

# Lumber Matters



Issue 55  
January 2020



## GM's Corner

Stuart Sing

Happy New Year and welcome to the new decade and the year 2020 - to all our Members, Staff, Families, and Board members. If there was ever one time to look forward to a change in the year, this is it as 2019 was one tough year for us here at CMSA and our members. Any time we experience permanent or indefinite shutdowns of the sawmills, it has an effect on us all; although, not to the degree as those on the front lines.

Reductions in log supply and low demand and prices for construction lumber, has led to the shutdown of several sawmills. And with every shutdown, the effect on CMSA means less visits and work for our Supervisors. Of course, the effect on the immediate families, not to mention suppliers, and other spin-off industries, means communities and of course the province has less tax dollars to put to work. Two decades ago, it was well known that the Forest Industry contributed 50 cents of every dollar brought in by the Provincial government. And while that figure is reduced these days, it is still a significant number and forces the government to juggle balls as it covers the holes in the provincial budget. Right now, CMSA staff will all have to share a little pain and we will all take some extra time off until our members get back to the new normal. And the alarming thing is that all this is happening in a time of low unemployment, low inflation, and a relatively strong economy. Now into Year 10 of the expansion, while some pundits say a recession is due; others look at the positive and say the economy still has room to grow.

Looking for some positives, housing experts expect US housing starts to hit 1,300,000 starts in 2020. Combine that with continued strength in the economy, low interest rates, inflation in check and that should continue the pent-up demand for housing.

In 2019, Kris Reklinski, Earl Scott, John Leahy, Terry Ryan, Steve Soderstrom and myself surveyed a total of **7,944,520FBM** of both Grade Stamped and non-grade stamped lumber. This is the equivalent of **113** railcars full of lumber. During our grade surveys, we found an average of 3.3% below grade and 0.4% with excess moisture. In contrast, the CLSAB found an average of 3.8 % below grade and the ALSC found an average of 3.9 % below grade. It's not good when both the CLSAB and ALSC find a higher below grade percentage than us

### Inside this issue:

GM's Corner	1-2
New CMSA Members	2
Annual Proof Loader Calibrations	2
Kiln Drying to Meet Moisture Content Requirements	2
CLSAB and NLGA Annual Meetings	3
2019 Surrey Western Red Cedar Grading Class Results and Winners	4
Upcoming Coast Species (CSP) Lumber Grading Class in Surrey	4
Potential S-P-F and WRC Grading Classes for later 2020	4

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so we have to be a little more diligent when doing our grade checks.

In 2019 CMSA sponsored 5 different Lumber Grading Classes on Vancouver Island (1), the Lower Mainland (3) and the Northern Interior (1). All combined, 135 students attended CMSA lumber grading classes. The pass rate was 65.7 %

For the first half of 2020, we will be sponsoring a Coast Species Grading Class in Surrey (Cloverdale) starting January and a S-P-F course in Prince George starting March 7. Contact Ingrid Shen at 604-523-1288 (local 2) or Kris Reklinski at 1-250-612-2144 if you are interested in attending either course.

The big news for 2020 is that come May, CMSA will be hosting the BC Lumber Grading Championship in Prince George. This will be the third time that CMSA has hosted in recent memory and again expect the unexpected. We have Kris looking to add a few new wrinkles for this year's contest to make it a memorable one. And as we did in 2015, we will have several draws for door prizes with both a general, and a Ladies category. So contestants, bring your spouses to the contest and the awards banquet as you could be a winner in more ways than one.

CMSA Staff represent CMSA members on numerous industry committees.

For example, Earl Scott is the CMSA representative on the NLGA Grade Committee. In fact Earl will be taking over as the Chair of this committee as I have relinquished the Chair after serving 4 years as the Chairman.

Kris Reklinski will be our representative on the NLGA Standards Committee and will take over for John Leahy. Kris will also be taking on a new position with the CLSAB on their Operations Committee; a first for a CMSA staff person.

John continues to be our representative on the CLSAB Technical Committee.

Myself, I have assumed the Chair of the NLGA Executive Committee and will also Chair the NLGA Board of Directors.

