

# **GRADE RULE QUESTIONS & RATIFIED RESPONSES**



**GRADE COMMITTEE REFERENCE DOCUMENT**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

This “Ratified Responses” document lists questions posed to NLGA staff and Grade Committee members regarding the NLGA Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber (NLGA Grading Rule) and responses that have been ratified by the NLGA Grade Committee (NLGA GC). The purpose of this document is to provide further clarification of the NLGA Grading Rule and Interpretations to help assure consistent and uniform application of the lumber grading rules.

**Note:** Ratified responses by the NLGA Standards Committee for the NLGA Special Product Standards (SPS) are provided in a separate document appended to the SPS.

Before a response comes into effect, the response must be ratified by the NLGA GC. Until ratification of the response is made, the response is simply an opinion. This document can also be considered as a “Frequently Asked Questions” paper.

From time to time, the NLGA Ratified Responses are reviewed to determine if any of the responses should be adopted from the document and added into the NLGA Grading Rule or the NLGA Interpretations.

**Note:** Effective June 22, 2022, upon review by the Ratified Response Task Group and approval of the NLGA Grade Committee (GC), many of the Ratified Responses in this document were incorporated into the NLGA Grade Rule and Interpretations. These actions are shown in the following charts. All responses were still retained in this document to provide a historical reference for the NLGA GC.

## **B. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

This document provides NLGA Grade Committee Ratified Responses to questions arising from application of the NLGA Grade Rule to lumber grading. It is not intended as a replacement for the provisions in the NLGA Grading Rule. The NLGA Grading Rule may be amended from time to time and accordingly, where there is a conflict between it and this document, the NLGA Grading Rule will govern.

## **C. CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF RATIFIED RESPONSES**

Below is a chronological list of the Ratified Responses documented since September 1993, which includes the date the response was ratified by the NLGA GC and the applicable Paragraph(s) of the NLGA Grading Rule to which the response refers to.

<b><u>1993</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 747 (Occasional Pieces)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>1995</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paras 22/30/820 (Min. Sizes);</li> <li>• Paras 36 &amp; 121 (Trimming);</li> <li>• Para 44 (Shrinkage &amp; Lumber Properties);</li> <li>• Para 124 (Knots) (Skip)</li> <li>• Para 126 (Knots) Unsound Wood)</li> <li>• Para 127 (Shake, Intended Use, Wane &amp; Tongue)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>1996</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boards (Knot measurement)</li> <li>• Para 114 (# of holes in 6')</li> <li>• Paras 130/131 (Warp)</li> <li>• Para 151 (Over-length, Cuttings, Knots, Cut-outs &amp; Waste)</li> <li>• Para 202 (Size &amp; Knots)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>1997</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 44 (Size tolerances)</li> <li>• Paras 36/ 748b (Trimming – DET)</li> <li>• Para 108 (Reverse face)</li> <li>• Para 114 (Wane)</li> <li>• Para 113 (Thru Shake, Knots, &amp; Checks)</li> <li>• Para 124 (Saw Cuts)</li> <li>• Para 126 (Holes &amp; Shake)</li> <li>• Para 189 (Crook)</li> </ul>	

<b><u>1998</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 112e (Knots &amp; Warp)</li> <li>• Para 124 (Knots)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 350 (Rate of Growth)</li> <li>• Para 748 (Off-square PET)</li> </ul>
<b><u>1999</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 36 (Trimming)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>2001</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paras 116-118 (Knots &amp; Pockets)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>2002</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paras 114/115 (APP)</li> <li>• Para 124 (Knots, Unsound Wood, Contracts &amp; Crook)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 125 (SPS 3)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2003</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 114 (Approximate Knots)</li> <li>• Para 114 (Manufactured Damage)</li> <li>• Paras 120/122/124 (Wane Dips &amp; Manuf. Holes)</li> <li>• Para 750 (NGR Wane Dips)</li> <li>• Paras 156/157 (Cuttings) (Pinholes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 171 (Reverse Face)</li> <li>• Para 410 (Re-inspection Responsibility)</li> <li>• Para 710 (1/4" Eased Edge)</li> <li>• Para 720 (Saw-stepping)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2004</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 739 (SZD)</li> <li>• Para 752 (Measurement)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>2005</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paras 711/747 (Min. size)</li> <li>• Para 754 (G/S)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>2006</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 108 (Sap Stain)</li> <li>• Para 114 (Waste)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 124 (Knots)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2007</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 39 (G/S &amp; MC)</li> <li>• Para 108 (Skip)</li> <li>• Para 122 (Man. Holes &amp; Wane)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 124 (Knots)</li> <li>• Para 180 (Knots)</li> <li>• Para 189 (Knots)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2010</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 33 (Ripped Lumber)</li> <li>• Para 121 (Stud Fall-downs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 210 (Fine Shake)</li> <li>• Para 720e. (Skips in Dimension lumber or Boards)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2012</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 739b. (SZD Dimension)</li> <li>• Para 44 (KD-HT Grade stamping)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 122/124 (Peck)</li> <li>• Para 320 (Encased knot measurement)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2014</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 113 (W.W. Pine grade stamping)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 122e (Timber breaks in Economy)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2017</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 710 (Eased Edge)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>2018</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 754 (1&amp;Btr Combination Grade)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 179/189/190 (knot measurement)</li> </ul>
<b><u>2019</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 830a (Standard Lengths)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGR Interpretations 1.11 (Shake)</li> </ul>

<b><u>2020</u></b>	
• Para 40 (Grading Rule)	
<b><u>2022</u></b>	• Para 752 (Warp)
• Para 113a/118a (1 Common)	
<b><u>2024</u></b>	
• Para 122b and 124c (Unsound wood)	
<b><u>2025</u></b>	• Para 122b and 124c (Unsound wood)
• Para 120 (Char on dimension lumber)	

**D. QUESTIONS AND RATIFIED RESPONSES**

Questions and ratified responses are listed in numerical order of the NLGA Grading Rule paragraphs they refer to. Notes and subsequent actions to the ratified responses are shown in *italic* text.

<b>Paras. 22 / 30 / 820</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 1995</b>	<b>Q.</b> Can lumber sizes vary within a shipment as long as it meets the minimum sizes noted in Para 820?	<b>A.</b> The NLGA GC agreed that Para 22b - Manufactured Classifications for Dressed (Surfaced) Lumber: "Lumber that has been dressed by a planing machine (for the purpose of attaining smoothness of surface and uniformity of size)....." deals with within piece size variations and Paras 30 and 820b which refers to Standard Sizes and covers the size of lumber when ordered as CLS or ALS lumber.

