



Designation: D245 – 06 (Reapproved 2019)

Standard Practice for Establishing Structural Grades and Related Allowable Properties for Visually Graded Lumber¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D245; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice (1,2)² covers the basic principles for establishing related unit stresses and stiffness values for design with visually-graded solid sawn structural lumber. This practice starts with property values from clear wood specimens and includes necessary procedures for the formulation of structural grades of any desired strength ratio.

1.2 The grading provisions used as illustrations herein are not intended to establish grades for purchase, but rather to show how stress-grading principles are applied. Detailed grading rules for commercial stress grades which serve as purchase specifications are established and published by agencies which formulate and maintain such rules and operate inspection facilities covering the various species.

1.3 The material covered in this practice appears in the following order:

	Section
Scope	1
Significance and Use	3
Basic Principles of Strength Ratios	4
Estimation and Limitation of Growth Characteristics	5
Allowable Properties for Timber Design	6
Modification of Allowable Properties for Design Use	7
Example of Stress-Grade Development	8

1.4 The values given in parentheses are provided for information purposes only.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.6 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standard-*

ization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*³

D9 Terminology Relating to Wood and Wood-Based Products

D143 Test Methods for Small Clear Specimens of Timber

D2555 Practice for Establishing Clear Wood Strength Values

E105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials

IEEE/ASTM SI-10 Practice for Use of the International System of Units (SI) (the Modernized Metric System)

3. Significance and Use

3.1 *Need for Lumber Grading:*

3.1.1 Individual pieces of lumber, as they come from the saw, represent a wide range in quality and appearance with respect to freedom from knots, cross grain, shakes, and other characteristics. Such random pieces likewise represent a wide range in strength, utility, serviceability, and value. One of the obvious requirements for the orderly marketing of lumber is the establishment of grades that permit the procurement of any required quality of lumber in any desired quantity. Maximum economy of material is obtained when the range of quality-determining characteristics in a grade is limited and all pieces are utilized to their full potential. Many of the grades are established on the basis of appearance and physical characteristics of the piece, but without regard for mechanical properties. Other grades, called structural or stress grades, are established on the basis of features that relate to mechanical properties. The latter designate near-minimum strength and near-average stiffness properties on which to base structural design.

3.1.2 The development of this practice is based on extensive research covering tests of small clear specimens and of

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.02 on Lumber and Engineered Wood Products.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2019. Published November 2019. Originally approved in 1926. Last previous edition approved in 2011 as D245–06(2011). DOI: 10.1520/D0245-06R19.

² The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to references at the end of this practice.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.