

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Fire Prevention and Code Council
FROM: Raymond J Andrews, RA
DATE: June 6, 2012
SUBJECT: Proposed New Design Values for Southern Pine Dimension Lumber

For your information, the Southern Pine lumber industry is addressing a problem concerning visual lumber grade rules and the mechanical strength of Southern Pine dimensional lumber. The American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) Board of Review has approved lower strength design values for 2"- 4" thick, 2"- 4" wide, Southern Pine #2 Dense and 2x4 Mixed Southern Pine #2 and all lower grades (i.e. #3, Stud, Construction, Standard, and Utility) with an effective date of June 1, 2012.

The American Wood Council has developed an addendum to the Design Values for Joists and Rafters that provides design values for these sizes and grades of Southern Pine and Mixed Southern Pine to use with the Span Tables for Joists and Rafters. <http://www.awc.org/NewsReleases/2012/newsreleases2012.html#pine>

The ICC was asked by the Structural Building Components Association to “*take swift action to ensure that all jurisdictions will be implementing these new design values on June 1, 2012.*” However, the ICC has left adoption to local authorities. More information regarding this issue:

http://www.sbcmag.info/sites/sbcmag.info/files/ind_news/2012/05/120520_icc_response_letter_to_sbca_pdf_20596.pdf

<http://www.sbcmag.info/news/2012/may/icc-indicates-hands-approach-regarding-sp-design-value-changes>

Questions and Answers regarding New Design Values for Visually Graded Southern Pine Dimension Lumber: http://www.dealer.org/files/QA_051812.pdf

We wanted to bring this issue to the Council’s attention because the span tables found in the Building and Residential Codes of New York State may need to be revised. As this is such a new matter we are not prepared to offer a proposed code change at this time.