



**NLBMDA Issue Briefing:
Questions & Answers About New Design Values
for No. 2 Southern Pine 2x4's**

A collaborative effort by industry stakeholders, including NLBMDA and facilitated by the Southern Forest Products Association, has created a Q&A series that addresses the many questions left unanswered by the recent "partial" approval by the American Lumber Standard Committee's (ALSC) Board of Review of the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) design values proposed last fall with little public scrutiny or preparation.

As it stands now, with the "partial" approval by the ALSC Board of Review earlier this year, SPIB issued Supplement No.9 to the 2002 Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber providing new design values effective June 1, 2012. The only design values that will change on June 1 apply to visually graded Southern Pine and Mixed Southern Pine sized 2" to 4" wide and 2" to 4" thick (2x2s through 4x4s) in No.2 and lower grades (No.2, No.3, Stud, Construction, Standard and Utility).

The approval of the grades and dimensions mentioned above, and the stated implementation date of June 1, 2012, left an unacceptable lack of guidance and numerous unanswered questions, creating a layer of uncertainty that further supports NLBMDA's call for a clearly defined process and procedure for this very important function of the ALSC.

Due to a lack of leadership elsewhere, industry stakeholders stepped up to the task of addressing this uncertainty with a just-released Q&A series. This new collection of questions and answers can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

NLBMDA will continue to lead the charge urging greater clarity and certainty in both how the design values for southern pine will be further considered and implemented and how existing design values for other species will be tested, reviewed, and acted upon by the ALSC Board of Review.