

GM's Corner

Stuart Sing

Happy New Year 2021

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CANADIAN MILL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Lumber Matters

Happy New Year 2021 to all our members, their staff & employees and families!

If there was ever a time to look forward to a new year and to see what the future would bring us, this is probably the year. After living with COVID-19 for the better part of a year and experiencing the shutdowns of our everyday life that's included restricted travel, sports, family get togethers, and eating out options. But of course, that is still a thousand times better than catching COVID and getting sick, suffering the after effects such as loss of smell or taste or breathing difficulties that some have talked about, or the unthinkable end of life.

The most important objective is to keep our employees and ultimately their families, and you, our members and your families, safe and free of COVID. Like all our members, we have our protocols that all CMSA staff must follow in addition to protocols as they relate to our New Westminster office. The office is only available to our staff and potential visitors are encouraged to phone ahead so that needed items can be left outside the office door as no outsider or visitor is allowed in.

Of course, COVID-19 is not just a BC thing but is present in every province of Canada, in every country in North America, and other than the Antarctica every continent of the world. Closer to home, infection are way up in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. Knowing that the local CLSAB inspector resides in Alberta, we have told the CLSAB that their man, before he comes to BC to work with any CMSA staff member and visits any of our members facilities, that he obtain a COVID-19 test no sooner than 72 hours before he would like to work with us, and confirm it is negative test result. As for the ALSC inspectors that show up two or three times a year, the agreement between Canada and the USA to keep the International borders closed to all other than essential workers have all but ensured that they do not work with us at this time. I guess one of them could try and fly in but that is not very likely. As I remind the staff and I remind you, our members, one day the International border will be open again and I am sure they will be one of the first in line to cross.

The good news is, is that two vaccines have been approved for emergency use in Canada and are now being distributed at this time. The issue now is quantity of doses and the speed at which the individual doses can be injected into arms. Right now, we hear that provinces are running low on their allotment of doses and when the provinces do have supply, the issue is getting it into arms fast enough. In summary we need more vaccine doses, we need distribution areas set up where we can go get our shots and we need the medical staff to do the injections in an organized and timely matter. I am still trying to figure out how the authorities will notify us as to when it is our turn to get vaccinated because as far as I know nothing has been set up or even talked about. When, where, time, etc. tell us what we need to know. According to the experts we need several more millions of Canadians vaccinated as soon as possible to achieve herd immunity. Like you, the sooner we achieve this the better because what I want is a new, but **better normal** going forward.

Enough of COVID, let's get back to lumber business.

Lumber prices have stayed surprisingly buoyant considering the time of year which is good for those who have logs and product to sell. With 2020 US housing starts closing in on 1,370,000, the prognosis is for a similar number to 1,400,000 housing starts in 2021 which should help keep those prices in a good range. With more people working from home, their migration from condos to the suburbs and detached houses and townhomes is good as platform wood construction requires more lumber and less concrete. Also, as more CLT plants come on stream and more tall timber structures get approved, demand for lumber will only get stronger.

While we did have a dry spell during the Spring/Summer of 2020, we are now back up to full strength and very busy at this time. Almost all our member facilities are back to work and producing lumber, and as for our office visits go, all are being performed at this time - in person or virtually.

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While Lumber Grading Classes are being planned at this time, no classes can be scheduled until vaccinations are being performed on mass. To make up for lost time, Kris Reklinski has been tasked with investigating and developing our first "on-line" Lumber Grading course for the S-P-F curriculum. I hope that Kris will have a first draft ready for our review this fall.

In addition to their regular jobs, all our Field Supervisor have extra responsibilities to help support our industry. Earl Scott is not only CMSA's BC Lumber Grading Championship representative but he also chairs the NLGA Grade Committee. Kris (soon to Chair) is our representative on the NLGA Standards Committee and CLSAB Operations Committee.

John Leahy serves on the CLSAB Technical Committee and CLSAB/CFIA Plant Health Task Group. As for myself, I am expected to do my part too as my extra-curricular work includes being on the CLSAB Members Committee, Chairing the NLGA Executive Committee, appointed as the President of the NLGA Board of Directors and being the alternative to John Neels (of the NLGA) on the NGR Committee.

