



File Code: 1350

Date: January 3, 2012

Tom D. Searles
Executive Vice President
Board of Review
American Lumber Standard Committee
P.O. Box 210
Germantown, MD 20875-0210

Dear Tom:

We have reviewed the Submission to ALSC BOR **Submission of Interim Design Values for Visually Graded Southern Pine Dimension Lumber** dated September 2011 (revised December 2011). This submission presents an interim measure which adjusts all Southern Pine dimension lumber values based on destructive testing results for No. 2 grade 2 by 4 lumber adjusted in accordance with ASTM D1990 procedures.

Response:

The suggested reductions in No. 2 grade 2 by 4 dimension lumber design values are justified by the data presented and the proposed reductions of all size-grade values are a reasonable approach to establish interim values that are conservative until the full size-grade testing matrix test results are available.

Comments:

There are two points we would wish to comment on. First, SPIB's discussion of prior methods of coding distorted grain with other rules-writing agencies and a review of the failure code 34 pieces seems to clarify why the original GQI values for the bending set were lower than expected. The GQI value associated with the sample is now within the tolerance of the allowable GQI for material representing #2 grade lumber. Second, the reduction in specific gravity from 0.55 to 0.52 observed in the SPIB data is still in our opinion a sizable reduction which puts the observed Southern Pine density value more in line with the current NDS Mixed Southern Pine value.

Please call me if you have any questions. 608-231-0307.

Sincerely;

David E. Kretschmann, P.E.
Research General Engineer,
Engineering Properties of Wood, Wood Based Materials and Structures

cc:

Jim Loy
Bob Browder
Ronald Williams
Jay Moore
James Evans

