



PACIFIC LUMBER INSPECTION BUREAU

July 9, 2021

Notice on The Use of European Lumber from Mills #703 and #760 in North Carolina

Earlier this year, the North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDI) raised questions about the use of European lumber in residential construction projects in the state. One of the issues raised involved concerned the use of species with specific gravity values less than 0.42.

NCDI was informed that all European species with the exception of Norway spruce from Romania and Ukraine have specific gravity values of 0.42 or higher. In addition, many sections of the code do not have specific gravity requirements. For additional information on this see PLIB's July 9, 2021 [Update on the Use of European Lumber in North Carolina](#) and [AWC Response to NCDI Press Release](#).

Unfortunately, some European mills that produce some Norway spruce lumber from Romania and Ukraine (grade stamp N SPR ROM UKR) have been essentially blacklisted due to a portion of their product being stamped N SPR ROM UKR. H.S. Timber Group GmbH mills #703 and #760 are two mills that have seen wholesale product rejection without reference to species on the grade stamp.

PLIB monitors the lumber quality at H.S. Timber Group's mills, including mills #703 and #760. These mills are sorting out the Norway spruce logs from Romania and Ukraine so that they are not mixed in with the other species they cut. This means that a significant portion of their production does not include Norway spruce from Romania and Ukraine and will not include N SPR ROM UKR on the grade stamp. The practical impact of this is that a significant portion of their production will have a specific gravity value of 0.42 or higher and will meet the code requirements for fasteners.

Purchasers and users of lumber from mills #703 and #760 should be aware that these mills produce large volumes of No. 2 grade lumber that do not have N SPR ROM UKR on the stamp and thus there should be no concern about the specific gravity of this product. Additionally, it is important to note that some H.S. Timber Group mills do not process Norway spruce logs from Romania and Ukraine and thus do not produce any N SPR ROM UKR stamped lumber; rejection of this product due to concerns about specific gravity would be completely unjustified.

For additional information, please contact PLIB's engineering department at (253) 835-3344 or info@plib.org