



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Richard Wallace
504/443-4464, ext. 236
rwallace@sfpa.org
@Southern_Pine

ALSC Approves Design Values for Only 2x4s, No.2 and Lower Grades Effective June 1, 2012

With an effective date of June 1, 2012 to allow time for an orderly implementation, the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) Board of Review has announced its approval of the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau's (SPIB) proposed design value change for only No. 2 2x4 Southern Pine visually graded dimension lumber. In a related Supplemental Ruling, the Board of Review clarified that its decision also applied to all lower grades of 2x4 – No.3, Stud, Construction, Standard and Utility. The Board of Review declined to approve the proposed design values for other grades and sizes of Southern Pine, but was mindful that testing is currently underway on a full matrix sample. These ALSC rulings can be reviewed at www.southernpine.com.

In rendering this decision, the ALSC Board of Review commended SPIB and urged the rules-writing agency to "...proceed with all deliberate haste to complete the testing and analysis of other sizes and grades at the earliest opportunity."

"Southern Pine producers and their customers are pleased with the ALSC Board of Review's decision on design values," says Cathy Kaake, SFPA's senior director of engineered and framing markets. "Industry and customer groups need time for an orderly implementation and this announcement provides that," she says.



Customer groups have supported ALSC's action. "This is good news. Waiting until the full In-Grade testing is completed is the right decision and recommending June 1 for implementation of the new values for 2x4s will provide industry much needed time to make the transition," said Ed Sutton, P.E., senior vice president, Construction, Codes & Standards at the National Association of Home Builders. In its release, the Structural Building Components Association (SBCA) stated: "SBCA believes the narrow ruling on the part of ALSC and the reasonable implementation date will allow for Southern Pine specifiers and users to effectively plan for a reasonable marketplace transition."

The *Southern Pine Design Value Forum*, held last November in Atlanta, was instrumental in bringing industry and customer groups together. SFPA will continue to facilitate the dialog among key industry segments to help formulate a unified approach to implementation of these new design values. "The decision from ALSC is a good thing. We are receiving positive reactions from our customer groups and will continue to work with them on a united front going forward," Cathy adds.

BACKGROUND: The last major change for visually graded dimension lumber occurred in 1991 when design

values for Southern Pine and other North American species were published based on In-Grade testing of full-size samples of commercially produced lumber. Since 1994, SPIB has conducted an annual resource monitoring program developed in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). SPIB is the first rules-writing agency to submit proposed design value changes. Rules-writing agencies responsible for other species are in different stages for evaluating design values.

SFPA does not test lumber or establish design values. SFPA's primary function is to market lumber products and to help users understand Southern Pine grading rules and design values.

Complete information about Southern Pine design values is available online at www.southernpine.com.

SFPA is a nonprofit trade association that has represented manufacturers of Southern Pine lumber since 1915. Today, SFPA is the leading source of information about Southern Pine products for design-build professionals and consumers.

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