In 2020, Kris Reklinski, Earl Scott, John Leahy, Terry Ryan and Steve Soderstrom surveyed 7714.4 MFBM of both grade stamped and non-grade stamped lumber. This includes the usual visual grades of Select Structural, #1 & better, #2, #3, and Economy, and also all the various MSR grades and FJ Stud under SPS-3. I should mention that due to the International borders being closed, Steve has been performing "virtual" grade surveys on Appearance products for one of our US members.

After a rough start to the year financial wise, a better second half of 2020 and putting a kibosh on any capital or unnecessary spending will allow us to at least break even for the 2020 financial year. As you have noticed at the grocery store or shopping mall, costs and expenses keep going up and only the prudence of our staff allowed us to keep our heads above water. I thank all my staff for keeping their spending in check and always looking for the best possible deals when it comes to hotel rooms, office equipment and even buying gas for their lease vehicles.

In our January 2021 Newsletter which is also our 58th, you will hear from all the Guys and Gals at CMSA. Kris Reklinski will be giving you his thoughts on the use of electronic MSR records; Earl Scott will talk about when the next BC Lumber Grading Championship is scheduled and his take on how we are keeping you safe from COVID-19; and John Leahy will update you on the revised CSWCP for Australia. From the CMSA office you will hear from Rika Hatachi as she works with John on a pictorial of what is acceptable and what is not when it comes to lumber for Australia; and you will also hear from Ingrid Shen as she tells you the results of our 2020 AGM and she continues to hear from those who may want a custom Lumber Grading Class to be held on their sites.

It was an interesting 2020 as it put us through a situation of the like none of us have ever experienced before, and may we never experience again. Even my elderly 96-year-old mother had never lived through a pandemic like COVID-19 and hopefully the lessons learnt ensure that this is just a once in a lifetime ordeal.

CMSA's Growing Membership

Stuart Sing

COVID-19 be dammed, we are still open for business and welcoming new members to our roster of good, progressive lumber companies that need good representation.

In 2020 we welcomed three new members to the CMSA roster and they include:

- **San Forest Products Ltd.** – Port Alberni
- **Darbyshire Wood Products Ltd.** – Kelowna
- **1074712 BC Ltd. (Quadra Cedar)** - Abbotsford



Lumber Sizes on KD-HT Grade Stamped Stock

Stuart Sing

Just a reminder to all to ensure that the lumber coming out of the planer is on size or a few thousands of an inch/mm oversize; **but never undersize.**

Lumber size for thickness and width should be officially checked with a digital caliper as there is no doubt as to their accuracy.

During their visits, we have been observing both the CLSAB Supervisor and ALSC Inspector doing their size checks with digital calipers and recording accordingly. The old adage no news is good news applies, but I have heard of size issues elsewhere and I want to see all of us to be pro-active in this regard.

We at CMSA are starting to do our size checks with digital calipers and will provide feedback to you if we observe something out of the ordinary.

CMSA 2020 Annual General Meeting was successfully held on November 17th, 2020 by virtual which is the new normal. All Board of Directors attended this meeting.

On this meeting, the CMSA Board of Directors for 2020/2021 were elected; Jim Fenton was re-elected as Chairman and Dave Pellizzari was re-elected as the Vice-Chairman.

The new Board Member list is as follows:

Jim Fenton	Chairman	Central Cedar
Dave Pellizzari	Vice- Chairman	Canfor
Mike Sywulich	Past Chair	Independent
Scott Maxwell	Past Chair	Independent
Keith Hess	Director	Mill & Timber
Rob Parisotto	Director	Interfor
Wesley Peterson	Director	Canfor
Jamie Viala	Director	Western Forest Product
Franco Antoniazzi	Director	Canfor
Stuart Sing	Secretary	CMSA



Congratulations Jim and Dave and all Board members. Thank you for serving on CMSA Board!

MSR Records and Information

Kris Reklinski

As more things become electronic, so does the option to make MSR records electronic as well.

We have a lot of mills which run a variety of grade combinations of MSR. Those that do, need to keep extensive records, including daily testing as well as graphs and information on any extra testing completed. These may become cumbersome and be found easier to complete electronically as more staff are confident with computers and technology.

We would like to confirm that the use of electronic recording or electronic scanning to keep records is acceptable. Electronic records are just as legitimate as written records; however, please keep in mind these records must be maintained and kept safe for (at least) 6 years by the manufacturing facilities and that the agencies (CMSA, CLSAB, ALSC) must have access to these records if/when requested.

