AS 3818.10:2026

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 10: Building poles



AS 3818.10:2026

This Australian Standard® was prepared by TM-012, Timber Grading and Preservation. It was approved on behalf of Standards Australia's Standards Development and Accreditation Committee on 25 May 2026.

This Standard was published on 5 June 2026.

The following are represented on Committee TM-012:

Australian Forest Products Association
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

This Standard was issued for comment as DR AS 3818.10:2025

Status of this document

Standards Australia publications are periodically reviewed to ensure their ongoing relevance and accuracy. This document may be withdrawn, revised, or superseded at any time. To verify this document's current status, visit:

www.standards.org.au

ISBN: 978 1 76175 784 6

Australian Standard®

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 10: Building poles

First published as AS 3818.10-2010.
This document AS 3818.10:2026.

© Standards Australia Limited 2026

All rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher, unless otherwise permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth).

Users must not use the content in this publication in combination with artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any purpose, unless they have the express prior written consent from Standards Australia.

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 3818.10:2010.

The objective of this document is to provide producers and users of building poles with requirements for the visual grading of timbers intended for use in structures.

The major changes in this edition include updated requirements and enhanced consistency and alignment between all Parts.

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

© Standards Australia Limited 2026

Contents

Page

Preface ..... **v**

Section 1 Scope and general **1**
1.1 Scope 1
1.2 Application 1
1.3 Normative references 1
1.4 Terms and definitions 1
1.5 Size and form of building pole 1
1.5.1 General 1
1.5.2 Length 2
1.5.3 Diameter 2
1.5.4 Ovality 2
1.5.5 Straightness 2
1.6 Measurement of knots 2
1.7 Ratings — End splits and barrel checks 2
1.8 Species branding 4
1.9 Removal of bumps 4
1.10 Combination of characteristics 4

Section 2 Building poles intended for use without full-length preservative treatment **5**
2.1 Timber species and pole preparation 5
2.2 Grade requirements 5
2.2.1 General 5
2.2.2 Grade requirements — Characteristics confined to sapwood 5
2.2.3 Grade requirements — Characteristics in heartwood 5
2.3 Confirmation of conformance 7

Section 3 Hardwood building poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment **8**
3.1 Timber species and pole preparation 8
3.2 Grade requirements 8
3.2.1 General 8
3.2.2 Grade requirements — Characteristics (in heartwood or sapwood) 8
3.3 Confirmation of conformance 10

Section 4 Softwood building poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment **11**
4.1 Timber species and pole preparation 11
4.2 Grade requirements 11
4.2.1 General 11
4.2.2 Grade requirements — Characteristics (in heartwood or sapwood) 11
4.3 Confirmation of conformance 12

Section 5 Requirements for full-length preservative treatment **14**
5.1 Poles for preservative treatment 14
5.2 Preservative penetration and retention 14
5.2.1 Preservative penetration 14
5.2.2 Preservative retention 14
5.3 Surface condition 14
5.4 Confirmation of conformance 14

Appendix A (informative) **Storage and maintenance guidelines** **15**

Bibliography **16**

© Standards Australia Limited 2026

Australian Standard®

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 10: Building poles

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document sets out the minimum requirements for visually graded timber building poles with or without full-length preservative treatment, intended primarily for use in the framework (internal or external) of a building. These minimum requirements apply at the time of grading.

This document does not cover requirements for strength and dimensions.

NOTE Requirements for strength and dimensions should be specified separately.

1.2 Application

This document shall be read in conjunction with AS 3818.1 to specify building poles, and as follows:

(a) Hardwood building poles intended for use without full-length preservative treatment shall conform to the requirements of Sections 1 and 2.

(b) Hardwood building poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment shall conform to the requirements of Sections 1 and 3.

(c) Softwood building poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment shall conform to the requirements of Sections 1 and 4.

(d) Any building poles to be supplied after full-length preservative treatment shall also conform to all the relevant requirements of Section 5.

NOTE 1 This document recommends purchasers to nominate some options and allows them to negotiate others. It also includes other guidelines for purchasers obtaining supply according to this document (see Appendix A).

NOTE 2 AS 5604 provides information on the typical life expectancy for timber species.

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 3818.1, *Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded, Part 1: General requirements*

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

1.4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in AS 3818.1 apply.

1.5 Size and form of building pole

1.5.1 General

The butt and top shall be cut generally square to the axis of the building pole and all bark shall be removed.

© Standards Australia Limited 2026