

Densified Fuel Accreditation Body

What Does It Mean to You

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American Lumber Standard Committee

- Receive presentations from:
 - Manufacturer
 - Agency
 - Laboratory
 - Accreditation Body

- Over the years PFI has had quality control programs for labeling of pellets
- The current program differs from past programs by specifically including new attributes:
 - independent third party inspections, sampling, testing (agency)
 - overall program oversight (accreditation body)

- **Accredit** - to give official authorization to recognize or vouch for as conforming to a standard
- PFI developed the standard and accompanying documents with the idea of an **accreditation** system being an integral part
- PFI and ALSC have executed a letter of agreement and a licensing agreement that recognizes ALSC as the accreditation body for the program

- PFI Standard Specification for Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel
 - outlines the actual grade parameter test method requirements for densified fuels registered in the program
- PFI Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel QA/QC Handbook
 - Provides quality control and quality assurance procedures for the production of residential /commercial densified fuels
- ALSC Residential/Commercial Densified Fuel Manufacturers Enforcement Regulations
 - outlines the roles and responsibilities of the auditing agencies, the laboratories, and the oversight requirements of the Accreditation Body.

12 Accredited Agencies

- Alberta Forest Products Association
- Canadian Mill Services Association
- Carolina Inspection Services, Inc.
- Conway & Robison, LLC
- Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
- Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau
- Package Research Laboratory
- PFS Corporation
- Southern Pine Inspection Bureau
- Timber Products Inspection
- West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau
- Western Wood Products Association

4 Accredited Laboratories

- University of New Brunswick Canadian BioEnergy Centre
- Timber Products Inspection
- Twin Ports Testing
- University of Maine Forest Products Laboratory

Number of Manufacturers

- ?????

ALSC

- Main role is to write and maintain PS 20 *American Softwood Lumber Standard*
- PS 20 is a consensus standard-maintained by the ALSC under Procedures for Development of Voluntary Product Standards developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Membership on ALSC established by Secretary of Commerce
- Membership is diverse including all groups with a connection to the wood product-presently 21 members
- Accreditation is extended by the ALSC Board of Review-3 members

Accreditation Programs Involving ALSC

- Lumber Accreditation Program
- Treated Wood Accreditation Program
- Wood Packaging Material Program
- Densified Fuel Program

ALSC Lumber Accreditation Program

- Standard used:
 - *PS 20 American Softwood Lumber Standard* and grading rules certified as complying with PS 20
- Particulars
 - ALSC developed a lumber policy and enforcement regulations
 - Accredits agencies to grade under certified rules and label HT only
 - 23 accredited agencies for grading of lumber
 - 31 agencies accredited for labeling of heat treated lumber
 - Approximately 940 mills involved in grading and HT
 - Approximately 930 facilities involved in labeling HT lumber only

ALSC Treated Wood Accreditation Program

- Standard used:
 - The *AWPA Book of Standards* published by the American Wood Protection Association
 - These are consensus standards developed by the wood treating industry
- Particulars
 - ALSC develops treated wood policy and enforcement regulations
 - Accredits agencies to label treated wood products as conforming to certain standards within the *AWPA Book of Standards*
 - 3 agencies are accredited
 - 2 laboratories are accredited
 - Approximately 100 treating plants are involved

ALSC Wood Packaging Material Program

- Standard used:
 - International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15)
 - Consensus standard published under FAO of the UN
- Particulars:
 - ALSC develops a WPM policy and enforcement regulations
 - Accredits agencies to supervise labeling of wood packaging material using IPPC guidelines
 - 20 agencies are accredited
 - Approximately 5100 producers are involved
 - Laboratories are involved in analysis of wood for pests

Common Factors

All four of the ALSC accreditation programs have:

- Producers
- Accredited agencies
- ALSC developed polices and enforcement regulations for standardization and monitoring of the accreditation function
- Product standards
 - three of which are consensus standards
 - PFI is exploring ways to develop its standard as a consensus standard

How Will This Accreditation Program Work?

- Exactly like the other accreditation programs
 - Manufacturers will produce product in compliance with requirements
 - Agencies will monitor the manufacturer per the requirements of the program
 - ALSC will monitor agencies to determine if the agency is maintaining the accreditation requirements
- Laboratories will be monitored by ALSC to the requirements

Program is a Work in Progress

- This program is new to everyone involved and being new there will be growing pains
- Initially ALSC and the agency will conduct courtesy inspections at manufacturers
- As program is implemented chances are some changes will be needed-nothing works in practice like it does on paper
- This was true in the other programs
- System has the flexibility to make needed changes

What if Compliance is Not Maintained

- Agency can withdraw labeling privileges from the manufacturer
- Agency can be de-accredited by ALSC
- Laboratory can be de-accredited by ALSC
 - The above steps are not taken lightly at either the agency or ALSC level; however, each of these actions has taken place under the other ALSC programs
 - We all need to work together to alleviate the above

- If you are curious or have concerns with the accreditation system we encourage you to contact ALSC and discuss those concerns
- ALSC website address is:
www.alsc.org
- ALSC phone number 301.972.1700
- ALSC fax number 301.540.8004