

**AMERICAN LUMBER STANDARD COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED
FOREIGN LUMBER AND TRAVEL POLICY
REVISED MAY 3, 2022**

The Board of Review is authorized by the American Lumber Standard Committee to accredit agencies to grademark and to supervise the grademarking of lumber produced in countries other than the United States. Accreditation shall be under the same requirements and subject to the same conditions as are applicable to agencies accredited to operate under the American Lumber Standard system in the United States.

Such agencies which are accredited by the Board of Review, and the mills using the services of these agencies which ship lumber into the United States, shall be subject to the same mill, origin, destination and agency checks by American Lumber Standard Committee inspectors as are required of agencies and mills operating in the United States, subject to the terms of this policy.*

Fees

Agencies accredited for operation outside the United States shall be assessed by the American Lumber Standard Committee for payment on the same basis as assessments made on agencies accredited to operate within the United States. However, any extraordinary expenses, including additional personnel or services, incurred by the American Lumber Standard Committee and the Board of Review in providing mill, origin, destination and agency checks shall be borne by the agency under whose authority the lumber is gradestamped. The amount of any extraordinary expenses is to be determined by the Executive Committee of the American Lumber Standard Committee.

Foreign Travel; Safety

An accredited agency may not include as a subscriber any mill or other facility located in a jurisdiction in which travel by inspectors (whether agency inspectors or American Lumber Standard Committee inspectors) may be considered dangerous or inadvisable. The Board of Review shall consider multiple factors when determining, including without limitation, U.S. State Department travel advisories (“Advisories”). When a jurisdiction is subject to an Advisory of three (3) or higher, it shall be presumed that travel to such jurisdictions is unsafe, unless other compelling factors are present to mitigate travel risks. In the event an existing agency subscriber is located in a jurisdiction that becomes unsafe in the judgment of the Board of Review, the agency shall take steps to promptly suspend such subscriber’s ability to stamp products with accredited agency stamps. The Board of Review may permit an agency to delay such suspension for a reasonable period of time if: (1) the circumstances giving rise to the unsafe conditions appear likely to be temporary; and (2) reasonable alternative arrangements may be made in the interim time to permit inspection of lumber (e.g., at destinations/ports).

Grading Rules; Nomenclature

For lumber of foreign origin to be gradestamped under the ALS system, it must be graded under established ALS procedures, the National Grading Rule for Dimension Lumber, or grading rules as published by U.S. rules-writing agencies. Rules under which it is graded shall be certified by the Board of Review, and the foreign species shall be referenced on the gradestamp. If design

values are assigned to grades of foreign species or groups of species, calculation and assignment of values shall be in accordance with requirements of PS 20.

The following criteria shall be used to establish nomenclature for foreign species:

- 1) All currently approved nomenclature for species and species groupings will be "grandfathered" under these guidelines.
- 2a) When a generally accepted "common" or "commercial" name is currently being used in the U.S., all material of that species from whatever location or source shall use that name. For example, Douglas fir, Radiata pine, Norway spruce.
- 2b) If 2a is not applicable, but there is a currently used "common" or "commercial" name used in either the country of origin or consuming markets, it shall be used.
- 2c) If 2a and 2b are not applicable, then the agency may propose any unique designation which follows the basic intent of 2a and 2b.
- 3) Material not originating within the U.S. or Canada shall include the designation "(I)" plus a unique abbreviation to identify the region, province, or country as appropriate.
- 4) Once a designation has been approved by the Board of Review for a given species, this commercial designation shall be used for all subsequent submissions for that species with appropriate amendments as specified in 3.
- 5) Groupings of species shall be generally descriptive of the species included in the grouping, and follow the intent of these guidelines.

Foreign Lumber Inspection Agencies

Qualified foreign lumber inspection agencies may be approved to give service to U.S. mills. Foreign agencies are not thereby entitled to membership participation in the affairs of the ALSC.

*The NLGA rules of Canada are "Grandfathered" under the above adopted policy. No changes are required in the present NLGA rules, but any future changes must conform to U.S. rules.

Footnoted 12/84