NLGA Standards Committee

Kris Reklinski

The annual NLGA Standards Committee meeting was cancelled last spring due to the discovery and initial start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the upcoming meeting will be done virtual, as so many other things. We will still be able to get all the issues discussed as usual, and any new or pertinent information will be passed along to our members following the meeting. We have had the verification studies ongoing for both Hem-Fir and S-P-F (2x4) and all the samples have been collected from the different mills. This hasn't been done without our members co-operation and help so we thank you all for that. We will also be carrying out a verification study on samples of 2x10 No.2 items as we have recently done in the past at some of our mills producing 2x10. These verification studies are done to ensure there is no change in design values for the species and sizes being checked.

CFLA—JPS 1—E120-F330 Grade

Stuart Sing

To the CMSA members that produce Hem-Fir(N) E120-F330 stock under the CFLA - JPS1-05 grade rules, just remember that each mill shipping this stock to Japan has to annually evaluate their production to ensure that it meets the Physical Properties requirements of the standard. This is covered in the CFLA - JPS1 Standard under Para 7.3 - Equivalent Test Methods and it also cites the test methods that are to be used to make the determination.

Another important point to remember is that when picking this Hem-Fir(N) grade, that no “prior selection” is to take place (Para 6.4.1.a).

Other reminders sent out by the CFLA include putting pieces with a noticeable rate of growth, grain distortions or have been trimmed, into the E120 grade only.

Interior Lumber Grading Championship 2022

Earl Scott

Happy New Year to all our members and family!

Hopefully we are all being safe and productive as possible. Here is a quick recap of the championship. The venue was booked the contestants were confirmed and we were ready. Then we all know what happened next COVID-19. Cancelling was a hard but necessary decision for the CMSA staff. During the summer months we inquired on thoughts of hosting again in Prince George 2021. After more counselling with our group the decision was made 2021 was still too early. The good news is we are preparing to host 2022 in Prince George. Everyone should be well studied up and increased participation after a two-year hiatus.

Everyone and your families stay safe and see you all in Prince George 2022!!

Continuing to take names for the CS, WRC and S-P-F Grading Classes **Ingrid Shen**

As we mentioned in our last Newsletter, the Coronavirus has changed our usual Grading Class Schedules. Our usual S-P-F and Western Red Cedar Grading Classes weren't hosted last year.

At this time, we are continuing to take names for the Coast Species, S-P-F and Western Red Cedar Grading Classes; while nothing currently planned, later in 2021 could be planned once everyone gets vaccinated. We are seeing the lights at the end of the tunnel.

If you are interested in taking a Lumber Grading class, no matter a S-P-F or a WRC class or a Coast Species 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 and my phone number is 604-523-1288 ext. 2. Thank you.

Hope everyone staying safe and healthy!

Contact CMSA for Any Custom Lumber Grading and Training Courses **Ingrid Shen**

While we are experiencing the unprecedented pandemic, I believe most of you have limited activities at this time since there is no travel, no parties, no sport games, even no family get-togethers. On the other hand, we could have more time to do some thinking and planning for our future business plan and strategy.

At the beginning of a new year, it's a good time to start planning for an in-house Lumber Grading Class or a Training Course. CMSA can customize a class specific for a mill whether it's for in-house grades, MSR, Product Knowledge, Basic Lumber Figuring or any other training you may require.

Interested parties please contact CMSA office or any CMSA Field Supervisors for detailed information. Our office contact number is 604-523-1288 or email: shen@canserve.org.

Grading Classes and Training 2021

Earl Scott

Hello all, just wanted to update the southern region on grading classes. 2021 is still quite uncertain on when and what COVID-19 will look like, vaccine rollouts are underway hope we can all get vaccinated asap. In my region I have had two requests for classes and training last year. Both were postponed and start dates are still up in the air. Saying that we are still tentatively trying to book any classes that the members request, as long as protocols can be followed and all involved feel comfortable.

If you need more info stop me at my next mill visit or contact me scott@canserve.org. Thanks.

