



Quick Facts on the Requirements of Graded Lumber

The Graded Lumber Requirements:

The National Building Code and the Canadian Farm Building Code require that lumber, which is to be used for joists, rafters, trusses, load-bearing studs, and beams, be graded. A grade stamp indicates a lumber's grade as determined by the National Lumber Grades Authority 2014, "Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber". (National Building Code of Canada Division B 9.3.2.1.).

The purpose of Lumber Grading:

The National Lumber Grades Authority has grading rules that are to be used by sawmills within the Maritimes. These grading rules are maintained by the Maritime Lumber Bureau. To ensure these grading rules are being followed properly by each mill's graders, the Maritime Lumber Bureau carries out unannounced spot inspections of mills throughout the year.

The purpose of these requirements is to provide a minimum standard for lumber manufacturing. This ensures a consistent level of dimensional size, strength, quality, and ultimately, the safety of the structure.

Acceptable Options to Grade Lumber:

Two options for ungraded lumber are available which draw upon the Minister's reference to equivalents in the National Building Code. Both options require the applicant to provide sufficient evidence in writing, that the proposed equivalent will provide the level of performance required by the Code.

Option 1: is an alternative to the Maritime Lumber Bureau grading and stamping of lumber by the acceptance of a letter from a Nova Scotia Professional Engineer stating that the material (ungraded lumber) is an acceptable equivalent to Maritime Lumber Bureau grade-stamped lumber.

Option 2: is an alternative that allows a qualified person holding bonafide Maritime Lumber Bureau grade-stamping credentials to write a letter stating that the material (ungraded lumber) is an acceptable equivalent to Maritime Lumber Bureau grade-stamped lumber.

For further information, please call the Building Official at 902-798-8391 Extension 122