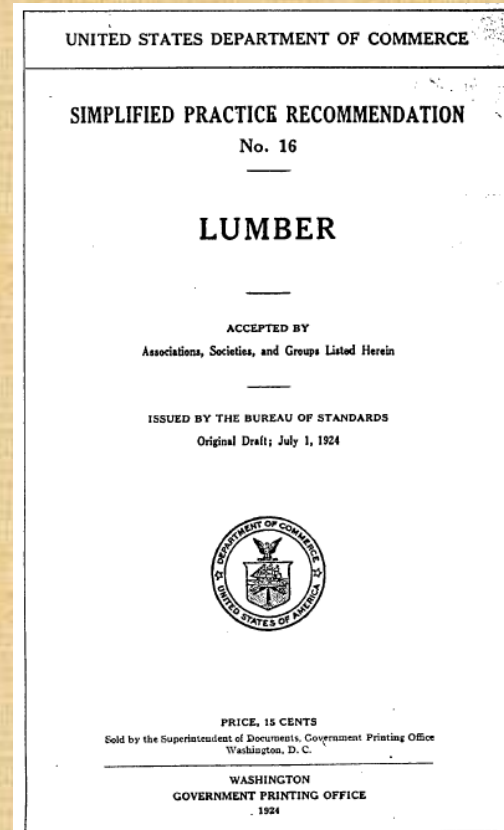
**The Relationship of the  
PFI Standards Program  
and the  
American Lumber Standard Committee**

# Who is the ALSC

- Had its beginnings in 1922
- At the request of the lumber industry Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover offered the cooperation of the Department of Commerce

DoC cooperation lead to the establishment of a lumber standard—Simplified Practice Recommendation R16 1924 edition

SPR 16 was revised in 1925, 1926, 1929, 1939, 1953.



# SPR 16 undergoes a major revision in 1970

Now known as **PS 20**

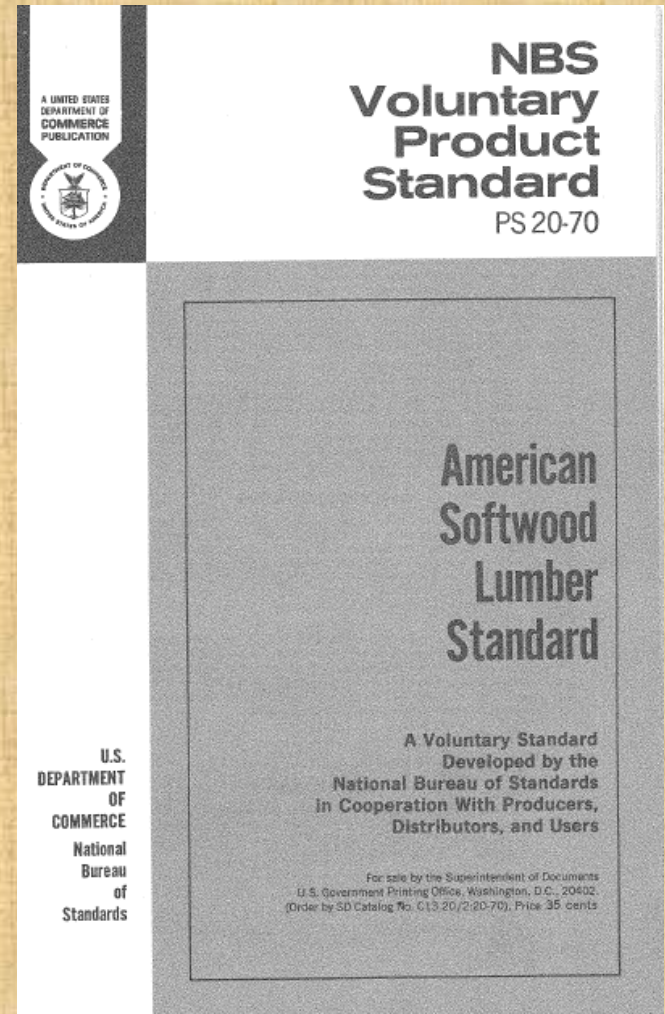
**Secretary of Commerce establishes the membership** on the ALSC