Prince George Grading Class Update

Kris Reklinski

At this time any in person grading classes have been put on hold. This is not to say that we are not constantly monitoring the situation and hoping to get back in action so that those who are wanting to improve their knowledge can do so. I have had inquiries from a couple of mills in the area who have shown interest, so once we feel confident we can do so in a safe manner that is approved by all, we very much hope to do get back in the classroom. We have also started the initial research of a potential online grading course to allow our members more flexibility, and the ability to take the grading course in the environment and location that works best for them, as well as completing the curriculum at ones preferred pace. The online course will take some time; however, we are still looking to get the in class program back once able so please stay tuned for the next update on possible class dates (hopefully) in the near future.

Vancouver Island Report - January 2021

Terry Ryan

Happy New Year. 2020 is finally over. The COVID has been devastating to our routines and lifestyles. But as the experts learn about the virus and we follow their guidelines, and the vaccines are developed, and distributed we look forward to improvements in our lifestyles and a return to some state of some normality.

My wife and I had a first in our Christmas celebrations. This is the first year we have been at home alone since we were first married. Usually, we were away with family or hosting at our house.

As we look forward to this year unfolding, we see hope with the vaccines being delivered, the masks and distancing being only a bad memory and we can have get-together's greater than 6. Hopefully we can get back to normal soon this year.

Vancouver Island Grading Classes for 2021

Terry Ryan

Due to the COVID restrictions we have not been able to offer any Grading Classes since 2018.

There is a high demand for a set of classes on both side of the Island. Many graders have retired or are considering retirement increases the pressure on the mill floors. As soon as the COVID restrictions are relaxed we will have classes.

CMSA staff are committed to meeting the Covid-19 safe work practices specified by the CLSAB, and those that are in place at our member facilities. This has resulted in a number of changes to our regular practices.

Where offices are closed to non-employees, we can now check documentation remotely, either outside of the office, or on-line via email (or other on-line platforms).

Whereas our monthly audit visits used to be random and un-announced, CLSAB safe-work protocols in the age of COVID allow us to pre-arrange visits, to ensure the safest possible working conditions for all.

CMSA COVID-19 Best Practices

Earl Scott

We all have made some big changes in how we behave. Both at home and in the mills, we inspect.

CMSA staff with backing by our General Manager and Board of Directors have reached out to the CLSAB and drafted a safe working procedure. CLSAB inspectors travel between Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. It has been deemed prudent that any time the CLSAB requests visits to our members in B.C. that there is a negative COVID-19 test performed prior to entry. CLSAB has agreed with this practice.

As of the writing of this article the Canada/US border is still closed and ALSC is unable to cross. When they are able to cross we will hopefully be vaccinated!

Virtual Grade Checks in U.S. Steve Soderstrom

When COVID hit and the borders closed, it became readily apparent that the traditional method of how we conducted a CMSA grade survey would need to change. We asked ourselves if a grade check could be done virtually via ZOOM? From an inspector's perspective there is nothing like hands on the wood and throwing down a tape.

How did a ZOOM Virtual grade survey workout? There were a few key challenges to making the virtual grade survey successful. First, powerful and reliable WIFI. No problem with most home systems, but in a mill setting we needed to set up the grade survey in a location that didn't drop out or freeze, at least not chronically. By moving a cell phone around we discovered which location worked best. Once that part was sorted, camera location and angle were important to get good resolution of the pieces. Although not ideal compared to normal, having a skilled QC on the mill end allowed us to capture what we needed, especially when reviewing the off-grade pieces, grade stamp legibility and sizes.

In summary, when challenged to doing business a different way we went down a new path to get the job done and carry out the duties of a monthly grade survey.



COVID-19 protocol at CMSA office Rika Hatachi

CMSA uses the 'commonly-applied' COVID-19 protocol to protect our own office staff, such as:

- Start a day by washing hands, sanitizing work area, etc.
- Do not share stationary goods and office equipment.
- Only 1 person is allowed in the kitchen area and around copy machine.
- Max. 2 persons in any one office and Max. 3 persons are allowed in our meeting room at the same time.
- Not allowing outside people entering the office including delivery person.

