

Specifications for Bridge Timbers

For Bridge Timber Specifications please refer to AREMA Chapter 7 Timber Structures. Specifically to Table 7-2-9 "Allowable Stresses for Stress Graded Lumber - Railroad Loading (Visual Grading)". For example: hardwood species, the table will refer you to "Beams & Stringers" in the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NELMA) grading rules. To arrive at the correct grade for their application users need a clear understanding of the design loads and allowable working stresses for the structure and any environmental conditions which would require the use of stress reduction factors. Chapter 7 was written by Structure Design Engineers for structural engineers.

Once a grade of timber is specified the appropriate agency can be contacted for their grading rules. [Please contact the grading agencies listed below for specifics](#)

Grade Rules Writing Organizations

The accredited agencies in the untreated program operate under one or more of the following seven sets of grading rules and are available from the publishing agency. Please contact them for information concerning their respective rules.

1. *Standard Grading Rules for Northeastern Lumber*; published by the Northeast Lumber Manufacturers Association (NeLMA), 272 Tuttle Road, P.O. Box 87A, Cumberland Center, ME 04021; 207.829.6901; 207.829.4293 (fax); e-mail info@nelma.org
2. *Standard Grading Rules*; published by the Northern Softwood Lumber Bureau (NSLB), 272 Tuttle Road, P.O. Box 87A, Cumberland Center, ME 04021; 207.829.6901; 207.829.4293 (fax); e-mail info@nelma.org
3. *Standard Specifications for Grades of California Redwood Lumber*; published by the Redwood Inspection Service (RIS), 405 Enfrente Drive, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949; 415.382.0662; 415.382.8531(fax); e-mail info@calredwood.org
4. *Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine*; published by the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB), 4709 Scenic Highway, Pensacola, FL 32504; 850.434.2611; 850.433.5594 (fax); e-mail spib@spib.org
5. *Standard Grading Rules for West Coast Lumber*; published by the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB); Box 23145, Portland, OR 97281-3145; 503.639.0651; 503.684.8928 (fax); e-mail info@wclib.org
6. *Western Lumber Grading Rules*; published by Western Wood Products Association (WWPA); Yeon Building, 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland Oregon 97204-2122; 503.224.3930; 503.224.3934 (fax); e-mail info@wwpa.org
7. *Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber*; published by the National Lumber Grades Authority (NLGA); 406 First Capital Place, 960 Quayside Drive, New Westminster, BC V3M 6G2; 604.524.2393; 604.524.2893; e-mail info@nlga.org