**Establishes the Board of Review**

Many other aspects that dealt standardization of lumber

PS 20 was revised in 1985, 1991, 1992, 1999, 2005 and 2010

Reviewed at least every 5 years for appropriateness



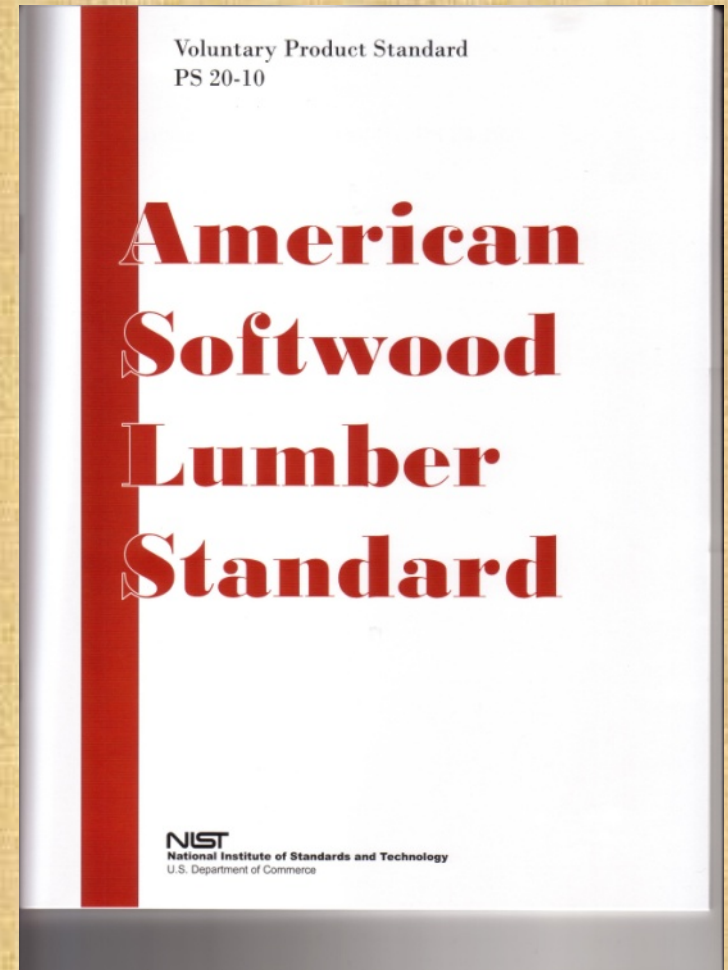


# PS 20 *American Softwood Lumber Standard*

**Voluntary** standard

**Consensus standard** developed under the Department of Commerce procedures

The purpose of this standardization program for manufacturers, distributors, users and consumers is to provide for the correct grade mark labeling of lumber by mills using the service of an accredited agency.



# 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
- Individual is appointed for 5 year term.
- At present the ALSC membership has 23 members and 23 alternate members.
- ALSC has responsibility to maintain PS 20.
- ALSC elects an independent Board of Review to carry out those policies.

# How the ALSC Program Works

A three tiered program with oversight.

**ALSC** -- establishes policies and procedures used to develop a quality control program for the labeling of lumber, treated wood, wood packaging material and pellets.

-- these policies and procedures are continually reviewed with input from all effected parties to assure appropriateness.

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

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

# Board of Review Oversight of the Various Programs

- BOR accredits agencies in four programs (lumber, treated wood, wood packaging material, pellets) as meeting the ALSC program requirements
- BOR monitoring procedures between the 4 accreditation programs are very similar in structure.



## **BOR Role**

- Uses a full time staff to continually monitor each accredited agency
- Conducts review of the accredited agency/lab office and inspection/lab records at a minimum of once a year
- Conducts a minimum of 2 surveys per year on each accredited agency to obtain information on the performance of the accredited agency.