<b>Para 33 – Resawn or Ripped Surface Lumber</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Pertains to ripping 2x6 to 2x3 and then grade-stamping KD SPF with the resulting lumber being S2S1E:</b>		
<b>Sept 2010</b>	<b>Q1.</b> Should the stamp incorporate the term “Ripped”? If that is not required, but we do it anyway, would that cause any issues?	<b>A1.</b> It is not necessary.
	<b>Q2.</b> Should the resulting product have the term S2S1E on the stamp?	<b>A2.</b> Not necessary
	<b>Q3.</b> Para 33 of the NLGA rules indicate: “When ripping....surfaced lumber a maximum tolerance of ....1/16” over or under in width will be permitted in the occasional piece”. Assuming measuring the width of KD stock at time of the remanufacture (i.e. ripping) process, does that mean: <b>a)</b> That 90% of the pieces shall be at 2-1/2” (relating to the anticipated item), but no more than 10% may have a +/- width in variance of 2-1/2” but not exceeding a maximum variance of 1/16”?	<b>A3a)</b> If 2-1/2” is the target size then only those pieces that reach the maximum tolerance of 1/32” over or under in thickness or 1/16” over or under in width would be considered as occasional pieces.
	<b>b)</b> That 90% of the pieces must measure more than 2-7/16” up to less than 2-9/16”, with no more than 10% of the shipment (or production lot) measuring <u>at</u> the maximum deviations of 2-7/16” and 2-9/16”, but not exceeding those minimum and maximum variances?	<b>A3b)</b> See A3a) above.
	<b>c)</b> If a portion of the resulting ripped process was actually labeled as “Ripped - 1-1/2” x 2-7/16”, I would assume that any response to questions 3a) and 3b) above would be measured from that declared (in the stamp) target width. Would that be correct?	<b>A3c)</b> Yes
<b>Sept 2010</b>	<b>Q4.</b> Would any of your responses 1 and 3 above be different if some of the lumber would be S2S?	<b>A4.</b> See Para 739b for “SZD” lumber.
	<b>Q5.</b> If some resulting ripped product would be S2S, should it be labelled as such?	<b>A5.</b> Refer to Para 739b
	<b>Q6.</b> Can we mix S2S and S2S1E product in the same unit, as long as the described tolerances on all pieces conform, and the resulting product be represented in purchase orders, acknowledgements and invoices as being either S2S1E or S2S or a mix of both?	<b>A6.</b> Separate the two to avoid confusion.

<b>Para 36 / 121 / 748 – Trimmed Length</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>May 1995</b>	<b>Paras 36 &amp; 121 (Trim)</b>	<b>Q.</b> Can NLGA provide clarification “that studs can be graded and sold D.E.T. and not P.E.T. – pending specific P.O.’s.”	<b>A.</b> Para 36 of the NLGA Grade Rule specifically states that “Unless otherwise stated in the contract of purchase, all lumber under these rules is trimmed for the removal of sniped, splintered or uneven log lengths. It must be trimmed full to length ..... over length.” This clause pertains to all lumber, studs or other, therefore unless the contract agreed to and written up specifically refers to P.E.T. (Precision end trimmed) or D.E.T. (Double end trimmed) studs simply have to be trimmed as noted above. P.E.T. and D.E.T. indicate the precision of trimming (See Para 748).
<b>Sept 1997</b>	<b>Paras 36 &amp; 748b</b>	<b>Q.</b> Is all lumber considered to be D.E.T. in order to comply with Para 36 – even if no reference to trimming is mentioned on the P.O.?	<b>A.</b> No - Para 36 would apply unless D.E.T. is mentioned on P.O. or invoice.
<b>Sept 1999</b>	<b>Para 36</b>	<b>Q.</b> A 12’ piece of lumber is exactly 12’ long however if “off-square”, would this piece be considered under length?	<b>A.</b> Yes - the piece must be squared before it is measured.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>		<i>The Ratified Response Task Group agreed that “squareness” is not part of Para. 36 and that the following note be placed under the Ratified Response for Para. 748a below</i> <i>“Note: For pieces with off-square ends, the length is measured once the ends are “squared”.”</i>	

<b>Para 39 – Grade Stamps</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 2007</b>	<b>Q.</b> ALSC and CLSAB Regs. require that the seasoning designation be put on the grade stamp. Why doesn’t the Para 39 say this as well. Para 39 states that MC may be added to the G/S?	<b>A.</b> Rough lumber or lumber 5” and over in thickness does not require a MC designation on the grade stamp.
<b>May 2019</b>	<i>The GC agreed to add (to Para 39) the grade-stamp requirement for seasoning designation (at the time of surfacing as specified in Para 44a) for surfaced lumber less than nominal 5”. This was done in the 2022 version.</i>	
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<i>The GC agreed to incorporate this response into a re-worded Para. 44</i> <i>The GC also agreed that adding the seasoning designation at time of surfacing was consistent with language in CSA O141 and PS 20.</i> <i>Para. 39 amended and added to as shown below.</i> <i>e) ....</i> <i>f) seasoning state (Para. 44) at time of surfacing for boards and dimension lumber less than nominal 5 inches in thickness</i> <i><del>In addition, some indications relating to</del> Further designations such as non-standard sizes, moisture content, NLGA GR paragraph number and heat treatment (HT) <del>may</del> shall be added to the grade stamp where specified.</i>	
<b>Sept 2025</b>	<i>Following review of Para. 44 and to be consistent with the current versions of CSA O141 and PS 20, the GC agreed that the seasoning state “at time of grade stamping” replaces “at the time of surfacing” in Para. 39 f) as a requirement of the grade stamp.</i>	

<b>Para 40 – Grading Rule</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Nov 2020</b>	<b>Q.</b> When mixed Canadian and American-grown species are indicated on the grade stamp, does NLGA Para. 40 still apply?	<b>Background:</b> NLGA Para. 40 specifies that “When lumber is graded in accordance with the NLGA Grade Rules, grade stamps of a CLSAB accredited Canadian agency shall contain the abbreviation “NLGA”. NLGA Para. 7 specifies that the provisions of the NLGA Standard Grading Rules <u>only</u> apply to the species listed.  <b>A.</b> Since the NLGA Grade Rules do not apply to American-grown species and when American-grown species are indicated on the grade stamp, singly or in combination, the “NLGA” designation shall not be placed on the Agency grade stamp.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<i>The GC agreed to add the following sentence to Para. 40:</i>  <i>“If species not recognized by NLGA (see Para. 7) are designated on the grade stamp, either singly or in combination with NLGA species, the “NLGA” designation shall not be included on the grade stamp.”</i>	

<b>Para 44 – Moisture Content Standards</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>June 1995</b>	<b>Q.</b> What is the relationship between Lumber properties, width variation in S-GRN 2x8 and MC?	<b>A.</b> CSA O141 – Canadian standard lumber, Section 7, specifies minimum standard sizes for lumber surfaced dry or green. The 7.5” width corresponds to a moisture content (MC) at fibre saturation point (usually close to 30% MC), whereas the 7.25” width corresponds to a maximum moisture content of 19%. If lumber got very dry (say 6% MC), one would expect the lumber size to be just over 7” (shrinkage of about 6%). But this is linked to the MC of the item.  <b>A.</b> As noted in Section 9.1 of the Canadian Lumber Grading Manual (CLGM); “when drying is carried below this point (fibre saturation point), however the hardening and stiffening of the cell walls is accompanied by general progressive increase in strength.” While there is generally an increase in capacity to offset shrinkage, this is already accounted for in design. At time of manufacture, if lumber is surfaced under the specified minimum size, there is a reduction in span as specified in the National Building Code for undersize lumber. For background information see Section 9.0 of the CLGM which outlines the moisture relationships for lumber.  Additional information is provided below which is excerpted from the CWC publication “Canadian Lumber Properties” (1994), Section 9.13, page 251, which outlines conclusions for Moisture Content’s effect on strength which further supports the strength increase with reduced moisture content.
	<b>Excerpt from the Canadian Lumber Properties (1994) (pg. 251)</b> <b>9.13 Conclusions</b>  <i>The effect of moisture content on the strength properties of structural lumber varies with strength or quality level. Strength properties of low quality lumber are affected to a much smaller extent than are the properties of high quality (high strength) lumber. The response of high quality lumber is quite similar to that observed for clear wood, where bending and compression strength both increase significantly as moisture content is reduced below the fibre saturation point.</i>  <i>Linear surface models were developed to represent the relationship of moisture content to bending or compression strength properties. In these models, the relationship between strength and moisture content is assumed to be linear at any strength level. In this sense, the models are consistent with those traditionally used in ASTM standards. However, the slope of the relationship between strength and moisture content is dependent on strength level.</i>  <i>The model parameters were derived for adjustments of bending strength (MOR), bending capacity (RZ), compression strength (UCS) and compression capacity (CA) of lumber members. There are insufficient data to provide moisture content adjustment models for tension strength properties of Canadian dimension lumber at the present time. Therefore, tension properties were not adjusted for moisture content in this document.</i>	