### Inside this issue:

Lumber Grading Classes in Spring 2020 (Southern Interior Region)	5
Spring Grading Classes in the Prince George Area	5
Vancouver Island Grading Class Report January 2020	5
Plant Health Updates	6
Championship Promotion	7
Safe Travels for 2020	7
Thank you and farewell (Trevor Erickson)	7
Photo Gallery (2019 CMSA Christmas Events)	8

## GM's Corner (continued)

Stuart Sing

Board Member – Keith Hess represents CMSA on the CWC Board and also Chairs the NLGA Lumber Properties Steering Committee.

Contact any of us if you have a Technical problem that needs to be solved or if you need one of us to take an issue to a committee. As for the NLGA, I know we have our work cut out for us as Verification Studies will have to be done on both Hem-Fir(N) and S-P-F in 2020 so please help our Supervisors out when they have to come in to select samples.

For the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of our Newsletter, you will hear from Kris as he promotes the upcoming

S-P-F lumber grading course to be held in Prince George and he gives all a reminder to ensure frozen logs/lumber gets kiln dried to 19% Moisture Content or less. Earl Scott will give you the latest on the upcoming BC Lumber Grading Championship and John Leahy will update us all on the latest Plant Health issues as they pertain to the various countries. As usual Rika Hatachi will provide us with her latest picture gallery and Ingrid Shen will be promoting the upcoming Coast Species grading class that is due to start in a couple of weeks.

Thank-you and stay Safe, work Safe, and get home to your families every night; talk to you all again in May.

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## New CMSA Members

Stuart Sing

As tough as 2019 was, the good news is that we were still able to welcome 5 more companies to join up for membership with CMSA.

Whether a big company or small, we welcome you all.

And if you can refer other companies to join up with CMSA, it would be much appreciated.

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to CMSA:

**Kanata Forest Products Ltd.**

**Sundher Timber Products**

**Tenryu Canada Corporation**

**Woodwise Lumber Ltd.**

**Fraserview Cedar Products**

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## Annual Proof Loader Calibrations

Earl Scott

Each year any mill that produces MSR or finger joint lumber needs to have a third-party calibration performed on their proof loaders. The proof loader, bars and ring each have a serial number and last calibration date sticker. The formal printed report must be accessible to the CMSA, CLSAB and ALS on request. I find it easiest if a printed copy is left near the proof loader machine. After calibration is performed it is valid for one year. Companies must ensure they schedule a new calibration on or before the expiry date.

The one thing that we require is once the formal report is emailed to the mill, you need to forward a copy to the CMSA office and your CMSA inspector. Rika Hatachi keeps a record of all calibrations in our office. This is a requirement when CLSAB or the ALS audit our office. So please keep this in mind when your next annual calibration is scheduled. It is always a good practice to check your records and make sure you are ready to schedule your next visit.

Thanks

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## Kiln Drying to Meet Moisture Content Requirements

Kris Reklinski

A good portion of the mountain Pine beetle has been harvested, and as mills begin to take in more green logs, along with a higher percentage of Alpine Fir it is key that moisture content of the final product is found to be 19% or less.

At this time of year especially, being winter the mills must adjust for colder temperatures, as well as frozen logs and lumber. So we remind our members to adjust kiln schedules as needed, and pay attention to sorting in the sawmill to ensure proper drying so the requirements are met and the wet lumber is kept to a minimum. When inspections occur, lumber found with any wets should be kept to a maximum of 5% in any given package, just the same as below grades are. We recommend moisture checks to be completed as a regular aspect of the in-house grade checks in order to remove any wets from packages and provide feed back if necessary. This process can also check that any automated moisture reading systems in the planer are working and reading correctly.

*The CLSAB Technical Committee deals with subject matter related to the phytosanitary (Plant Health) certification programs that are supervised by the CLSAB, and phytosanitary policy affecting the domestic and international trade of lumber.*

The following are some of the items discussed at the Dec. 2019 meeting, that are most relevant to CMSA members.

**ISPM 42** – Is the international standard for “Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures”. CLSAB and CFIA are working on getting the CHTWPCP HT methodology recognized and included in this standard. Once this occurs, it could lead to dropping the bark restriction in ISPM 15 WPM products.

#### **8.1.2 PI-07 revisions**

Lots of revisions to this standard are in the works. The new version should be published (on the CFIA website) in the first quarter of 2020.

