AS 3818.2:2026

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

# Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

## Part 2: Railway track timbers



# AS 3818.2:2026

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Australian Forest Products Association
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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 2: Railway track timbers

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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 3818.2:2010.

The objective of this document is to provide producers and users of railway track timbers with requirements for the visual grading and selection of species for timbers intended for use in railway track.

The objectives of this revision are as follows:

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

(b) To clarify *Sound intergrown knots* requirements.

(c) To clarify *Borer Holes - in or below the rail seat area* requirements.

(d) To make minor editorial changes as required.

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 2: Railway track timbers

## Section 1 Scope and general

### 1.1 Scope

This document sets out the minimum requirements for visually graded rail track sleepers, special sleepers for turnout, switch, lead, and crossing timbers and bridge transoms. These minimum requirements apply at the time of grading. Grading rules for 600 mm gauge railway track sleepers (sugar cane industry) are not included.

NOTE 1 Purchasing guidelines are given in Appendix A.

NOTE 2 It is intended that railway track timbers (except for special sleepers with boxed heart and bridge transoms with boxed heart) be predominantly backsawn (see Clause 2.1) and laid in track with the back upwards, that is, with the heart face down.

### 1.2 Application

This document shall be used in conjunction with AS 3818.1 to specify rail track timbers.

### 1.3 Normative references

The following document is referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of its 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*

### 1.4 Terms and definitions

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

### 1.5 Timber species

#### 1.5.1 General

Species suitable for rail track timbers are listed in AS 3818.1.

NOTE 1 Species other than those listed for rail track timbers in AS 3818.1 may be graded to this document subject to agreement between the purchaser and supplier.

NOTE 2 Care should be taken to determine the correct strength group and durability rating when the species is not listed in AS 3818.1.

NOTE 3 Further information on the identity and properties of species is available from State advisory bodies, State Forestry Departments, WoodSolutions, or other appropriate industry organizations.

If timbers are supplied as a mixture of species and the timber is not marked or branded as required by AS 3818.1, the strength group applicable to the species of the lowest strength group in the parcel shall apply to the whole parcel and the durability class applicable to the species of the lowest durability class in the parcel shall apply also to the whole parcel.

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