	<p><i>The relationships between strength and moisture content can be represented by a simple 2 term linear surface model which allows hand calculation of moisture adjustments. The 2 term linear surface models presented in this report are very similar to the moisture adjustment models adopted for adjustment of ingrade data in the ASTM standard D1990.</i></p> <p><i>Future studies of moisture content adjustments in structural lumber could focus on tension properties or developing a better understanding of the mechanisms which lead to the strength dependence of moisture content effects in structural lumber.</i></p>		
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<p><i>The GC agreed that this item was for information only. Further reading is also available in the "CSA O86 Commentary" of the CWC Wood Design Manual.</i></p>		
<b>Sept 2007</b>	<b>Q.</b> Are there size tolerances for S4S lumber?	<b>A.</b> A piece must be on size at time of manufacture. Refer to Para 44 for size tolerances that are permitted due to the shrinkage and swelling of a piece of lumber. Para 407.1 also references Para 44.	
	<b>Q.</b> What is the intention of this Para & what was it designed for?	<b>A.</b> Para 44 is included in the NLGA rule to provide information or a statement that all lumber swells or shrinks as well as to provide guidance on the percentage of size variation due to moisture relationships. This has become an industry accepted standard for resolving shrinkage and re-absorption disputes pertaining to MC.	
<b>Sept 2012</b>	<b>Q.</b> Is the dash (-) required on the grade stamp for KD-HT? KD-HT or KDHT? Are both acronyms acceptable?	<b>A.</b> Both acronyms are acceptable.	

<b>Para 108 – Industrial Clears</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 1997</b>	<b>Para 108</b>	<b>Q.</b> Why does Para 108 not include reverse face provisions?	<b>A.</b> Refer to Para 14.
<b>June 2006</b>	<b>Para 108 (Sap Stain)</b>	<b>Q.</b> When assessing the amount of Sap Stain allowed in a "C" Industrial clear for 5" and narrower lumber, does the "25% of face or equivalent greater area of light stain" provision apply to the best face only or does it have to include the area of both edges as well?	<b>A.</b> It must include the area of both edges as well.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<p><i>The GC noted that this ratified response was already included in the NLGA Interpretations 2.1.1.</i></p>		
<b>Sept 2007</b>	<b>Para 108c (Skip)</b>	<b>Q.</b> Can you have skip on both edges in Para 108c – "C" Industrial?	<b>A.</b> Yes, provided the total skip does not exceed light (1/32")
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<p><i>The GC agreed this ratified response was best addressed by adding to NLGA Interpretations 2.1.7</i></p> <p><i><b>"When skip occurs on opposing faces, the total scantness shall not exceed the limit specified."</b></i></p>		



Para 113 – Commons			
Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 1997	Para 113b. (2 Com)	Q. Is “through Shake” permitted in 2 Com boards?	A. Yes, provided the piece is high-line.
June 2022 Review	Add new sentence to NLGA Interpretations 2.3.2. <i>“Through shake – Permitted if the piece is otherwise of high quality.”</i>		
Sept 1997	Para 113c. (3 Com)	Q. What is the number of “unsound Knots” permitted in Para 113c – No. 3 Com Boards?	A. Unsound knots are not restricted to number, only size.
		Q. What is the number of “loose knots” permitted in Para 113c – No. 3 Com Boards?	A. Same as holes. <b>Note:</b> fixed knots are restricted to 2 per 12’ of length.
June 2022 Review	Amend sentence in Para. 113c under “Knots”: <i>“Only one maximum size knot hole or loose knot is permitted in any one piece, but two equivalent smaller knot holes or loose knots may be permitted if well-spaced and the piece is otherwise of high quality. Unsound knots are not limited in number.”</i>		
Sept 1997	Para 113c. (3 Com)	Q. What is the length of Checks in Para 113c Boards?	A. 10” for each check.
June 2022 Review	Already stated in Para. 113c as limited to a medium check.		
May 2014	Para 113 (2 Com) (Grade Stamping)	Q. A Mill is running 2&Btr Common boards with a species grouping of E Spr-L Pine (N) or a straight S-P-F. The product includes small percentage of W.W. Pine mixed in which they are stamping 2 & Btr Com – W.W. Pine instead of STERLING - WW Pine. Is this OK?	A. From a labelling standpoint, this is acceptable. Invoicing of the product should indicate the grade/species, etc. to make the customer aware and avoid “Out of Contract” situations.

<b>Paras 114/115 – Boards</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified NLGA Response</b>
<b>May 1996</b>	<b>Para 114c.</b> (Standard)	<b>Q.</b> In Standard Boards, 2 holes or their equivalent smaller are permitted for each 12' of length, what is permitted in a 6'?	<b>A.</b> 1 of maximum size or equivalent smaller is permitted.
<b>Sept 1997</b>	<b>Para 114d.</b> (Utility)	<b>Q.</b> How much wane is permitted on the reverse face of Para 114 Util. Boards?	<b>A.</b> The NLGA GC agreed that economy face wane is permitted on the back of a Util. board as per the preamble of Para 114.
<b>Sept 2003</b>	<b>Para 114</b> (Approx.)	<b>Q.</b> Define "approximately" for knots in Para 114?	<b>A.</b> Within 1/8"
		<b>Q.</b> Is "manufactured damage" measured as equivalent to holes?	<b>A.</b> Para 16 provides adequate guidance to address this question.
<b>June 2006</b>	<b>Para 114e</b> (Waste)	<b>Q.</b> Is the percentage of waste in Para 114e. based on the total length or the length 2' away from the ends?	<b>A.</b> "Based on the total length" – It was also agreed that the waste portion is considered only where the defect exceeds the maximum and the waste is cumulative to equal the 25% of the length.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<i>Add to sentence at end of Para. 114e – Waste</i> <i>"....and combined shall not exceed 25% of the <b>total length of the board.</b>"</i>		
<b>May 2002</b>	<b>Paras 114/115</b> (APP Framing)	<b>Q.</b> Is it permissible to grade boards (NLGA Para 114) with the new appearance grade, (NLGA Para 125)?	<b>A.</b> Para 125, the Appearance Framing rule can only be applied to NGR grades.
		<b>Q.</b> What about SRB?	<b>A.</b> Because Para 115 SRB Boards deals with NGR grades, putting reference to APP Framing on the G/S is OK for SRB Boards.