Please note that ALL the book purchase has to be done by phone or Email, and **NO PICK-UP from CMSA office** at this time.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

follow the advice of your **local public health authority**

wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) or an approved **non-alcohol based hand sanitizer**, if soap and water are not available

try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth

cough and sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands

avoid close contact with people who are sick and practice **physical distancing**

avoid non-essential community and cultural gatherings and keep a physical distance between each other (approximately 2 metres)

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 may be very mild or more serious and may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus. The most common symptoms include:

FEVER

COUGH

DIFFICULTY BREATHING

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

Isolate at home to avoid spreading illness to others.

Avoid visits with older adults, elders, or those with medical conditions. They are at higher risk of developing serious illness.

Call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority.

If your symptoms get worse, contact your health care provider or public health authority right away, and follow their instructions.

FOR INFORMATION ON COVID-19:
 1-833-784-4397 canada.ca/coronavirus

In November of 2020 the Grade Committee met using teams video conference. Here is a update of that meeting.

NLGA GRADE RULES – UPDATE AND QUESTIONS

National Grading Rule (NGR) Update J Neels reported that the NGR Subcommittee had met in August 2020 and recommended three National Grade Rule and Interpretation amendments to the NGR Committee for their consideration. These items were balloted to the NGR Committee in October 2020 and the voting results were as follows:

Item 1

Change the 24' length row in the NGR Crook Table from "24" to "24 and longer" and to add a note to the bottom of the crook and twist tables to indicate that "and longer" means the respective crook and twist restrictions apply to all lengths equal to or greater than 24 ft for crook and 20 ft for twist. This item passed unanimously.

Item 2

Revise the wording to the Shake section of the NGR Interpretations as follows: SHAKE: A shake is "well separated" or "scattered" (i.e. not continuous) if there is evidence of wood separating the shakes. A surface shake is not permitted to extend into an adjacent or opposite face. In No. 2 and Standard, shake through from one wide face to the other is not permitted to extend into the edge. A shake showing on only one wide face extending into the one edge shall be limited to a depth of 3/4 the thickness and a length of 2'. This item passed unanimously.

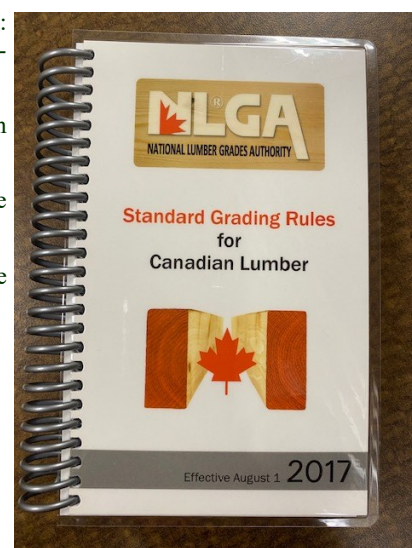
Item 3

Add two additions to the ring shake illustrations of the NGR Interpretations The third item involving ring shake illustrations failed, generating 8 negatives and 5 positive votes. A conflict between the wording on the illustration "ring shake no worse than wane" and the allowed portion of material acceptable for ring shake for a couple of NGR grades was identified and further discussion is needed. This item will be taken up as a future agenda item by the NGR Subcommittee.

Grade Stamp Designation for Posts & Timbers Graded under Beams and Stringers Rules The following question was posed to NLGA: Question: When P&T are graded under Para. 130 (B&S), how does the user know that grading rules under Para. 130 have been applied as opposed to those under Para. 131 (P&T)? Proposed Solution: One option is to amend Para. 130 to add the following text (highlighted in red) in the second paragraph: "Pieces 5" x 5" and larger, with the width not more than 2" greater than the thickness, may be graded under this paragraph provided all faces are graded as narrow faces. Pieces so graded will have design values the same as the following grades and the grade stamp or accompanying grade certificate shall show "Para. 130" in addition to the standard requirements."

The GC discussed the following points:

- The assumption is that Post & Timbers are to be used in a vertical application, so no need to show the Para.#.
- Unless the "use" is indicated on the grade stamp, grade designations never pre-determine the use or application of the product.
- Concern that the Grade Rule allows larger knots on B&S than on P&T (for the narrower widths) when the B&S are intended for use in a horizontal application?
- This proposed solution addresses a labelling issue, not a requirement of how the piece is going to be used.
- This requirement would follow the same concept as that of Para. 41 where it states: "The grade stamp for boards must show the paragraph number of the pertinent paragraph if the grade name is the same or similar to that used in any other board grade."
- In addition to the user, how will the Agency or CLSAB/ALSC know, for inspection purposes, which grade rules were applied to the P&T product?
- One Agency has required, for many years, that Para. 130 be indicated on the grade stamp or certificate when grading P&T under Para.130.
- Going one step further, Is it an option to require either Para. # used (130 or 131) to be designated on the grade stamp or certificate for all P&T?



