



No.1 & Better Makes the Grade

At the urging of Coast Forest, the Canadian National Lumber Grades Authority's submission to the American Lumber Standards Committee to establish design stresses for #1&BTR Grade for Douglas fir and Hem-Fir has been successful. This is good news for Coast Forest member companies, who have faced a major competitive disadvantage in the U.S. market because U.S. mills have had approved design stresses for #1&BTR for these species when Canadian mills previously had not.

"The Canadian mills used to grade stamp their Douglas fir and Hem-Fir as No. 1 and No. 2 even though there was a lot of 'Select Structural' product mixed in with the No. 1," explains Ken McKeen, Technical Advisor to Coast Forest. "Under U.S. building and design codes, No. 1 and No. 2 grades of Canadian lumber are assigned the same strength properties. However, now with the establishment of design stresses for #1&BTR Canadian producers will be able to compete technically on a more level playing field."

Design stresses for #1&BTR grade will be significantly higher than those published for straight No. 1 grade. For example, the MOE (modulus of elasticity) of Douglas fir and Hem-Fir will be increased by about 12% and 6%, respectively, while the bending strength of Douglas fir and Hem-Fir will be increased by 35% and 20%, respectively.