Para 116/118 – EWP/RP Selects and Commons			
Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 1998	Paras 116/118	Q. Are star-checked knots permitted in the grade of 2 Common?	A. Yes, provided the checks were tight (within the knot). In addition, they must not affect the finish of the Board.
Sept 2001		Q. How are spike knots measured in Paras 116/118 Boards?	A. The same as Para 113 & 114 Boards – average of the maximum and minimum diameters.
		Q. How are red knots interpreted in Paras 116/118 Boards?	A. The same as inter-grown knots as described in the CLGM.
June 2022 Review	<i>The GC agreed to add the following language to Para. 718n “An “intergrown” knot <b>or “red” knot</b> is one whose growth rings are partially or completely intergrown on one or more faces with the growth rings of the surrounding wood (<b>minimum intergrown amount is 1/3 circumference</b>).”</i>		
Sept 2001	Para 113a / 118a (1 Common)	Q. Does “equivalent smaller” apply to pockets in 1 Common Boards?	A. No.
June 2022 Review		<i>The GC revisited this question and it was agreed that “equivalent smaller” pockets would be permitted in 1 Common boards. Para 113a and Para 118a (1 Common) were amended to add “<b>or equivalent smaller</b>” to the Pockets limitation.</i>	

**Para 120 – NGR Dimension Lumber**

Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2025	Para 120	Q. How should char on dimension lumber manufactured from fire-killed trees be assessed?	A. Char on the outside of the piece is to be assessed as equivalent to wane.

**Para 121b – Economy Stud**

Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2010	Para 121b	Q. Is the residual lumber from Para. 121a Studs graded as “Economy Studs” (Para. 121b) or “Light Framing Economy” (Para. 122d)?	A. For residual lumber from Para. 121a, if there is no specific reference to “Economy Stud” or the corresponding Para. number (Para. 121b) on the invoice, then it is assumed that Para. 122d “Economy” applies to this lumber.

**Paras 122b and 124c – Standard and NO. 2 Grades**

Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
May 2002	Paras 122b/124c (Stand/NO. 2) (Unsound wood)	Q. Can spots of rot in Stand/NO.2 exceed the 1/12 the width and/or 2” in length as equivalent smaller.	A. Both requirements are maximums. No spot can exceed 1/12 the width or 2” in length.
Sept 1998		Q. Is unsound wood measurement based on Actual or Nominal?	A. Actual (Refer to NGR Interpretation 1.0)
Sept 2012		Q. What is the restriction of Peck through the entire thickness on edge of NO.2/Stand?	A. In NO.2 & Standard, peck through the entire edge shall not penetrate more than 1/6 the width of the wide face and such peck must not destroy the nailing edge.
		Q. Can you clarify the 2023 NGR change to the unsound wood clause for NO. 2 / Standard grades?	A. The GC approved the ratified response presented by Kevin Merriam as shown below:
Feb 2024	<p><b>NGR Changes to “Unsound Wood” in NO. 2 and Standard grades</b></p> <p>On November 3, 2023, the NGR for Unsound wood limitations NO. 2 and Standard grade rules was amended to add the following (in red):</p> <p><i>“Unsound wood (excluding white speck) – Not permitted in thickness over 2”. [Southern Pine – In 2” lumber, heart center streaks are limited to ½ the thickness or width.] [All other species or species groups – In 2” lumber, small spots or streaks of firm honeycomb or peck are limited to 1/6 the width. Any other unsound wood is limited to a spot 1/12 the width on the wide face; not to exceed maximum wane on the narrow face and 2” in length or equivalent smaller.]”</i></p> <p>The following information provides further clarification of this rule change:</p> <p>It is the intent of this grade rule to allow unsound wood in NO.2 or Standard grade rules in small spots or streaks of up to 1/12 of the “actual” width of the piece and up to 2” in length or equivalent smaller. This rule is intended to establish what 1/12 of the width of the wide face would be and using that measurement for determining the severity of unsound wood on either the wide face or the narrow face of the piece being assessed, not to exceed the maximum wane on the narrow face.</p>		

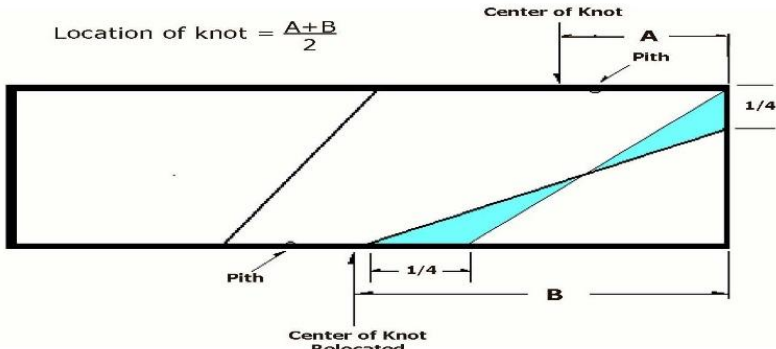
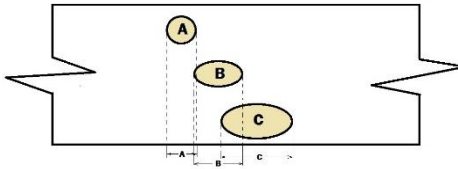
*Continued on next page*

	<p>As an example, the following is a guide for determining the allowable unsound wood on either the <b>wide face</b> or narrow face based on 1/12 width for NO. 2 grade dimension lumber:</p> <table><tr><th>Nominal Dimension</th><th>Standard Dry Size</th><th>1/12 width based on Standard Dry size (Approx.)</th></tr><tr><td><b>2x3</b></td><td>1 1/2" x 2 1/2"</td><td>7/32"</td></tr><tr><td><b>2x4</b></td><td>1 1/2" x 3 1/2"</td><td>5/16"</td></tr><tr><td><b>2x6</b></td><td>1 1/2" x 5 1/2"</td><td>7/16"</td></tr><tr><td><b>2x8</b></td><td>1 1/2" x 7 1/4"</td><td>5/8"</td></tr><tr><td><b>2x10</b></td><td>1 1/2" x 9 1/4"</td><td>3/4"</td></tr><tr><td><b>2x12</b></td><td>1 1/2" x 11 1/4"</td><td>15/16"</td></tr></table>	Nominal Dimension	Standard Dry Size	1/12 width based on Standard Dry size (Approx.)	<b>2x3</b>	1 1/2" x 2 1/2"	7/32"	<b>2x4</b>	1 1/2" x 3 1/2"	5/16"	<b>2x6</b>	1 1/2" x 5 1/2"	7/16"	<b>2x8</b>	1 1/2" x 7 1/4"	5/8"	<b>2x10</b>	1 1/2" x 9 1/4"	3/4"	<b>2x12</b>	1 1/2" x 11 1/4"	15/16"
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<b>2x12</b>	1 1/2" x 11 1/4"	15/16"																				
Sep 2025	<p><b>Note:</b> to promote clarity, the NGR was amended for Standard and NO. 2 grades (in red) to now read:</p> <p><i>“Unsound wood (excluding white speck) – Not permitted in thickness over 2”. [Southern Pine – In 2” lumber, heart center streaks are limited to ½ the thickness or width.] [All other species or species groups – In 2” lumber, small spots or streaks of firm honeycomb or peck are limited to 1/6 the width.] Any other unsound wood is determined by the wide face and limited to a spot 1/12 the nominal width and 2” in length or equivalent smaller. This decay can occur on any face provided the decay does not destroy the nailing edge.”</i></p>																					

