

**PACIFIC LUMBER INSPECTION BUREAU
GRADE & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

May 20, 2020

Via webcast/conference call

The Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB) held a meeting of the Grade & Technical Committee on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 via webcast/conference call, commencing at 8:00 a.m. PLIB Director of Special Programs & Plant Health, Ben Haynes, presided with the following members present:

Goran Bodirogic – Ilim Timber
Aaron Dummer – Seneca Sawmill Co
Clement Frank – Frank Lumber
Eric Fritch – Fritch Mill

Steve Harms – Weyerhaeuser
Joe Honochick – Zip-O
Christof Richter – Binderholz

PLIB Staff present for the meeting: Jeff Fantozzi, Don DeVisser, Henry Morris, Skeet Rominger, Jim Gomes, Jon Hartley, Will Moore, Glen Walton.

Regrets: Jason Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Haynes welcomed everyone to the PLIB Grade and Technical Committee meeting.

2. Anti-Trust Statement

Mr. Haynes reviewed the PLIB anti-trust statement.

3. Roll Call and Quorum

A roll call was conducted and all members on the call could be heard.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 30, 2019 meeting were displayed on the screen. On motion by Clement Frank and second by Joe Honochick the minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Policy for Measuring MC in Dry Timbers

Mr. Haynes reported that staff was asked whether there was a policy for measuring MC in dry timbers. A draft policy that had been developed was displayed on the screen. The policy is based on guidance provided in ASTM D7438-13 *Standard Practice for Field Calibration and Application of Hand-Held Moisture Meters*. On motion by Mr. Frank and second by Mr. Honochick the policy as presented was unanimously approved. A copy of the policy is appended to these minutes.

6. Timber Breaks in No. 2 Wide Widths

Mr. Fantozzi reported that staff had contacted the other inspection agencies that sit on the NGR committee on whether they would be willing to support a small sampling and testing program to look into the effect of small timber breaks in wide width lumber. He reported that the results were split almost evenly with some agencies in support and some not willing to support a sampling and testing program, or the results. Discussion was had on the background of where timber break restrictions may have come from as well as recent research by a European laboratory. The merits and risks of allowing small timber breaks were discussed and it was pointed out that this would

be very small breaks. Mr. Richter agreed to provide a paper on research done by Professor Peter Glos and Julia Denzler of the Technical University of Munich Wood Science entitled "Effect of compression damages on strength properties of structural lumber". Discussion on how to limit the size of the break, whether specific length or proportional to width or thickness was heard. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Fritch directing staff to make a motion at the next NGR meeting that some timber break sizes be permitted in No. 2 wide widths. It was understood that if there was support at the NGR level, a test program may be necessary.

7. Adding QC Procedures for Specific Gravity Monitoring in the MSR Standard

Don DeVisser reported that at the previous meeting staff was directed to develop QC procedures for monitoring specific gravity as part of the MSR daily quality control program. Mr. DeVisser mentioned that a draft policy was currently under development but not ready for review by the committee. A task group consisting of Mr. Frank and PLIB staff was established to continue working on the policy. The task group plans to review the policy by the end of June and put forward a final copy for review by the PLIB Board of Directors.

8. Grader Recognition and Master Grader Certification Program

Skeet Rominger reported on the development of the Grader Recognition and Master Grader Certification Program. The framework for the program as well as sample certificates have been drafted and were displayed on the screen. There was some discussion about the specific criteria that should be used to determine when a grader is a good candidate to receive a certificate. Staff will rework the current draft for the program and recirculate to the committee by email. A copy of the draft recognition program is appended to these minutes.