## **BOR Role (cont.)**

- BOR staff makes unannounced inspections at manufacturing companies serviced by the agency
- 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 manufacturer is placed on a list for a return inspection by ALS staff to assure the agency has addressed the problem.

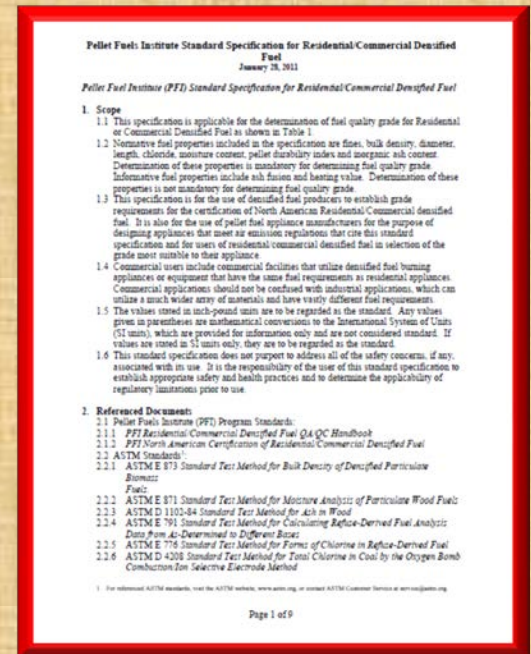
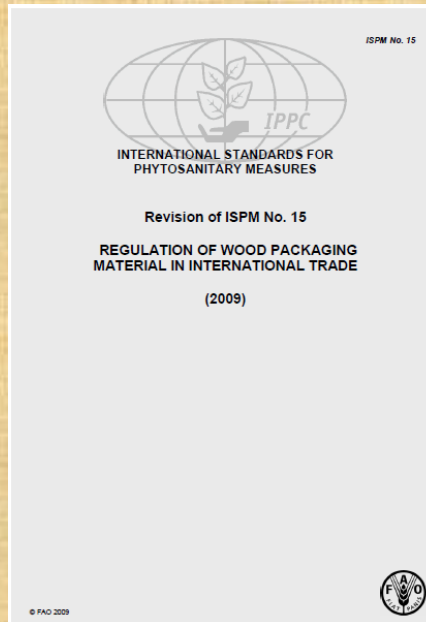
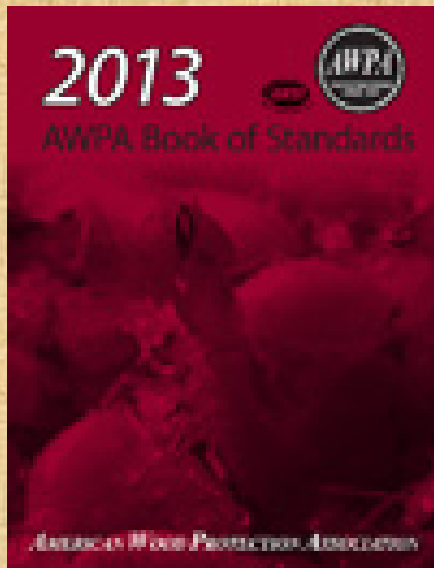
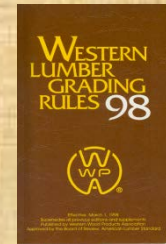
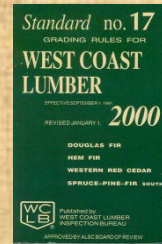
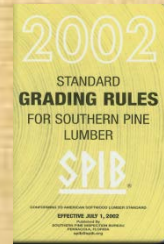
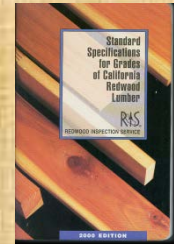
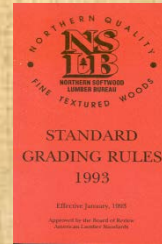
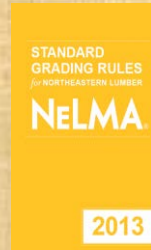
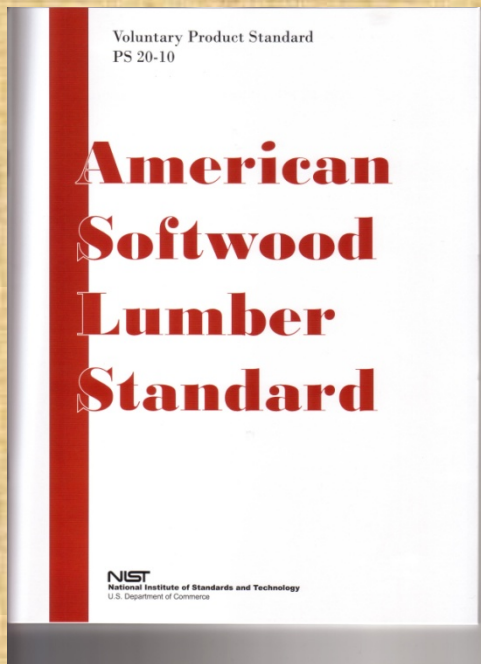
## BOR Role (cont.)