<b>Para 122d – Economy</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 2010</b>	<b>Para 122d</b> (Spike Knots)	<b>Q.</b> How are spike knots measured in Economy dimension lumber?	<b>A.</b> In the same manner as other dimension lumber knots. See Para. 320b.
<b>Sept 1999</b>	<b>Para 122d</b> (Warp)	<b>Q.</b> For NLGA Para 122d Economy Framing, what are the “warp” allowances?	<b>A.</b> Refer to Para 16.
<b>Sept 2007</b>	<b>Para 122d</b> (Wane)	<b>Q.</b> How is “through wane” measured in 2x6 Economy?	<b>A.</b> The “through” portion of the wane is equal to the area ( $\pi r^2$ ) of the hole permitted. In the case of a 2 x 6, the area of the hole is $3.1416 \times (4 - 1/8 \text{ divided by } 2)^2 = 13.364 \text{ sq. in.}$
<b>May 2006</b>	<b>Para 122d</b> (Cross-section knots)	<b>Q.</b> Can “cross-section” knots in Economy Light Framing exceed 75%?	<b>A.</b> Because Economy is not a stress grade, combination knots can exceed 75% of the cross-section, provided no single knot in the combination exceeds 75% of the cross-section.
<b>Sept 2007</b>	<b>Para 122d</b> (Man. Holes)	<b>Q.</b> Can 2 individual manufactured holes on a piece of 12’ lumber be treated separately if: <b>a)</b> one of the manufactured holes fits within the non-wane-dip wane provision or the other equivalent characteristic provision; and <b>b)</b> the other hole is considered a manufactured hole so the piece could be accepted in a grade above Economy.	<b>A.</b> Yes
<b>May 2014</b>	<b>Para 122d</b> (Timber Breaks)	<b>Q.</b> Would “Timber breaks” that exceed 75% of the cross-section be permitted in Economy provided they show no sign of separation.”	<b>A.</b> Yes, “Timber breaks” that exceed 75% of the cross-section are permitted in Economy provided they show no sign of separation.

<b>Paras 121/122/124 – All NGR Grades</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>July 2003</b>	<b>Paras 121 /122/124</b> (Man. Holes)	<b>Q.</b> The NGRC subcommittee was asked to review the interpretation for manufactured holes and agreed with the staff response.	<b>A.</b> Manufactured Holes can be treated as either Wane <u>or</u> as a Manufactured Hole but not both.
<b>Sept 1995</b>	<b>Paras 121/122/124</b> (Spike knots)	<b>Q.</b> Are spiked 3-face knots with the pith on the edge of the piece considered edge knots?	<b>A.</b> Three-face knots are considered edge knots only if the knot occupies more than 1/2 the narrow face. (See Figure 8 of the NGR Interpretations)
<b>Sept 2007</b>		<b>Q.</b> Can 3-face knots be relocated?	<b>A.</b> Yes, refer to location measurement diagram in Rat. Response for Para 124 below and NGR Interpretation 1.7.3.
<b>Sept 1997</b>	<b>Paras 121/122 /124</b> (Saw Cuts)	<b>Q.</b> What is the number of saw-cuts permitted in NO. 2, NO. 3, Standard, and Stud dimension lumber?	<b>A.</b> There is no restriction to number.

<b>Para 124 – Structural Light Framing &amp; J&amp;Ps</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 1995</b>	<b>Para 124</b> (Bevel Skip in Sel Str J&Ps)	<b>Q.</b> Would skip 1/16" bevelling into a board 1" to 3" be considered in the "H&M" category of skip?	<b>A.</b> This type of skip would be considered as either bevel sawing which is limited on the basis of equivalent loss of wood from wane or if it exceeds the wane allowance in width then it would be considered as Hit & Miss skip providing the skip is over 2' in length, not both.
<b>May 2002</b>	<b>Para 124</b> (Shipping Contract)	<b>Q.</b> When lumber is ordered NO.1 and NO.2, is there a percentage of NO.2 that a shipment cannot exceed?	<b>A.</b> Only if the contract specifies the percentages. See Para. 405.5
<b>May 2002</b>	<b>Para 124</b> (Crook)	<b>Q.</b> What happens to the grade of a piece of lumber that contains maximum crook on the last 2' of a piece of dimension lumber? Is this permitted?	<b>A.</b> Para 752 deals with short kinks noting that they shall be appraised according to its equivalent effect. The short kink should be measured in a short span that only takes the kink into consideration. (See NGR Interpretation – Clause 1.19)

Para 124 – Structural Light Framing & J&Ps (continued)			
Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
May 2006	Para 124 (Knot Relocation Measure)	<p>Q. How are knot relocations on 3-face knots measured?</p> 	<p>A. The correct procedure to measure knot relocation is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure the knot size just like illustrated in Figures 5a and 5b of the NGR Interpretations, by taking the % of knot that laps over onto the narrow face and adding an equivalent % of the clear wood to the knot on the wide face; and</li> <li>To relocate the knot, measure the location of the center of the knot on both faces and average it (not the pith, but the center of the knot). When determining the center of the knot, you have to consider the actual knot size plus the added clear wood from the portion of the knot that overlaps the edge.</li> </ol>
June 2022 Review	See NGR Interpretations 1.7.3		
Sept 1998	Para 124 (Knots)	<p>Q. Are these knots in the same cross-section?</p> 	A. Yes
May 2002		<p>Q. Can knots sizes be increased between 4" &amp; 6" wide lumber for sizes such as 105 mm.</p>	A. There are no proportional increases for knots allowed for oversize lumber.
Sept 2007	Para 124 (Well-spaced Knots)	<p>Q. Are knots counted in the "Well-spaced" 6" provision if they are just touch the 6" distance or must they be completely within the 6" distances?</p>	A. Knots are considered to be "Well-spaced" if they are just within the 6" distance similar to how cross-section knots are considered.

Para 125 – Appearance Framing			
Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
May 2002	Para 125	<p>Q. Can we make (grade) SPS 3 FJ products Appearance Framing?</p>	A. Yes

<b>Para 126 – Patio Decking</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 1995</b>	<b>Para 126</b> (Uns. Wood)	<b>Q.</b> Are firm knots considered sound?	<b>A.</b> No
		<b>Q.</b> Is there any length requirement for peck?	<b>A.</b> No
		<b>Q.</b> Is unsound wood allowed on the reverse face?	<b>A.</b> No, "Peck, White specks, and Honeycomb" are restricted as per rule and all other forms of unsound wood are not allowed.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<i>The GC agreed to add a sentence to the preamble of Para. 126</i> <i>"Unsound wood or decay is not permitted on any face."</i>		
<b>Sept 1997</b>	<b>Para 126</b> (Reverse Face)	<b>Q.</b> Would the hole size increase by 25% on the reverse face of Commercial Patio?	<b>A.</b> Yes.
		<b>Q.</b> Would 25% increase in number of grub and/or teredo holes be acceptable?	<b>A.</b> Yes.
		<b>Q.</b> Shake on the reverse of Select Patio: <b>i)</b> Is there a length restriction?	<b>A.</b> <b>i)</b> ¼ length for each shake.
		<b>ii)</b> Would 2' of "not through" shake be acceptable?	<b>A.</b> <b>ii)</b> Yes, provided the piece is 8' or longer. In shorter pieces, length of shake would have to be pro-rated accordingly.