9. Reprinting Standard No. 17 and Interpretations

Staff reviewed proposed changes to Standard No. 17 grade rules and their interpretations. They explained that the proposed changes were developed and reviewed by a small committee of senior Supervisors and many of the interpretations had been in existence since the 1970's or earlier but never published and many of the old interpretations had been incorporated into the rules over the years. Staff recommended that if approved, the interpretations be included in the rule book in its next printing. After discussion and on motion by Mr. Frank and second by Mr. Fritch, the changes to Standard No. 17 and their interpretations were unanimously approved as presented and recommended to be forwarded to the PLIB Board of Directors for final approval. If approved by the PLIB Board, the rule changes and interpretations will be submitted to the ALSC Board of Review. A copy of the approved rule changes and interpretations are appended to these minutes.

10. Revisions to NGR interpretations for wane and shake. Revision to Standard No. 17 section 201-b on how to measure knot holes.

Since the previous meeting, staff has received questions relating to the interpretations of wane and shake. Staff developed the following revisions to clarify the NGR interpretation.

A. With regard to the NGR interpretation for wane:

"In reference to paragraph 750, you can have a wane dip on the wide face or narrow face away from the ends up to 1' long."

B. With regard to the NGR interpretation for shake:

"Shake from the edge of the piece of lumber into the wide face shall be held to maximum wane of half the width."

A motion was made by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Dummer to recommend that these changes be submitted to the NGR Committee for consideration at the next NGR Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

C. With regard to Section 201-b:

Add new language which clarifies that holes are to be measured the same as knots. It was explained that as this is not a change to the NGR it can be approved and added to Standard No. 17 Section 201-b.

A motion was made by Mr. Dummer and seconded by Mr. Richter to approve the revision to section 201-b in Standard No. 17. The motion passed unanimously. The change will be presented to the PLIB Board of Directors for final approval before submitting it to the ALSC Board of Review.

11. Water Stain in R List Western Red Cedar Paragraph 401, No. 2 Clear and Better

Mr. Haynes reported that the issue was discussed with senior PLIB inspection staff and it was agreed that issues with water stain occur very infrequently and often after the lumber has been shipped. For these reasons, staff has decided it is not worthwhile to develop an interpretation at this time.

12. MSR Withdrawals

Mr. Fantozzi mentioned that there was nothing to report at this time. The work item will be tabled again until after the ALSC task group on No.1 & BTR has met.

13. MSR Visual Overrides with Machines that Evaluate by Measuring Acoustic Waves

Mr. DeVisser led the discussion on this work item and explained how the size and location of edge knots can affect the bending strength and MOE of MSR or MEL lumber. He explained that even in situations where MOE values meet the grade criteria, the bending strength may not meet the strength criterion due to the effects of edge knots.

A letter will be sent to the member who raised the question with a justification for why edge knot sizes are limited. The letter will also outline the sampling and testing that would be required to potentially remove such visual requirements.

14. Update Standard for MSR Lumber

Staff reported that the Standard for MSR Lumber has not been revised since 1992. Significant revisions are planned including reorganizing the layout, incorporating the new PLIB branding, updating references and other technical changes. Staff will begin this project sometime this summer.

15. MSR Table 13 Amendments in Standard No. 17

Henry Morris reported that several new MSR grades needed to be added to Table 13 in Standard No. 17. By adding this information to the table, it allows the mills using these grades to simplify their MSR stamps by not needing to include as much information. Future work for Table 13 involves removing certain unused grades from the table. Staff will be working with one of the committee members on this project to determine which grades should be removed.

16. Update on the Resource Monitoring Program

Staff provided an update on the status of the lumber resource monitoring program. The next species group to be evaluated is Hem-fir. PLIB has delivered all of its Hem-fir test pieces to the testing facility in Vancouver, WA; however the program has been delayed by COVID-19 which

has prevented other Western agencies from delivering all of their sample pieces. The previous species group tested was SPF(s) and the report from that testing program is currently under review by the Forest Products Lab.

17. New Business – There was no new business to come before the committee.
18. Next Meeting – Staff suggested that the next meeting take place in the fall before the next PLIB Board of Directors' meeting.
19. Adjourn
Upon motion by Mr. Frank, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Haynes
Director, Special Programs and Plant Health

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