



**TIMBER PRODUCTS**  
We Deliver Confidence. ®

**To: TP's European ALSC Lumber Program Clients**  
**From: David H Conner, Timber Products Inspection, Inc. (TP)**  
**Date: October 8, 2021**  
**Subject: North Carolina Acceptance of European Lumber**

The North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI) is the regulatory body in the state of North Carolina (NC) that oversees the day-to-day operations of building code inspections. NC is unique in that they are the only state in the US that writes their own building code from the ground up as opposed to adopting all or parts of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC).

Earlier in 2021, the NCDOI was asked by one of its local building code inspectors about the suitability of studs that were used in a residential structure in a high wind zone that were grade stamped with European species. The NCDOI engineer examined the NC building code and could not find where NC had ever evaluated the use of European lumber, so the jobsite was temporarily shut down until an engineer could be brought in to examine the structure.

This led the NCDOI to perform an exhaustive study of the NC building code to determine what additional information they needed in order to be able to officially accept the use of European lumber in the prescriptive design of structures.

After months of collaborative efforts from the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC), American Wood Council (AWC), NCDOI, Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB), TP, and several European lumber producers, the NCDOI has completed their evaluation and issued a press release yesterday stating that European lumber can now be safely used when following the guidance within the department's code interpretations. This press release also provides links to span tables and stud wall height tables developed to help the builder and code official know how to properly use European lumber. The NCDOI press release is appended on pages two and three of this letter.

Since the other states in the US adopt all or parts of the IBC and IRC, we do not expect any other states to have to go through this process. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

David H Conner  
SVP-Operations  
100 Kedron Dr, Peachtree City, GA 30269

E10-MEMO-NC Acceptance of European Lumber Species-20211008

100 KEDRON DR PEACHTREE CITY, GA 30269 770-922-8000 [www.tpinspection.com](http://www.tpinspection.com)

with offices in Trussville AL, Conyers GA, Duluth MN, Farmington MO, Springfield OR, Langley BC Canada



## Updated building code guidance for the use of European lumber in construction

---

RALEIGH

Oct 7, 2021

The North Carolina Department of Insurance along with lumber grading agencies and the American Lumber Standards Council (ALSC) and American Wood Council (AWC) are providing updates and technical information pertaining to the use of European lumber and other lumber species not addressed specifically in the current N.C. Residential Building Code.

This guidance is provided to clarify any misinterpretations from the initial guidance provided in June during the lumber shortage stemming from the pandemic supply chain.

The Engineering Department within the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has issued code interpretations to provide guidelines for the use of the different lumber species. Span tables have been developed by the lumber grading agencies as a design tool to determine the allowable span for the European lumber in different structural applications including floor joists, ceiling joists, rafters, headers and girders.

Here is the link to the code interpretation regarding the use of the lumber species not recognized by the Residential Code:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/media/2406/open> 

In addition, based on the allowable stud length table developed by the lumber agencies, an interpretation has been issued for the use of the

European lumber as exterior wall construction in high wind regions of North Carolina. Here is the link to access the interpretation:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/media/2292/open> 

OSFM also provides education and assistance to code enforcement officials in recognizing the difference between the lumber grades and the correct application of the guidelines provided in our interpretations. OSFM ensures updated interpretation information is delivered to code officials and provides any necessary support for specific site situations.

The result of the hard work of our partners and the department is that European species and other species not currently found in the N.C.

Residential Code can now be safely used when following the guidance within the department's code interpretations.

## This press release is related to:

---

[NCDOT](#)

[OSFM](#)

## Contact Information

---

Marla Sink

[\(919\) 807-6017](tel:(919)807-6017)

[marla.sink@ncdot.gov](mailto:marla.sink@ncdot.gov)

Share this page:



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)