<b>Para 127 – Decking</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>		<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>March 1994</b> (Sept 1995)	<b>Q1.</b> What is the interpretation for "Shake – Not Serious" in Para 127c. - Commercial Decking		<b>A1.</b> "Shake – Not serious" is defined as follows: If "through" at ends treat equivalent to splits. Away from the ends "through" shakes can be up to 2' long, well separated. If "not through", single shakes shall not exceed 3' long or 1/4 the length, whichever is greater.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<i>The GC agreed to amend Para. 127b – Shake</i> <b>Delete:</b> "not serious" <b>Replace with:</b> "if "through" at ends, treat equivalent to splits. Away from the ends, "through" shakes can be up to 2' long, well separated. If "not through", single shakes shall not exceed 3' long or 1/4 the length, whichever is greater."		
<b>March 1994</b> (Sept 1995)	<b>Q2.</b> Define "..... not affecting intended end use".	<b>A2.</b> This grade is used for the same purpose as the "Select" decking but where appearance is not as important. The tongue and groove pattern usually used on Decking lumber is an interlocking system where proper installation is required. The tongue on lumber graded as decking lumber is very important and the effect of wane and broken tongue shall not appreciably reduce the tongue size so as to reduce the interlocking effect of the joint and shall not exceed the equivalent area of the hole permitted and is limited to two times the hole size in length. One per 12' of length.	
	<b>Q3. a)</b> Define: Wane – 1/6 face width?	<b>A3a.</b> Wane 1/6 the face and 1/6 the edge is permitted on the exposed face. On the back and unexposed edges, wane 1/3 the face and 1/3 the edge is permitted provided the wane and broken tongue do not interfere with the tongue any more than the hole permitted (refer to 2 above).	
	<b>b)</b> Is face wane permitted in "V" patterned material?	<b>A3b.</b> Yes, but only on the face of Commercial decking up to 1/6 the width.	
	<b>Q4.</b> If wane interferes with the tongue such that more than 1/16" scantness occurs, yet the wane is within the requirements, is the piece on grade?	<b>A4.</b> Refer to response 2 above.	
	<b>Q5.</b> Does the tongue and groove connection maintain the design stress value?	<b>A5.</b> Decking shall be installed correctly if it is to maintain the assigned design values. Refer to installation instructions.	

**Para 130/131 – Beams & Stringers and Posts & Timbers**

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
May 1996	Q. Are there any restrictions for warp in Paras 130/131?	A. No

**Para 151 – Moulding Stock** (Reviewed & ratified by WWPA)

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Aug 1996	Q1. In pieces less than 10' long, how does the over-length (3") affect the grade if it contains a defect or is mis-trimmed, especially since Mouldings are made of standard lengths?	A1. The rip is based on the length in 1 foot increments. If the defect is in the over-length portion then it is not considered.
	Q2. Is the 2/3 yield for the grade needed on the original size of a piece which needs a scale-off, or is the 2/3 required only on the remaining units after scale off?	A2. The 2/3 is required on the remaining units after scale-off.
	Q3. What is the quality of knots permitted in moulding grade?	A3. The quality of knot is "STK" with the knot being ingrown either face.
	Q4. Can these <i>knots</i> be present anywhere in the rip?	A4. Knots cannot be split to bring it into a moulding rip.
	Q5. Can the 4" cut-out be used when grading moulding stock? Or is it applied only after the rips have been converted to actual mouldings.	A5. No, cut-outs are permitted only after the rips have been converted to actual mouldings.
	Q6. Are cut-outs (4") computed in the 10% loss?	A6. No, there is no 10% loss permitted in the moulding rip.
	Q7. Is the waste rule in Moulding Stock applicable when the loss occurs on the back face?	A7. Yes, if the waste area is 10% or more of the area of the piece, it must be considered regardless of the face it appears on.
	Q8. If a piece contains a defect which covers 20% of the area, does the scale off need to be the entire 20% or can only a portion (11%) be scaled off in order to bring the piece to contain less than 10%?	<p>A8. You only scale-off the portion that brings it back to 10%.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Upon review with WWPA of the answer provided for question 2, they noted that the answer was technically correct. However, the board rule measurement requirement highlighted in Para 2.10 of the WWPA rule must be considered. The excess unusable portion must be scaled-off to the nearest square foot.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Calculate the total waste in sq. inches. (20% waste on a 1 x 8 x 12' board = 230 sq. in.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use the premise that one (1) square foot of waste = 144 sq. in.; and</li> <li>- Apply Para 2.10 of WWPA, in that every 71 sq. inches or less units of waste would be dropped from the tally and if the waste was 73 to 144 sq. inches, the waste would be considered as an additional 1 square foot of waste.</li> <li>- In the case of the 20% waste or 230 sq. in. noted above, the waste would be rounded up to 2 square feet of waste or 288 sq. in or 25% waste (288/1152) leaving 1152 – 288 = 864 sq. inches left for tallying.</li> <li>- If the waste was 14% or 161 sq. inches you would round down the scale off to 144 sq. in. leaving 1008 sq. in. for tally. The actual waste scale-off would be 12.5%.</li> </ul> <p>Because of rounding up/down for waste, it is unlikely, depending on the size of the piece, that the scale-off would be slightly less than 10%.</p>



Paras 156/157 – Door Stock		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2003	Q. Do sash cuttings have to be 1 (one) inch away from knots in Para 156?	A. If it is flat grained shop then the sash does not have to commence 1 (one) inch from the knot and in door stock, all cuttings must be 1 (one) inch from a knot including sash.
	Q. No. 3 cuttings allows for a few scattered pinholes. We believe we could allow pinholes on one edge as well: one face and one edge would be free of pinholes as intended. How are edges treated in Door Stock?	A. The only cuttings which allow a few scattered pinholes on one face and one edge are #3 door stock cuttings. Sash cuttings are #3 quality and better so will not allow any pinholes on any face.

Para 171 – Car Framing		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2003	Q. How are the characteristics on the reverse face of Para 171 - Car Framing grades treated?	A. 25% larger or more numerous.

Para 179 – Railway Ties		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
May 2018	Q. How are knots measured on sawn railway ties?	A. Knots are measured as per Para 320a (average diameter) based on surface measurement.
June 2022 Review	Add to Para. 179 – Knots “Knots – sound and tight, 1/4 the width. <i>Knots are measured using the average diameter method. (See Para. 320a)</i> ”	

Para 180 – Scaffold Plank		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2007	Q. Scaffold plank knot cross-section reads dimension of worst wide face. For instance, if 2 knots add up to 1.75 inches on one wide face and 1.50 on opposite face (same through knots), the “size” is 1.75 inches (instead of the usual dimension average of 1.625)?	A. Correct

Para 189 – Mine Guides												
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response										
Sept 1997	Q1. How much crook is permitted in Para 189, Mine Guides?	A1. Generally, none permitted.										
June 2022 Review	Add to preamble in Para. 189 “...with a slope of grain not <del>more</del> <b>greater</b> than 1 in 12 ( <del>i.e. 1 in 14</del> ), <b>and with measurable warp not permitted.</b> ”											
Sept 1997	Q2. We are grading to NLGA Para 189b – “Selected” 4 x 8 Mine guides. How are knots on the wide face measured – between lines parallel or by average diameter?	A2. Knots are measured in accordance with NLGA Para. 320a. (average diameter).										
May 2018	Answer to Q2 was amended for clarification	A2. Knots are measured in accordance with NLGA Para. 320a (average diameter) <i>using surface measurement only (i.e. no averaging with opposing face).</i>										
June 2022 Review	Add to Para. 189b – Knots, after the size limits: “ <b>Knots are measured using the average diameter method. (See Para. 320a).</b> ”											
Sept 1997	Q. Are knots on the narrow edge considered and if so, how are they measured and limited – i.e.: size & amount?	A. Knots on the narrow face are considered and measured in accordance with 320a – For a 4x8 mine guide, the 4” face permits 1” knots and the 8” face permits 1-1/2” knots.										
June 2022 Review	For clarity, listed sizes in <u>Para. 189b – Knots</u> were replaced with table as follows: “Knots – sound tight, well scattered, approximately:” <del>1” in 3” &amp; 4” widths</del> <del>1 ¼” in 6” width</del> <del>1 ½” in 8” width</del> <del>1 ¾” in 10” width</del>											
	<table><tr><th>Nominal Width or Thickness</th><th>Knot Size</th></tr><tr><td>3” and 4”</td><td>1”</td></tr><tr><td>6”</td><td>1 ¼”</td></tr><tr><td>8”</td><td>1 ½”</td></tr><tr><td>10”</td><td>1 ¾”</td></tr></table>	Nominal Width or Thickness	Knot Size	3” and 4”	1”	6”	1 ¼”	8”	1 ½”	10”	1 ¾”	
Nominal Width or Thickness	Knot Size											
3” and 4”	1”											
6”	1 ¼”											
8”	1 ½”											
10”	1 ¾”											

