AS 3818.1:2026

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 1: General requirements



AS 3818.1:2026

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Australian Timber Flooring Association
Construction Information Systems Limited (NATSPEC)
Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
Forest and Wood Products Australia
Glued Laminated Timber Association of Australia
National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life
Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board
The University of Queensland
Timber Preservers Association of Australia
Timber Queensland

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Part 1: General requirements

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How to read this Standard

This page explains the meaning of the language and structure of this Standard.

Refer to Standards Australia's Standardisation Guide 006 for more details about drafting rules.

Australian and Australian/New Zealand Standards are voluntary unless they are referenced in legislation or called up in contracts.

Requirements

To conform to a Standard, all requirements in the Standard need to be met.

A requirement is any statement in the Standard which uses the word "shall".

Recommendations, permissions and possibilities

The following words are commonly used in Standards, but statements using them do not have to be followed to conform to the Standard:

(a) "should" means that something is recommended.

(b) "may" means that something is permitted.

(c) "can" means that something is possible.

Structure of Standards

A Standard always has the following parts:

(i) The Preface states who developed the Standard, what the Standard is aiming to do, and how it relates to other documents.

(ii) The Scope states what the Standard is about, what it covers and what it does not cover.

(iii) The Normative references clause lists other documents that are referenced in the Standard as part of requirements.

(iv) The Terms and definitions clause defines important terms to help with understanding the Standard.

A Standard may also include other parts, such as the following:

(1) A normative appendix sets additional requirements that need to be conformed to.

(2) An informative appendix provides additional information or guidance. They usually do not contain requirements. If an informative appendix does contain requirements, the Standard will explain when those requirements apply.

(3) A Bibliography lists documents referenced in the Standard but not as part of requirements.

Many Standards include notes. Notes provide recommendations and/or guidance only. They never contain requirements.

Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TM-012, Timber Grading and Preservation, to supersede AS 3818.1:2009.

The objective of this document is to provide producers and users of visually graded heavy structural timber products with general requirements for the specific products covered by the other parts of this series.

The objectives of this revision are as follows:

(a) To complete an overview of the AS 3818 series, with regard to the consistency and alignment between all Parts.

(b) To remove references to outdated legislation and clarify imprecise language in different sections.

A list of all Parts in the AS 3818 series can be found in the Standards Australia online catalogue.

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Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 1: General requirements

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document specifies the general requirements for visual grading of hardwood and softwood intended for the specific products for which grades are defined in the other Parts of this series. These general requirements apply at the time of grading.

NOTE 1 Guidance on means for demonstrating conformity with this document is given in Appendix A.

NOTE 2 Information on the natural durability of timber species is given in AS 5604.

1.2 Application

The specification for any product shall consist of the general requirements given in this document together with the relevant product description given in the appropriate Part of this series.

NOTE To use this document for grading structural timber products, the procedure is as follows:

(a) Part 1 gives the general requirements for all the products covered by this series of documents.

(b) Appendix B lists species appropriate for the visual grades given in the parts of this series.

(c) For each product, one of the other Parts of the series specifies product requirements including grade descriptions, tolerances, and similar. In some cases, stress grades have been given for use in structural design in accordance with AS 1720.1.

1.3 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document.

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 1720.1, *Timber structures, Part 1: Design methods*

AS 1720.2, *Timber structures, Part 2: Timber properties*

AS 3818, *Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded (all parts)*

AS 5604, *Timber — Natural durability ratings*

AS/NZS 1080.1, *Timber — Methods of test, Part 1: Moisture content*

AS/NZS 1080.2, *Timber — Methods of test, Part 2: Slope of grain by scribe*

AS/NZS 1604.1, *Preservative-treated wood-based products, Part 1: Products and treatment*

AS/NZS 2878, *Timber — Classification into strength groups*

AS/NZS 4491, *Timber — Glossary of terms in timber-related Standards*

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