



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Regional Engineers
From: Jack A. Elston 
Subject: Special Provision for Structural Timber
Date: April 19, 2019

This special provision was developed by the Central Bureau of Materials in conjunction with AASHTO Standard Specifications to allow the use of more timber species in the field.

This special provision should be inserted into all contracts requiring timber for structural applications, such as bridges and lagging for soldier pile walls.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the August 2, 2019 and subsequent lettings. The Project Coordination and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory April 19, 2019.

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STRUCTURAL TIMBER (BDE)

Effective: August 1, 2019

Revise Article 1007.03 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“1007.03 Structural Timber. Structural timber shall be southern pine, Douglas fir (coast region), or other species listed in Chapter 8 of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

- (a) Treated and Untreated Timber. When treated material is specified, the method of treatment shall be according to Article 1007.12. There shall be no heartwood requirements for timber which is to receive a preservative treatment and the amount of sapwood shall not be limited. All timber to be used without preservative treatment shall contain not less than 85 percent of heartwood measured on the girth.
- (b) Standard Sizes and Grading Requirements. Rough cut and surfaced timber shall meet the applicable requirements for size and grading according to ASTM D 245 and the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau, or other agencies accredited by the American Lumber Standard Committee, except as provided herein.

All pieces shall be cut to length with square ends.

The dimensions and surfacing requirements will be shown in the contract.

- (c) Strength Requirements. The design strengths for structural timber shall be as shown on the plans, and according to the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau, or other agencies accredited by the American Lumber Standard Committee. Additionally, the design strengths shall be according to Chapter 8 of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.”

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