Para 190 - Crossarms		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
May 2018	<b>Q.</b> How are knots measured on crossarms?	<b>A.</b> Knots are measured using the "lines parallel" method based on surface measurement.
June 2022 Review	Add Note in Para 190 – preamble. <i>"Knots are measured using the lines parallel method as per Para 320b."</i>	

**Para 202 – Cedar Industrial Clears**

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
May 1996	Q. What is the size of knots and how many knots are permitted in a 1 x 4 x 3' WRC board?	A. One – 3/8" knot would be considered equivalent smaller.
June 2022 Review	Add to preamble in Para. 202 <i>"Grade descriptions are based on a piece 8" wide and 12' long. The number and extent of characteristics may vary in proportion to size of the piece."</i>	

**Para 210 – Fence Boards**

Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2010	Para 210a. (Select Fencing)	Q. Define "fine" Shake?	A. "Barely perceptible" which is "visible only when held at a favourable angle to the light"
June 2022 Review	Add to Para 210a grade description <i>"Shake – fine, barely perceptible (visible only when held at a favourable angle to the light)."</i>		

**Para 320 – Measurement of Knots in Boards**

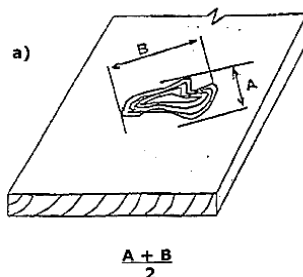
Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
May 1996	Para 320a. (Spike Knot Measurement)	Q. How are spike knots measured in Paras 113, 114 and 118 boards?	A. See the diagram below:

**KNOT MEASUREMENT IN BOARDS**

**Attachment #1**

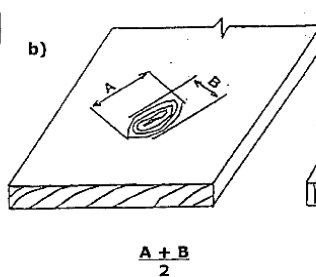
**a) IRREGULAR KNOTS:**

Measure as the average dimensions of the smallest rectangle which will enclose the knot.



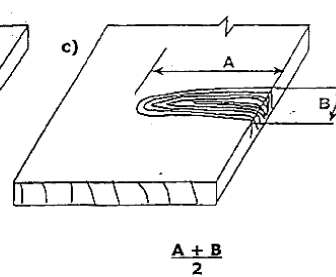
**b) ROUND OR OVAL KNOTS:**

Measure and average the largest and smallest diameters.

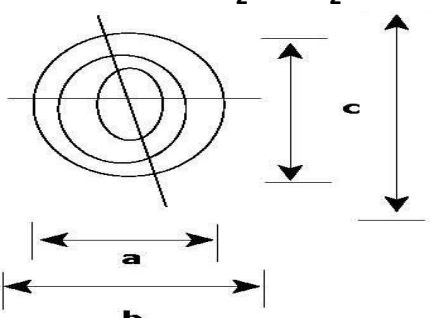


**c) SPIKE KNOTS:**

Measure and average the length and widest of the knot.



**Para 320 – Measurement of Knots in Boards (continued)**

Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
June 2022 Review		<p>Add new section to NLGA Interpretations:</p> <p><b><u>"1.8 KNOTS"</u></b></p> <p><i>Unless otherwise specified in the NLGA grading rules, all knots for non-structural lumber are measured by the "average diameter" method. (See Para. 320a)"</i></p> <p>Add a reference to the new NLGA Interpretation in Para. 320a at the end of the existing paragraph.</p> <p><b><u>"(See NLGA Interpretation 1.8)"</u></b></p> <p>Include new Figures as per above diagram to Para. 320a.</p>	
May 2002	Para 320a. Boards (Star-checked Knot Measurement)	<p>Q. Are the checks in knots considered when measuring a knot in Para 114 Boards the same as they are for dimension Lumber?</p> <p>Is the knot measured: <math>\frac{a+c}{2}</math> or <math>\frac{b+d}{2}</math>?</p> 	<p>A. Star checked knots are measured to the edge of the knot only, and not to the end of the checks extending beyond the knot.</p> <p><math>\frac{(a+c)}{2}</math></p>
Sept 2012	Para 320 (Encased Knots)	<p>Q. When bark is associated with a knot, is the bark included in the measurement of the knot?</p>	<p>A. Yes</p>

**Para 350c – Rate of Growth**

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 1998	<p>Q. Can the "rate of growth" for Boxed Heart Beams and Stringers be averaged over a 5" radius rule for 10x12 or 12x12 pieces instead of the 3" requirement which may exclude the ¼ of the least dimension requirement?</p>	<p>A. Rate of Growth measurement must be taken over approximately 3" as written and one may exclude the inner portion of the radius amounting to approximately ¼ of the least dimension.</p>

<b>Para 400 – Re-inspection</b>			
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 2007</b>	<b>Para 400</b> (Re-inspection)	<b>Q.</b> Could a buyer actually claim on lumber that has stamps on it if the PO said STUD grade no stamp?	<b>A.</b> When claiming on lumber that is sold – “Stud – No G/S” – a buyer can claim on the shipment if it is grade stamped. This is clearly an “OUT-OF-CONTRACT” situation. Para 410.3 of the grade rule would apply.
		<b>Q.</b> A seller has made an attempt to remove the stamps. Frosty wood, cold temps and cold paint can sometimes hinder. If a re-inspection was called, how many pieces would be allowed a stamp?	<b>A.</b> If there were any grade stamps in the shipment found then this would constitute an “OUT-OF-CONTRACT” situation. It would be up to the buyer and seller to agree on settlement provisions.
<b>Sept 2003</b>	<b>Para 410</b> (Re-inspection)	<b>Q1.</b> A re-inspection is called for grade only and the result was 5% or less below grade. Who wins?	<b>A1.</b> Seller
		<b>Q2.</b> A re-inspection is called for moisture only and the result was 5% or less excess moisture. Who wins?	<b>A2.</b> Seller
		<b>Q3.</b> A re-inspection is called for both grade and moisture and the results were 3% below grade and 3% excess moisture. Who wins?	<b>A3.</b> Buyer, as per NLGA rule.