- 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 wood 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.

# ALSC Information

- Headquartered in Germantown, MD
- Non-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland
- 501 C-3 organization
- Small staff-13 total
  - 5 in the office in Germantown provide service for ALSC/BOR
  - 8 Field Representatives located in NC, GA, MS, NY, ID, CA and BC develop information for BOR







# ALSC Accreditation Program Summary

Program	# Accredited Agencies		# Accredited Laboratories		# Mill/Plants/Facilities		Current Producer Locations
	US	Can	US	Can	US	CA	
Lumber	11	10	n/a		650	274	US, CA, SW, FN, LT, EE, LV, DE, FR, CZ, AT, RO, AR, CL, NZ
HT Only	8	--	n/a		870	67	US, CA
Treated Wood	3	--	2	--	94	--	US
Wood Packaging Material	19	n/a	n/a		5164	n/a	US (only)
Pellets	10	2	4	1	1	--	US
All Programs	51	12	6	1	6779	341	At least 15 countries
	63		7		7120		

# PS 20 and PFI Standard Parallels

Both are voluntary standards

Both have essentially the same purpose:

PS 20 -- The purpose of this standardization program for manufacturers, distributors, users and consumers is to provide for the correct grade mark labeling of lumber by mills using the service of an accredited agency.

PFI Standard -- The purpose of this standardization program for manufacturers, distributors, users and consumers is to provide for the correct **quality** mark labeling of **pellets** by mills using the service of an accredited agency.

## Revisions to Standards Utilized by ALSC Programs:

- Lumber: **PS 20** -- 12 or so revisions since its began in 1924 as SPR 16-24
- Treated Wood: **AWPA treating standards** are revised annually
- WPM: **ISPM 15** has been revised 3 times since developed in 2002
- All are consensus standards and changes have been made through a recognized consensus process
- **Consensus procedures provide avenues for input from many groups that are impacted by the development of the particular standard making the standard stronger and more defensible**

- In recent years PFI developed
  - *Standard Specification for Residential/Commercial Densified*
  - *Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel QA/QC Handbook*
- The PFI standard has not been developed under the procedures of a recognized consensus standard process.
- ALSC has encouraged PFI to submit its standard to a recognized consensus process as soon as possible



- Both PFI documents are in their infancy
- Both look good on paper
- Proof will be in the implementation to determine if they are adequate
- Both can be adjusted to address areas that are overly restrictive or loose

# Memorandum of Understanding Executed by PFI/ALSC

- Establishes the program documents used to implement the program
- Designates ALSC to serve as the “Accreditation Body”
- Provides for a “program certification mark”
  - PFI/ALSC have entered into a separate “License Agreement” pertaining to the use of the mark
- Provides for program fees for PFI, ALSC and accredited agencies
- Prescribes that certain provisions be included in contract between ALSC and accredited agency
- Provides for termination procedures

# ALSC Contact Information

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