

WOOD PRODUCT MARKINGS

Wood product markings that are important for construction inspection are grade and treatment markings. These markings are indicators of the quality and durability of the material.

Grade markings indicate the species of wood and structural design parameters. The quality of the wood supplied must be equal to or greater than that shown on the drawings and specifications or the stability of these structures will be impaired.

Treatment markings indicate the type of pressure treatment and retention amounts of the treatment. The retention value indicates the exposure expected for the material, i.e., in ground. It also is an indicator of the life expectancy of the material. The most common type of treatment for NRCS designs is waterborne chemicals.

Material certification for wood species, grade, and treatment is needed from the supplier (not the contractor) for wood materials that are not identifiable by markings. The certification must indicate material that is equal to or better than the requirements shown on the drawings and specifications.

Proper inspection of wood materials is difficult due to the following:

1. No markings or markings that are not legible,
2. Variety of symbols and abbreviations used,
3. Identifying the difference between grade and treatment markings,
4. Southern Pine Inspection Bureau has both grade and treatment criteria, and
5. Different standards used by different associations.

The following narrative and exhibits are to assist personnel with wood construction inspection.

Markings are often found 1 foot to 3 feet from the end of the material. Grade markings will have:

1. the association mark or logo;
2. the grade (i.e., construction, No. 1, No. 2, etc.);
3. the material species;
4. the moisture content at the time of surfacing; and
5. a mill number in some cases.

See Exhibit 1 for examples.

The commercial grades from highest strength to lowest strength are:

- Select Structural
- No. 1
- No. 2
- No. 3
- Stud
- Construction
- Standard
- Utility

Note: When a drawing specifies No. 2 grade wood members, No. 2, No. 1, and Select Structural grades may be used. No. 3 and lower grades cannot be accepted.

Lack of identifiable grade markings does not mean the product is acceptable or unacceptable. All wood product suppliers are not members of grading or treatment associations. The non-members may or may not mark lumber. Lumber supplied by non-members will not contain an association logo but may have a company logo.

Treatment markings will usually have:

1. treatment material and retention value (i.e., ACQ, 0.4, etc.),
2. an association name or logo,
3. a treatment process indicated by letters and numbers (i.e., LP-22), and
4. a plant number or name. See Exhibit 2 for examples.

Other abbreviations commonly used for lumber are:

- CM = center matched
- DF = douglas fir
- HEM = hemlock
- MSR = machine stress rated
- RGH, Rgh = rough
- SEL, Sel = select
- SR = stress rated
- STD, std = standard
- STR, STRUCT = structural
- T&G = tongue-and-groove
- WCH = west coast hemlock
- WRD = western red cedar
- YP = yellow pine

Exhibit 1

Example Grade Markings

1. CALIFORNIA LUMBER INSPECTION SERVICE



2. NORTHEASTERN LUMBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



3. NORTHERN HARDWOOD AND PINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOC., INC.



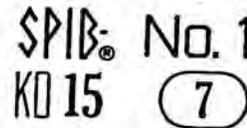
4. PACIFIC LUMBER INSPECTION BUREAU, INC.



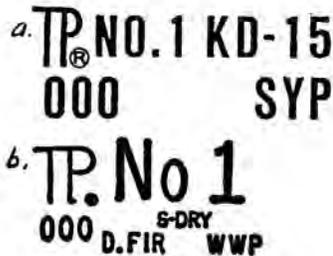
5. REDWOOD INSPECTION SERVICE



6. SOUTHERN PINE INSPECTION BUREAU



7. TIMBER PRODUCTS INSPECTION

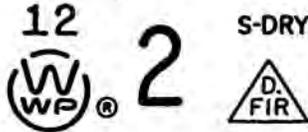


8. WEST COAST LUMBER INSPECTION BUREAU



Exhibit 1 (continued)

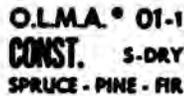
9. WESTERN WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION



10. CANADIAN LUMBERMANS ASSOCIATION



11. ONTARIO LUMBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



12. WESTERN WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION



LEGEND OF GRADE MARKINGS IN EXAMPLES

	Grade	Moisture Content at Time of Surfacing	Species
1.	Standard	Green	Douglas Fir
2.	Construction	Green	Eastern Hemlock or Tamarack
3.	Stud	Dry	Balsam Fir
4.	Construction	Green	Hemlock or Douglas Fir
5.	Foundation	Green	Redwood
6.	No. 1*	Kiln Dried	Southern Yellow Pine
7a.	No. 1	Kiln Dried	Southern Yellow Pine
7b.	No. 1	Dry	Douglas Fir
8.	No. 2	Dry	Douglas Fir
9.	No. 2	Dry	Douglas Fir
10.	No. 1	Green	Spruce or Pine or Fir
11.	Construction	Dry	Spruce or Pine or Fir
12.	No. 1	Dry	Ponderosa Pine

*Note the absence of "SYP", "SP", or other markings to indicate southern yellow pine. It is the only species graded by this association.

Exhibit 2

EXAMPLE TREATMENT MARKINGS

Pressure Treated Lumber
ACQ-D .40

Ground Contact

PP or SYP

1984-1986

Southern Pine Inspection
Bureau Inspected

NRB 240

Quality Wood
Treating Company
Prairie du Chien, Wi.

Legend of Treatment Markings

ACQ = Alkaline Copper Quat, Type D.

.40 = Treatment Retention (lb/ft³).

Ground Contact = Indicates 0.4 lb/ft³ treatment retention. Use for ground contact only when there is a low replacement cost. Good for occasional exposure to rainwater.

PP or SYP = Treatment process for Ponderosa pine and Southern yellow pine. NOTE: THIS DOES NOT INDICATE THE SPECIES.

1984-1986 = Years plant is certified by Souther Pine Inspection Bureau.

NRB 240 = Coding number used by plant.

This page reserves pages 17-WI-56 through 17-WI-60 for future supplements.