Species Designation for Canadian-grown Red Pine

The following question was posed to NLGA: Question: The species designation for Canadian-grown Red pine is listed as “R Pine” under Para. 7 of the NLGA Grade Rules and the designation for American-grown Red pine is shown as “Red Pine” under the NELMA Grade Rules. This distinction may not be clear to the end-user – is it better to designate Canadian-grown Red pine as “R Pine (N)” to be consistent with standard nomenclature for most other Canadian species? The GC discussed the following points:

- American-grown Red pine is infrequently stamped as a stand-alone species (it is included in the SPF-s species combination) so that any confusion will be very minimal.
- When Canadian-grown Red pine is indicated as a stand-alone species on the grade stamp it is accompanied by the “NLGA” designation, so should make it clear to the user that it takes on North Species design values.
- If a combination species stamp such as “R Pine / SPF-s” is applied, the user should understand that the R Pine is Canadian-grown because any American-grown Red Pine would be included in the SPF-s combination.
- The GC agreed to take no action and leave the “R Pine” species identification as currently listed in the NLGA Grade Rule, Para. 7.

Internal Monitoring Program

For information, the GC members were updated on the Internal Monitoring Program. The S-P-F Verification Study was carried out in 2019-2020 on NO.2 2x4 and supplemental NO. 2 2x10.

The analysis of test results indicated that the 2x4 “passed” the statistical test when compared to the In-grade results but the 2x10 “failed” on the GQI-adjusted MOE. Since this was the first monitoring test of 2x10, the ALSC Board of Review directed NLGA to conduct a verification study on No. 2 2x10. The Sampling and Testing Plan for this 2x10 study is currently being prepared and will propose to incorporate the selection of augmentation specimens to purposely introduce test pieces (into the base sample) that exhibit maximum-sized strength-reducing characteristics that are rarely observed in the random selection of specimens. The intent of including these augmentation specimens is to reduce the currently assigned GQI adjustments to the test data (the assumption being that the monitoring sample must be representative of the entire range of characteristics allowed in the grade).

CLSAB Operations Committee Updates

Kris Reklinski

After the latest CLSAB Operations Committee meeting and memos being sent out there are a few updates to pass along to our members.

A new summarized information document for MSR(SPS 2) is coming out to assist any new MSR operators. It is a streamlined form of the information needed to be an operator, understand, and test machine stress rated products. If you have any new people being trained, the CLSAB along with the agencies have designed a document which removes some of the technical aspects not needed during daily production to allow a better, and more clear understanding of the procedures and knowledge needed. If you would like more information on this please speak with your CMSA supervisor or contact the office.

The CLSAB have updated their latest regulations as of December 1, 2020. In these new regulations they have approved Schedule E- Option 1. This is a new schedule which will permit wood to be considered heat treated and kiln dried. This is a heat treatment option which was previously not available to kiln drying lumber producers in Canada. It is for low temp/dehumidification kilns (usually drying over very long periods of time with low temps between approx. 43C/110F and 56C/133F) and will now allow those sites to meet the requirements of heat treatment. It can now be found at the very end of the CLSAB regulations, and the heat chamber operating conditions and all requirements and information can be found there. If this is an option you are considering at your site please read the regulations and requirements closely to ensure compliance can be met at your site, or speak with your CMSA supervisor prior to use of the new option.

CLSAB along with FP innovations revised Option D of Schedule C to include time-temperature combinations for lumber up to 1 1/8”, 3 1/4” and 4 1/4” in thickness after a time-temperature combination was developed for lumber up to 5 1/4” in thickness. Please see the latest updated table below showing those additions. This table can also be found in the latest CLSAB regulations.

