AS 3818.11:2026

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 11: Utility poles



AS 3818.11:2026

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Glued Laminated Timber Association of Australia
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The University of Queensland
Timber Preservers Association of Australia
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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 3818.11:2009.

The objective of this document is to provide producers and users of timber poles, with or without full-length preservative treatment, and intended primarily for use in overhead lines for electrical distribution and telecommunications purposes, with requirements for the visual grading of timber utility poles.

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.

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Australian Standard®

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 11: Utility poles

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document sets out the minimum requirements for visually graded timber utility poles, with or without full-length preservative treatment, and intended primarily for use in overhead lines for electrical distribution and telecommunications purposes. These minimum requirements apply at the time of grading.

This document does not cover specification for strength and dimensions. These should be separately specified.

1.2 Application

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

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

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

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

(d) Any utility 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:

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 definitions given in AS 3818.1 apply.

1.5 Size and form of utility pole

1.5.1 General

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

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