

American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated

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VIA E-MAIL

TO: ALSC MEMBERS & ALTERNATES

FROM: THOMAS D. SEARLES

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2011

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE DESIGN VALUE ISSUE

This will provide you with information regarding recent developments relating to design values. The present design values are based upon "In Grade" testing of full size, on grade, pieces of lumber. That testing was completed in 1991 and the values were derived pursuant to ASTM D-1990.

In early 2010, SPIB was notified that certain testing indicated that the southern pine design values may not be as published. No data to substantiate these claims was made available, but SPIB immediately began a study, testing MOE, MOR and tension. That study suggested that there had been a substantial change in the southern pine resource, prompting SPIB to submit those results to the Board of Review with a request that lower values be approved. Following its procedures, the Board of Review requested the Forest Products Laboratory to review the SPIB submission to determine if the Standards for determining design values had been applied correctly. The Board will consider the SPIB submission at its October 20, 2011 meeting and wants to hear from all parties that may be affected by these proposed changes. The ALSC office has already heard from many sectors of the lumber industry and downstream industries.

Questions have been raised about design values of other agencies. NLGA has submitted its monitoring data and the Board has requested FPL to review it. All other agencies are immediately undertaking evaluation of their resources and have submitted sampling and testing plans for their species. The Board has asked FPL for technical review of them.

The Board of Review will review all of the information it has received or is furnished involving design values for all species at its October 20th meeting and after hearing the information presented will act based upon that information.

If you would like to discuss this further or need some additional information, please call the ALSC office and speak to Tom Searles.

TDS:tw

cc: ALSC Officers
Board of Review
Counsel
Other Interested Parties