

**INTERPRETATIVE BULLETIN D-1-77**  
**LUMBER MOISTURE CONTENT**  
**MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION - 3280.304**

Moisture content for dimensional and board lumber shall be evaluated by test methods described in ASTM D-2016 [ASTM D-4444, EFFECTIVE JULY 13, 1994]. The moisture content shall be measured near the middle of the wide face of the lumber at least 20 inches from the end of the species if the specimen being evaluated. The moisture content reading may be corrected for temperature and species if the specimen being evaluated is different from the specimen used to calibrate the meter.

If an electrode resistance type moisture meter is used to evaluate content, a meter with insulated needles shall be used. The needles shall be driven to a depth of 1/8" - 3/16" for board lumber of 1" nominal thickness and 5/16" for dimensional lumber of 2" nominal thickness. Electrical resistance meters shall not be used on material that has recently been exposed to rain, dew, or high humidity and is in a temporarily wet condition. Lumber in a temporarily wet condition shall be allowed adequate time to dry prior to checking the moisture content.

Dimensional and board lumber which is identified by a nationally recognized grading agency as having a moisture content not to exceed 19 percent may be accepted as in compliance with the requirements of this section. However, if a lot or components of a lot of identified lumber is suspected of having excessive moisture, the moisture content may be re-verified as not being in excess of 19 percent by evaluating a random sampling of lot specimens.

The moisture content of each of non-identified dimensional and board lumber shall be verified by sampling procedures described in ASTM D-2016 [ASTM D-4444, EFFECTIVE JULY 13, 1994] (20 specimens or 10 percent of the lot, whichever is greater).

Regardless of the method used to establish that the moisture content of lumber does not exceed 19 percent, all lumber surfaces shall be dry and all lumber subject to verification as to moisture content at the time of installation in the factory.

The sampling and measurement criteria set out in this bulletin are also applicable to preassembled components containing dimensional and board lumber.