Option D: Generic Phytosanitary Heat Treatment Schedule		
Lumber Thickness	Heat Treatment Run Time	Minimum time at the End of the Treatment with the Dry-Bulb ≥ 71C (≥160F)
Up to 29mm(1 1/8” inches)	9 hrs	3 hrs
Up to 57mm (2 1/4” inches)	12 hr	6 hrs
Up to 83 mm (3 1/4” inches)	22 hrs	16 hrs
Up to 108mm (4 1/4” inches)	32 hrs	26 hrs
Up to 133mm(5 1/4” inches)	42 hrs	36 hrs

1. New generic KD-HT schedule for low temp / dehumidification kilns

The CLSAB has published a new generic KD-HT schedule for lumber dried in low temperature/dehumidification kilns. The new schedule can be found in the CLSAB regulations under Schedule E – Option 1. The new schedule will apply to kilns that dry lumber at temperatures not greater than 56°C (133°F) for an extended period of time. This schedule arose from the EU derogation 93/422 which permits low temperature and/or dehumidification kilns to kiln dry lumber and stamp it as being kiln dried (KD) and heat treated (HT). The heat treatment portion of the schedule can be as short as a 60 minute (1 hour) boost to 60°C (140°F), once the moisture content of the lumber has dropped to 19% or less. Any facilities that are intending to use this new schedule should contact their CMSA field rep to discuss the schedule before they run it.

2. Australia

The name of the Plant Health program for lumber exports to Australia has been officially changed from the “Canadian Green Sawn Wood Certification Program” (CGSWCP) to the “**Canadian Sawn Wood Certification Program**” (CSWCP). The name change reflects the expansion in the scope of the original program to include sawn wood that has been kiln dried in low temperature /dehumidification kilns. Lumber kiln dried under the new Schedule E – Option 1 (above) will meet the KD & HT requirements, but must still meet the other CSWCP requirements ie **no pest risk indicators are allowed**.



The CFIA directive number remains the same “D-17-04” and this program continues to be recognized by the Government of Australia (Dept. of Agriculture, Water, and Environment - DAWE) as a safeguarding program for Brown marmorated stink-bugs (BMSB).

As a recognized safeguarding program:

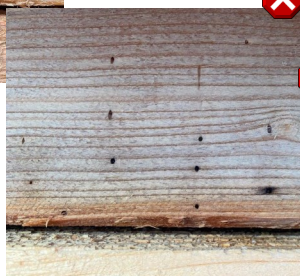
- Lumber produced under the CSWCP between December 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021 is recognized as being free from BMSB and will not require treatment prior to entering Australia. Shipments during this timeframe shall be accompanied by a CSWCP certificate with the following in the declaration statement: “*All goods included on this certificate were produced between 1 December 2020 and 30 April 2021 and are free from brown marmorated stink bug (Halyomorpha halys).*”
- Lumber produced under the CSWCP between May 1, 2021 and November 30, 2021 is not considered part of the safeguarding arrangement. To meet the import requirements, lumber will need to be treated with heat, sulfuryl fluoride, or methyl bromide prior to entering Australia. Shipments during this timeframe shall be accompanied by a CSWCP certificate, however they will not include the “free from” declaration as shown above. CLSAB will provide a set of CSWCP certificates with and without the free from declaration to each CLSAB Accredited Agency with facilities registered in the program. The CSWCP certificates will need to be updated every year. Please be advised that lumber exported to Australia under the CSWCP:
- Between December 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021 may be subject to verification inspection upon arrival at a rate of 5% of shipments from Canada.
- Between May 1, 2021 and November 30, 2021 will be subject to verification upon arrival.

✗ Pinholes



✗ Residual bark strip

✗ Pinholes



✗

Bark on
Pkg lath



Ingrown bark
associated with
a knot



✗

Buprestid beetle damage in WRC

3. United Kingdom (UK)

When the final Brexit agreement was signed-off at the end of 2020, the current arrangement for Canadian softwood lumber exports to the EU became irrelevant in the UK.



The first directive that we were given was that as of January 1st, 2021 and until the UK publishes their derogations for softwood products, all shipments of Canadian softwood lumber to the UK would require a Phytosanitary Certificate in lieu of Heat Treatment Certificates or Debarking & Grubhole control certificates.

Under this proposed protocol lumber that was expected to arrive in the UK with industry issued CHTWPCP or CDGHCP certificates would be accepted until January 15th 2021, and the CFIA would have to be notified of any shipments that were expected to arrive after Jan. 15th if they were sent with industry issued certificates only.