The revisions with the biggest impact are;

- the inclusion of BDCK schedules (Bi-directional Continuous Kilns)
- the expansion of Option D to include a range of new sizes – 1-1/8”, 3-1/4”, 4-1/4”, & 5-1/4”. These new size options can be used now and the schedule details will appear in the new standard.
- Inclusion of a new schedule D-1, which will require fan reversals, and continuous HT time above the 160 F threshold, but will allow shorter “minimum time at the end of the treatment with the Dry bulb > 160F” .

#### **8.1.3 PI-07 Q&A list**

The new Q&A document for the PI-07 will have kiln diagrams showing airflow and the required locations of dry-bulbs and wet bulbs, which will be a great help in understanding the configuration requirements under each option.

#### **8.1.5 Verification of Temp Sensors**

The annual temp sensor calibration checks required to use the temps published in the PI-07 are now officially referred to as “verifications”. The TC has tabled the notion of using adjacent temp sensors to compare individual temp sensors to, as an acceptable verification technique. Other methods of temp sensor verification will also be listed .

**8.1.7** The CLSAB is reviewing research from Penn State regarding **Radio Frequency** drying and the development of HT certification protocols using this technology.

**8.2 CGSWCP** – The recommendation that the scope of products which can be covered under the CGSWCP be expanded to include Kiln dried products (not KD-HT) was tabled. If adopted this will help members who ship KD tight-knot WRC siding products to Australia. This proposal was forwarded to the CFIA who are currently discussing it with the DAWR (Australia)

**9.1** The CLSAB is working on an **electronic check-list for MSR** producers under SPS-2. Their objective is to create a document that is much easier to understand for upcoming new / younger employees. In addition CLSAB is working on an electronic CUSUM spread-sheet, which will do all the math, and alert and direct MSR operators to Out-of-control situations etc.

**9.2 Grade-stamping pressure treated lumber.** A reminder that CLSAB does not recognize the grade stamps on lumber that has been graded pre-treatment, as the incision and treatment processes constitute further handling and/or sorting. Treated lumber which is graded and stamped post-treatment is fine.

We were also reminded that PWF does not allow Spruce species as they treat poorly. Therefore SPF lumber must be sorted to remove Spruce, leaving only the Pine and True Fir component. This in itself constitutes sorting, which negates the original grade stamp.

#### **Additional Agenda items**

**CGSWCP** – A request for revision to the CGSWCP program to drop the requirement for species specific program package labels. This is a hold-over from old Australian Plant health programs. Having separate package labels for each species no longer serves any purpose, and it is a source of extra cost, and an additional opportunity for error. The CFIA is in the process of discussing this proposal with the DAWR (Australia).

**BMSB safeguarding (Brown marmorated stink bugs) for Australia** – a proposal to request the DAWR (Australia) to consider a program which short-couples the **planing of HT** lumber to the containerization of this lumber as an official safeguarding measure has been tabled. The only current safeguarding measure recognized by the DAWR is the “Registered BMSB Service Provider” program whereby HT lumber must be containerized within 120 hrs (5 days) of kiln discharge. Our industry as represented by the CFIA and CLSAB has rejected this program as not possible / practical to do.

## **2019 Surrey Western Red Cedar Grading Class Results and Winners** Ingrid Shen

The 2019 Fall Western Red Cedar Lumber Grading Class was finished on November 30, 2019.

22 students registered in this class and 13 wrote the final exams. Among the 13 exam writers, 6 were first time writers. A total of one “AA” ticket, two “A” tickets and five “B” tickets have been achieved. **Nolan Peers** from **Delta Cedar Products** obtained the first place with a mark of **92.5%** for an “AA” ticket. Among the first-time writers, **Sukhwinder Singh Giangingh** from **A Class Lumber** got the highest mark of **70%** for an “B” ticket. Congratulations to them and to all the students that participated and finished the classes.

I would like to say “thank you” to the Class Instructors – **Roy Lee** and **Fred Henze** for their contribution and endeavor. Thank you so much!



(At the Instructor's Dinner)



## **Upcoming Coast Species (CSP) Lumber Grading Class in Surrey**

Ingrid Shen

A **Coast Species Lumber Grading Class** is coming soon starting **on January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

It will take 8 Saturdays and will finish on March 21, 2020 (no class on February 21).

