

PROLINES

Summer 2014

The Newsletter for the Professional Builder

STUD WARS

We all know that a “Stud” is a vertical framing member used to construct walls. However, did you ever wonder; is there a difference in quality from one stud to another? or why is there such a large discrepancy in the cost of a stud? We are going to provide some product and process information that will better inform you when making your purchasing decisions. First, it is important that you understand the “limiting provisions” of the NLGA Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber as they apply to **STUDS #121**.

Checks	seasoning checks not limited. Through checks at ends are limited to splits		
Knots	not limited as to quality but are well spaced and are permitted in the following sizes or their equivalent displacement		
Nom	At Edge	Centerline	Holes
Width	Wide Face	Wide Face	(Any Cause)
4”	1 ¾”	2 1/2”	1 ½”
6”	2 ¾”	3 ¾”	2”
Pitch and Pitch Streaks	- not limited		
Pockets	- pitch or bark - not limited		
Shake	- if through at ends limited as splits Elsewhere through shakes 1/3 the length		
Skips	- hit or miss on any face, with a maximum of 10% of the pieces containing heavy skips on wide faces only		
Slope of Grain	- 1 in 4		
Splits	- equal in length to twice the width of the piece		
Stain	-stained sapwood firm heart stain		
Unsound Wood	- in spots or streaks limited to 1/3 the cross section at a any point along the length. Must not destroy nailing edge		
Wane	- 1/3 thickness and ½ the width full length or Equivalent on each face, provided that wane not exceed ½ the thickness and ¾ the width for up to ¼ the length		
Warp	- ½ medium		
White Speck And Honeycomb	- firm		

Whew! If you got through that and understood it, that is half the battle. The point being that in any one individual stud you can see a large variance in quality from stud to stud. A board that has; holes and wane (bark) along most of the face and half the edge thickness, with splits, unsound wood and other undesirable characteristics to a relatively clear piece of wood and everything in between; all would fall within the limiting provisions of the Grading Rules for Studs. Search a large manufacturers website; Tolko Forest Products, www.tolko.com and you will discover they market no less than 5 “in house” stud grades; J-Grade, an export only product, Prime Grade, A-Grade, #2Stud and Riverside or Premium Stud Grade.

They are all at different levels of quality and consistency and of course price. Their explanation is “matching marketplace requirements with our log supply” It is not uncommon for us to see a \$50.00 dollar difference or more for a semi-load of studs being offered in this marketplace.



→ **HOW, WHY, WHEN and WHERE?**

Large production mills use star wars laser technologies to maximize log utility and have replaced most aspects of visual grading. These mills produce a myriad of products for substantially different markets such as J Grade, for export, Machine Stressed Rated for roof trusses, or individually UPC tagged products for the retail market. Industry consolidation has eliminated smaller mills that specialized in stud type production. Plywood plants used to produce quality studs from the peeler cores, however that production has decreased due to the prevalence of OSB in the sheathing market and the mills are directing production to other value added products such as treated landscape ties and posts. On the logging side 2nd and 3rd generation cut areas, fire clean ups and growth areas of smaller log sizes most of which are geographically closer to this market location and therefore have substantially lower transportation costs associated with them . This is also true of all dimensional lumber products throughout all widths and random lengths.

We try to purchase quality products from the better suppliers for our customers but we do not bottom feed. We also carry the increased costs of inventorying substituting products such as a #2 & Btr. Grade, or Engineered Studs (see **ProLines April 2010**) that many of our customers have subscribed to. Unfortunately, simply looking at your spreadsheet and comparing numbers does not tell the entire story; there are costs associated with your product and supplier decisions that will be reflected directly at the job site and further down the line. We can both always buy a cheaper stud and build a cheap house, but will it be cheaper in the end? Consider; how was the stud quantity estimated, who performed the estimating, and did the studs arrive on your schedule? Additionally there should be less culling on site and concern for sustainability waste, call back replacement and completion to inspection delays, future warranty issues like nail popping and drywall / finishing issues. How are the framing packages delivered and placed at the site? Are they placed by mobile forklift or just “dumped” at a bad curbside location by a flat deck truck? We recently had a framer ask one of our delivery operators if he could “come across the street and move the lumber around?” When informed that we don’t relocate competitor’s mistakes, he offered our operator cash. Is attraction or retention of framing crews a consideration? Serving this market in our sixty sixth year we have an experienced understanding of what the term “competitive” truly means. The grand total of purchasing decisions and supplier relationships are always greater than the sum of the individual amounts; how do you value it?



D&E BURSARY UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Davidson Enman Lumber provides for a \$2,000.00 bursary to a student entering third or fourth year of Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary. The competitive award is based on financial need, academic merit and an interest in the construction field. The Davidson Enman Lumber Limited Bursary was established in 1975. PROLINES would like to congratulate this years’ recipient; **Mr. A. Halim.**

HOLIDAYS



**We will be closed Tuesday July 1 for CANADA D’eh
Monday August 4 – 2014 Heritage Day**



A periodical publication by Davidson Enman Lumber Ltd.
Editor: Richard Stewart e-mail: rstewart@delumber.com