<b>Para 710 – Eased Edges</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Sept 2003</b>	<b>Q1.</b> If you were to measure the edge of a S-Dry 2x4 with a ¼” EE would I be correct by saying there would be 1” of wood remaining?	<b>A1.</b> You are correct. Note: Wane is treated separately.
	<b>Q2.</b> What does ¼” EE do to assigned design values for the size and grade? Can a truss manufacturer (for example) still use this piece with the larger eased edge the same as a regular 1/8” EE?	<b>A2.</b> (CWC Response): ¼” EE might reduce bending strength by as much as 5%. Also, with respect to truss applications, there would be reduced contact area for truss plates.
<b>May 2017</b>	<b>Q.</b> Can a mill facility grade-stamp 3/8” EE?	<b>A.</b> No. The maximum non-standard eased edge sizing is restricted to ¼” EE for nominal 2” thick lumber. The GC agreed to use the maximum eased edge size for dimension lumber listed in Para. 710a as the upper limit.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	The GC agreed to add a Note to Para. 710 <i>“Note: The NLGA Grading Rule restricts the maximum non-standard radius for nominal 2” lumber to 1/4”. This is not an NGR limitation.”</i>	

**Paras 711/747 – Full Sawn & Tolerance In Sawing**

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2005	Q. A mill is supplying nominal 2 X 10 rough green on a specific order of a client (scaffold) with dimensions specified as 1-15/16" X 9-7/8", what is the minimum size acceptable? How much of it (%).	A. If the purchase order does not include "Full Sawn" or a specified size as a "minimum" size then Para 747 would apply as the size tolerances for the rough lumber.

**Para 720 – Manufacturing Imperfections**

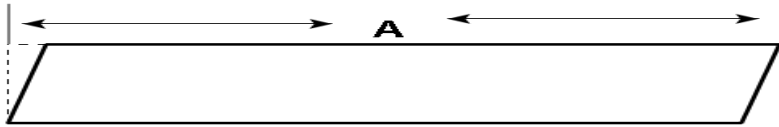
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2003	Q. Is saw-stepping is considered skip, manufactured hole or wane?	A. Skip

**Para 720e - Skip Measurement – Boards & Dimension Lumber**

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2010	Q. Regarding skip on the wide face of a piece of lumber: If you find skip 1/16" on one side the wide face of a board or dimension lumber and the skip is entirely across the face and measures 1/8" deep on the other side of the same face, we measure the deepest or worst skip, is this correct?	A. You are correct; always measure the deepest (worst) skip.

**Para 739a – Sized Dimension**

Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2004	Q. Is it necessary to put "SZD" if one edge of a piece of dimension lumber is rough?	A. It was agreed that it is only necessary to put "SZD" on the grade stamp when opposing faces are rough and skip allowances were not to be taken in conjunction with the permitted size variation. If a mill wished they could put "SZD" on S2S1E lumber, it could however only the size variations would apply and not the skip allowances.
Sept 2012	Q. I am ordering a SZD dimension grade stamp for one of our clients. Should the stamp read "SZD S-DRY" or "SZD-DRY"? This is not HT lumber.	A. SZD S-DRY - the "S-Dry" on the grade stamp provides a reference to the standard sizes and "SZD" provides for the size tolerance.

Para 748 - Trim		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 1998	Q. Can PET lumber be "off-square" and by how much?	<p>A. The off square tolerance may not exceed 1/64" for each 2" of nominal thickness or width. PET lumber allows a tolerance of 1/16" over and under in length on 20% of the pieces. This is interpreted to mean that only those pieces that are a full 1/16" over or under the specified length are included in the 20% tolerance provision. Therefore, provided the off square pieces do not exceed the off square tolerance noted above, the overall length of the pieces measured along the length (measurement A in the diagram below) are within the 1/16" over and under tolerance and no more than 20% of the pieces are a full 1/16" over or under the specified length then the shipment would be considered within contract.</p> 
June 2022 Review	<p><b>Note:</b> For pieces with off-square ends, the length is measured once the ends are "squared".  The GC agreed that specified lengths and squareness are two different criteria.  Remove the <u>bold lettering</u>, <u>quotation marks</u> and the acronym <b>SET</b> in Para. 748d, as this is not an NGR term.</p> <p>d) <del>"Square-end trimmed lumber (SET)"</del> Square-end trimmed lumber is trimmed square having a manufacturing tolerance of ...</p>	

Para 750 – Wane			
Date Ratified	Para No.	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2003	Para 750 (NGR Wane Dips)	Q. If wane is extending completely across a face and it is no longer than one foot in length and does not exceed the skip allowance, can you have more than one dip in that foot?	A. The only way you can have two dips on a piece is if the dips are no deeper than the skip allowance and if they are within the same 12 inches and on the same face.
		Q. Are you only allowed one wane dip per piece no matter how small or how close together they are?	A. You are only allowed one dip per piece regardless of size except as noted above.

Para 752 – Warp		
Date Ratified	Questions	Ratified Response
Sept 2003	Q. How is bow and crook measured?	A. The NLGAGC had agreed that bow and crook shall be measured from a straight line drawn from end to end on edge allowing the weight of the piece to straighten it out. This method is shown in the CLGM.
Sept 2004	<b>Note:</b> It was agreed that the Sept 2003 bow and crook ratified response be revised:	A. Bow is measured laying the board on flat with the crown up (horns up).
June 2022 Review	After review, the GC agreed that the September 2004 ratified response was in error and that ( <b>horns down</b> ) should be specified. The CLGM description and diagram are correct.	

<b>Para 754 - Combination Grades</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>Feb 2005</b>	<b>Q.</b> Which grades <u>cannot</u> be grade stamped when a mill is producing NO. 1 & Btr, D Fir-L (N) and Hem-Fir (N) grade-stamped lumber?	<b>A.</b> The grades of Select Structural, MSR grades of 1450Fb & higher, M10 and higher MEL grades, all LAM grades and Select decking.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<i>Noting the proposed ALSC "NO. 1 &amp; Better" Policy, the GC agreed to edit Para. 754 to follow the ALSC Policy.</i>	
<b>May 2018</b>	<b>Q.</b> Does the above ratified response also apply to S-P-F grade-stamped with the NO. 1 & Btr grade combination for the C20 grade stamp (CEN strength class) designation?	<b>A.</b> Yes, the grades listed above may not be grade-stamped simultaneously with S-P-F "NO. 1 & Better" and "C20" grade-stamped production.
<b>June 2022 Review</b>	<p>Add new EU Annex 1.9</p> <p><b>"1.9 C20 STRENGTH CLASS - GRADE MARKING</b></p> <p><i>When the "C20" designation is applied to a "NO. 1 &amp; Btr" grade stamp, the following restrictions apply:</i></p> <p><i>a) lumber shall be pulled from primary log breakdown mill run stock only.</i></p> <p><i>b) the "NO. 1 &amp; Btr" combination grade stamp shall not be applied to regraded, pre-graded, or pre-sorted lumber.</i></p> <p><i>When S-P-F, D Fir-L (N) and Hem-Fir (N) species combinations or their individual constituent species are grade-stamped "C20" during a "NO. 1 &amp; Btr" production run, it is not permissible to simultaneously sort any other grades with any higher design values than the "NO. 1" grade, even if pieces would otherwise qualify. For example: Select Structural, some grades of MSR, MEL, lamination, scaffold plank, and decking are not permitted to be sorted and stamped when producing lumber stamped "NO. 1 &amp; Btr" and "C20".</i></p>	

<b>Para 830e – Standard Lengths</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>May 2019</b>	<b>Q.</b> Para 830a states that 6 ft is the minimum standard length for nominal 2-inch Structural Light Framing/Joists & Planks and 8 ft for Beams & Stringers/Posts & Timbers. Can shorter lengths be permitted to be grade-stamped?	<b>A.</b> There are no restrictions on lengths for grade-stamped lumber.

<b>NGR Interpretation 1.11 - Shake</b>		
<b>Date Ratified</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Ratified Response</b>
<b>May 2019</b>	<b>Q.</b> When assessing whether a shake is continuous or not, does a "tie" have to be on the surface of the piece?	<b>A.</b> No, as per NGR Interpretation 1.11, first sentence.