AS 3818.8:2026

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded

Part 8: Stumps and sole plates



AS 3818.8:2026

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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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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 Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TM-012, Timber Grading and Preservation, to supersede AS 3818.8:2010.

The objective of this document is to provide producers and users of stumps and sole plates with requirements for the visual grading and selection of species for timber products for use in building foundations.

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 review and undertake editorial changes.

(c) To clarify Australian Standards references 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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Part 8: Stumps and sole plates

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document sets out the minimum requirements for visually graded sawn and natural round timber stumps and sawn sole plates intended for use in contact with the ground. It applies to softwood and hardwood species and to treated and untreated timber. These minimum requirements apply at the time of grading.

NOTE 1 The main considerations in the preparation of this document have been the strength and durability of the product. When aesthetic requirements exist, different limitations may be agreed upon between the customer and the supplier provided that all requirements for strength are met.

NOTE 2 Purchasing guidelines are given in Appendix A.

1.2 Application

This document shall be used in conjunction with AS 3818.1 to specify timber stumps and sole plates.

The grading requirements specified in this document apply to timber stumps and sole plates for use as foundations in the construction of timber structures constructed in accordance with the AS 1684 series.

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 1684, *Residential timber-framed construction (all Parts)*

AS 2082, *Timber — Hardwood — Visually stress-graded for structural purposes*

AS 2858, *Timber — Softwood — Visually stress-graded for structural purposes*

AS 3519, *Timber — Machine proof grading*

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

AS 3818.3, *Timber — Heavy structural products — Visually graded, Part 3: Piles*

AS 5604, *Timber — Natural durability ratings*

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

AS/NZS 1748, *Timber — Solid — Stress-graded for structural purposes*

1.4 Purpose and context of use

1.4.1 Function

Stumps and sole plates are used to form the supporting foundation for structures and buildings, particularly houses. They are normally used to support bearers upon which building floor systems and frames and are installed.

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