

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

9.23.10.4. Continuity of Studs

(1) Wall studs shall be continuous for the full storey height except at openings and shall not be spliced except by finger-jointing with a structural adhesive.

A-9.23.10.4(1) Finger Jointed Lumber

The NLGA “Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber” referenced in 9.3.2.1. refers to two special product standards SPS-1 “Finger jointed Structural Lumber,” and SPS-3 “Finger Jointed Stud Lumber - Vertical Use only,” produced by NLGA. Materials identified as conforming to these standards is considered to meet the requirements in this Sentence for joining with

a structural adhesive. Lumber finger jointed in accordance with SPS-3 should be used as a vertical end loaded member in compression only, where sustained bending or tension loading conditions are not present, and where the moisture content of the wood will not exceed 19%. Finger jointed lumber may not be visually regarded or remanufactured into a higher stress grade even if the quality of the lumber containing finger joints would otherwise warrant such regarding.

OBJECTIVE

The use of finger jointed Structural Lumber is permitted as long as the lumber is properly graded and stamped. Note: the finger jointed lumber must be marked SPS-1 or SPS

Lumber grade – Common grades of visually graded lumber include:

- SEL STR (Select Structural)
- No. 1, No. 2
- No. 3 / Stud / Const (may just have the grade number alone)

Accredited Grading Agency logo / certification mark – In this case, this is the Maritime Lumber Bureau.

Mill identification – Firm name, brand, or mill number. This allows lumber to be traced back to the place of origin.

Seasoning or Moisture Content
 These may include:

- MC-(number) (percentage moisture content – MC-15, for example, means the lumber had a maximum moisture content of 15% when it was produced)
- KD (Kiln Dried to a maximum moisture content of 19% – this may also include a lesser moisture content number, such as KD-15)
- S-DRY (19% maximum moisture content at time of surfacing)
- S-GRN (more than 19% maximum moisture content, or unseasoned)

Grading Rules
 When lumber is graded to the National Lumber Grading Authority rules, the stamp will include NLGA.

Wood species or species combination – There are stamp identifications for 28 separate species, and 8 species combinations. For specifics of species combinations, see NLGA’s Standard Grading Rules. Common designations are:

- S-P-F (Spruce – Pine – Fir)
- Hem-Fir(N) (Western Hemlock – Amabilis Fir)
- D.Fir-L(N) (Douglas Fir – Western Larch)
- N. Species (includes red cedar and certain pines, balsams and poplars)

Note: The Canadian and U.S. versions may have a different mix of species, with different structural rating. An ‘S’, identifies U.S. species groups, while an ‘N’ identifies Canadian ones.

Phytosanitary treatment

- HT (Heat treated to the international standards for core temperature and length of time sufficient to kill a series of pests)

(This is often combined with kiln drying of lumber, to produce a stamp reading KD-HT)



Illustration taken from:

<http://www.clsab.ca/about-clsab/more-information-lumber-grading/what-the-grade-marks-mean.aspx>