

American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated®

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ALSC No. 1 & Better Policy

Product Standard PS 20 permits grouping the highest two grades in a grade category, and grade marking the combination as an “& Better” (&Btr) grade. The combined grade is assigned the allowable property values of the lower grade unless allowable property values have been assigned to the combination. [In the case of “No. 1 & Btr,” data collected for Douglas Fir-Larch, Douglas Fir-Larch(N), Hem-Fir, and Hem-Fir(N) during the North American in-grade testing program permits development of allowable property values unique to the “No. 1 & Btr” combination grade.] When the “& Btr” combination grade is assigned unique allowable properties, as in the case of “No. 1 & Btr” Douglas Fir-Larch, Douglas Fir-Larch(N), Hem-Fir, and Hem-Fir(N) and the material is stamped with a “& Btr” grade stamp, such as “No. 1 & Btr”, the allowable properties assigned to the combination grade shall apply. If, on the other hand, the lumber is gradestamped with the individual grade designations, such as “Select Structural” and “No. 1” rather than “No. 1 & Btr,” the value assigned to the individual grades apply.

The following restrictions apply to the “No. 1 & Btr” combination grade for species that have been assigned unique allowable properties: 1) material shall only be pulled by a mill performing the initial breakdown of the logs ; 2) the “No. 1 & Btr” combination grade stamp shall not be applied to regraded, pre-graded, remanufactured, or pre-sorted material, unless otherwise approved by the American Lumber Standard Committee in a ratified response. When Douglas Fir-Larch, Douglas Fir-Larch(N), Hem-Fir, and Hem-Fir(N) species combinations or their individual constituent species are gradestamped “No. 1 & Btr”, it is not permissible to simultaneously sort any other grades with any higher design value than the No. 1 & Btr combination 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 & Btr”.