There are still a couple of vacant spots. If you are interested in taking this CSP Grading Class or want to have more details, please contact **Ingrid Shen** at [shen@canserve.org](mailto:shen@canserve.org) or call her at 604-523-1288 ext. 2.

For the detailed information, please visit our website: <http://canserve.org/UpcomingSeminars.html>

## **Potential S-P-F and WRC Grading Classes for later 2020**

Ingrid Shen

We start to collect names for a potential **S-P-F and WRC grading classes** for later this year.

The S-P-F or WRC class is not guaranteed yet, only if the demand is there, will a class be scheduled. If you have the interest to take a class, no matter a S-P-F or a WRC class, please give me a call or send me an email to register your name with us so that we know if we can have enough demand for filling up a class.

Again, my email is [shen@canserve.org](mailto:shen@canserve.org) and my phone number is 604-523-1288 ext. 2. Thank you.

## **Lumber Grading Classes in Spring 2020 (Southern Interior Region)    Earl Scott**

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Happy New Year to all and your families. 2020 is upon us and that means only months away from the interior lumber grading championships in Prince George.

Grading classes are wide open for this spring. I have seen some interest from Interfor Castlegar and Grand Forks to co-host a class. Any time we can continue passing on grading knowledge is a win win for all involved. Every position in the mill is a Q.C. opportunity. Training for employees helps engagement, succession planning and may produce a future grading champion.

Please contact me for any further information on classes or site-specific training. Please contact **Earl Scott** at [scott@canserve.org](mailto:scott@canserve.org) or call **250 612-1944** (cell).

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## **Spring Grading Classes in the Prince George Area**

**Kris Reklinski**

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Spring grading classes will be taking place again this year in Prince George starting in March.

Classes start a little later this year, but it allows for us to go five straight Saturdays between the family day weekend and the Easter holiday break. It will once again be held at the **Crown Hart Banquet Hall** and lunch will once again be provided!

We will complete two classes a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon and for those who are able to pass they will obtain a grading ticket which doesn't expire. This can give a person opportunities to get into quality control and other roles such as charge/lead hands, and increase overall product knowledge.

The course will run from **March 7th- April 4th**, and run from approximately 8:30 am to 4 pm. Please have those who are interested to sign up at your mill sites; if you have any questions about attending you can contact:

**Kris Reklinski (250) 612-2144 [reklinski@canserve.org](mailto:reklinski@canserve.org)**

**Ingrid Shen at [shen@canserve.org](mailto:shen@canserve.org) or call the CMSA office at (604) 523-1288, ext.2.**

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## **Vancouver Island Grading Class Report January 2020**

**Terry Ryan**

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Well here on Island the weather has been in the news having given us warm temperatures and lots of rain but soon we will be in some snowy conditions. The Cowichan valley has been suffering several years with drought like conditions. In fact, this last summer water had to be pumped out from the Cowichan Lake to bring the water level in the Cowichan River up to a normal fall water flow. That is the first time ever since the pulp mill was built in Crofton in the 1950's.

Sawmilling on the Island is at a stand still with low world prices and the results of the labour dispute.

### **Vancouver Island Classes for 2020**

At the point of this writing there are no planned grading classes but we can get one going when the need arises.



**Australia** – Since September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, The Canadian Green Sawn Wood Certification Program (CGSWCP) has been a requirement for the export of green lumber products to Australia.



In the early days, the CFIA was issuing phytosanitary certificates for relevant wood products that were not yet certified under the program. The CFIA is no longer issuing phytosanitary certs in lieu of certification in the program.

The Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) considers lumber certified under the CGSWCP to meet their “safeguarding” requirements for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) concerns.

The BMSB issue is the reason that all Canadian lumber exports which were shipped after Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 were required to be fumigated at the ports of discharge in Australia. The “high-risk” period for BMSB was originally slated to be in effect from Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to April 30, 2020.

The good news is that the “high risk” period has been reduced to Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 (and the same period in subsequent years) for lumber which meets the DAWR’s “safeguarding” criteria.

The bad news is that DAWR is not currently accepting lumber heat treated under our CHTWPCP program as an acceptable “safeguarding” measure for BMSB control. Therefore CHTWPCP lumber will continue to require on-shore fumigation in Australia until April 30, 2020.