However, the above protocol was pulled-back last week when the CFIA informed the CLSAB that industry-issued certificates would continue to be accepted for shipments to the UK. Specifically the CLSAB issued the following statement;

The “CFIA has advised that the UK will continue to accept industry issued certificates until UK Plant Health responds in writing to concerns raised by CFIA in their letter of December 21, 2020. CFIA is expecting a written response during the week of January 11 – 15, 2021. Therefore, the UK’s “Exiting the European Union Plant Health Regulations” remain in force, however shipments to the UK are to be handled in the same manner as shipments to the EU.”

As you can see the situation is fluid. However, at the time of this writing, industry issued certificates for Cdn Softwood exports to the UK are still OK (ie no change from last year) and we will keep you informed as soon as we hear of further developments.

4. Plant Health Audit “Observations”

When grading agencies perform plant health audits at your facilities, issues that arise can be classified into one of the following categories dependent upon the severity of the issue;

- Major non-conformance
- Minor non-conformance
- Observations (also referred to as “improvement recommendations”)

There has always been a defined timeline to address and follow-up on major and minor non-conformances, i.e. for a major non-conformance corrective action must be taken within 10 working days, and minor non-conformances must be addressed before the next agency visit (or approximately 30 days).

However, until recently the timeline for addressing “observations” was not formally specified. In December 2020 the CLSAB Operating plan was updated to include a required timeline of 60 days for audit “observations” to be addressed. Observations that are not addressed within the specified period can become minor non-conformances.





CANADIAN MILL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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E-mail: hatachi@canserve.org

Your Association of Choice

Photo Gallery (How we do our work differently due to COVID-19)



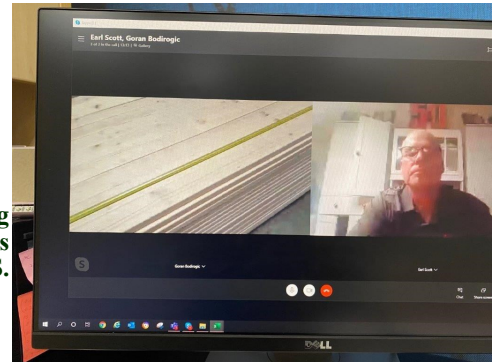
Grade Inspection set up
at Canfor Houston



Manager
(Alan Tjorhom)
at TFP - Mainland Sawmill
doing a Safety talk.



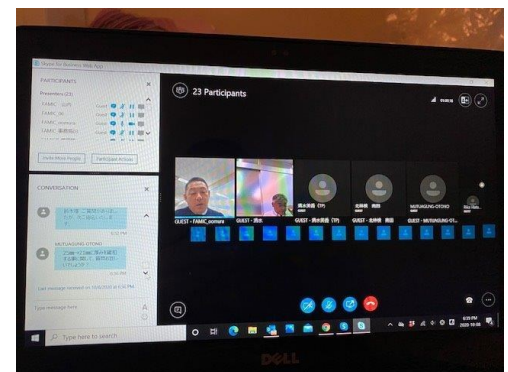
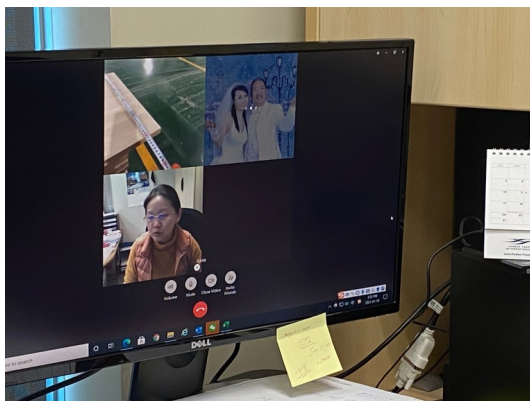
Earl Scott conducting
online Grade & Size checks
on JAS lumber via TEAMS.



CMSA Monthly
Safety & Staff
Meetings are held
online via Skype.



Ingrid & Rika
conducting
online JAS Trial Run.



Rika Hatachi attending online Information
meeting held by FAMIC (MAFF), Japan
regarding the revised JAS Standards.

23 Participants from US, Canada, Indonesia,
and Japan



*For any comments and questions,
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