



Western Wood Products Association

522 SW Fifth Avenue Suite 500 Portland Oregon 97204
503-224-3930 fax: 503-224-3934

www.wwpa.org

News Release
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Report on Douglas Fir-Larch lumber Testing

Preliminary Data Analysis affirms current published design values for Douglas Fir-Larch lumber

Western Wood Products Association has just completed testing of Douglas Fir-Larch lumber in cooperation with other Western lumber agencies. The testing plan was approved by the Board of Review of the American Lumber Standard Committee in 2011. The plan required destructive testing of 360 pieces in bending and 360 pieces in tension of Douglas Fir-Larch No. 2 2x4 lumber.

Preliminary analysis of the 2012 test data indicates higher (+5.5%) bending strength, (+5.0%) tensile strength and (+8.1%) stiffness properties than those established in the 1980s North American In-Grade lumber testing program. This comparison indicates **no needed change** to the published design values for Douglas Fir-Larch lumber. The published lumber design values are based on the In-Grade lumber testing program.

Professor Robert Fountain of Portland State University provided statistical support for the testing program. A total of 36 representative mills were selected for lumber sample collection from the Douglas Fir and Western Larch production region. The test lumber samples are representative of the lumber volume destined for the marketplace.

A report of the 2012 Douglas Fir-Larch testing results will be submitted to the ALSC Board of Review in the coming weeks for confirmation at their meeting in October 2012.

The testing of Western species lumber is conducted periodically to monitor for changes to allow for timely actions to be taken if needed to support Western lumber products.

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