The CFIA has requested a technical meeting to be held before the end of January with representatives of BioSecurity Australia and DAWR to provide a history and technical background about the HT Program and request Australia recognize the Canadian HT Program as being equivalent to the Australian HT “safeguarding” program. If Australia recognizes the Canadian HT Program as equivalent it would be considered a “safeguarding” program. Enabling facilities registered in the Canadian HT Program to ship KD-HT or HT lumber manufactured between December 1 and August 31 of the following year to Australia without on-shore fumigation.

This file has the attention of the Government of Canada with CFIA working with Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian Forest Service, FPInnovations, CLSAB and Canada Wood to address this market access issue.



**Japan** - the recent announcement and inquiry by Japan regarding phytosanitary safeguards for foreign wood products – **does not apply to our lumber products** – it applies only to logs.

Therefore no changes in phytosanitary protocols or procedures are necessary for Canadian softwood lumber products shipping to Japan at this time.



## Championship Promotion

Earl Scott

Well it's getting closer to that time of the year again. Interior lumber grading championship 2020!

This year CMSA will be hosting the championship to be held in Prince George, B.C. A new decade with some tough challenges ahead, we need to continue to support and encourage participation. Central and northern B.C. should have a good turn out this year, geography is in their favour. Last year the championship was held in the southern interior. I was represented by 1 contestant, this year I am hoping for a bigger group of southern representation to challenge them northern upstarts. I know many of my mills have past champions and contestants, I think it is time that we show strong support for this important function of our industry.

Let us keep this honorable trade and tradition not only alive but thrive.

Information packets will be available soon and we will get them out as soon as possible. Thanks

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## Safe Travels for 2020

Kris Reklinski

We at CMSA often have to travel, and we navigate all kinds of conditions as we put on kilometers going to different sites for inspections. We also know many of the people we work with at our member sites also have commutes or travel obligations, some longer than others.

We at CMSA want to remind everyone to drive defensively under all conditions, but particularly in the New Year as people become busy again after the holidays and the winter can make road conditions difficult. Make sure to give yourself time to clear off any snow and ice from your vehicle prior to leaving, and allow extra room in order to stop in case of the need for any sudden stops in the snow and ice. Wildlife can move extraordinarily well in the snow, but our vehicles don't. We know we all take steps at work to recognize and reduce the risk of any accidents or injuries; however, getting to and from work is often when incidents can also occur. We wanted to remind everyone to be aware of the risks and hazards while driving.



Please drive safely, defensively, and pay attention to any changing road conditions and wildlife this winter as we move into a new year and wish everyone a safe 2020.

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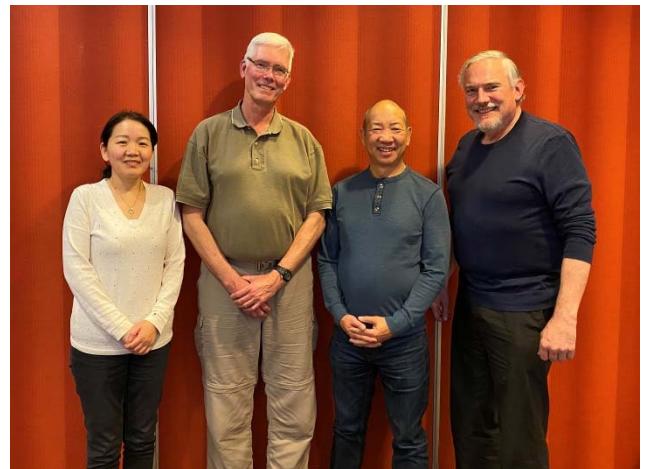
## Thank you and farewell (Trevor Erickson)

Stuart Sing

**Trevor Erickson** of Western Forest Products and the CMSA Board has retired from his two position as of December 31, 2019.

In recognition of his service on the CMSA Board of Directors, CMSA Board Member – **Keith Hess** and CMSA Staffers — **Stuart Sing** and **Ingrid Shen** took **Trevor** and wife **Glenda** out for a thank-you/recognition dinner.

This is a pictures of that night out.





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## Photo Gallery (2019 CMSA Christmas Events)



*For any comments and  
questions,  
please contact Rika Hatachi  
at 604-523-1288*