

**NORTHEASTERN LUMBER  
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION**

**STANDARD  
GRADING RULES**  
*for* **NORTHEASTERN LUMBER**

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*Forward*

## **NORTHEASTERN LUMBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION**

The Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Inc. (NELMA) was first organized as a lumber trade association in 1933, part of the Lumber Code Authority formed under the National Industrial Recovery Act. Rules writing was a primary function of the organization in its beginning and remains an important function of NELMA's service to the lumber industry. As one of six lumber rules-writing agencies accredited by the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC), NELMA writes the rules for the grades of Eastern White Pine, administers the grading rules under the National Grading Rule for Softwood Dimension Lumber, and has approval to grade lumber under other U.S. and Canadian softwood grading rules upon request.

NELMA provides lumber grading inspection services to its softwood lumber manufacturing members located in the Northeastern and Great Lakes regions of the U.S. These commercially-important forested areas of the country have a long history of providing lumber mills with a sustainable supply of timber resource. Sawmills located in these regions have supplied the wood product demands of the building construction and secondary manufacturing industry for centuries. Research indicates that a grading system was utilized in 1833 between sawmiller and buyers in the northeast, likely the earliest use of rules in the U.S.

Today's grading rules are designed to meet the needs of traditional markets for appearance products and general building practices, in addition to the engineered usage of lumber. NELMA's ongoing testing of full-size lumber manufactured at Association member mills insures that the published strength values by grade and species are accurate, providing confidence to end-users of lumber manufactured in the Northeastern and Great Lakes region.

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**SUPERSEDES ALL EDITIONS, REVISIONS, AND  
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