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Proposed changes to PS20-20:

6.1 General concepts

6.1.1 **Grading parameters--** To the extent to which differences in the characteristics of species, in the quality of logs, in conditions of manufacture and in the uses to which the product is put will permit, the basic provisions for the grading of lumber shall be uniform. The grading of lumber cannot be considered an exact science because it is based on either a visual inspection of each piece and the judgment of the grader or on the results of a method of mechanically determining the strength and/or stiffness characteristics of structural lumber ~~[see 6.3.2.2].~~ in combination with the application of visual grading rules. Grading rule provisions shall be sufficiently explicit to establish 5 percent below grade as an allowable variation between qualified graders. If any grading rules indicate that a grade qualifies under two use classifications, the grade provisions shall satisfy the requirements for both classifications.

Rationale: In no case to date has an approved "mechanical grading" machine performed all of the grading functions alone. The machines evaluate a characteristic or property related to the lumber's strength or stiffness, and that information is used in conjunction with visual grading rules to determine the grade of the piece.

~~**6.3.2.2 Grading--mechanical--** The grading of structural lumber by mechanical means is recognized as an acceptable method of grading. When graded by mechanical means all such grading equipment and methods shall be subject to approval and certification by the Board.~~

Replace 6.3.2.2 with the following:

6.3.2.2 Grading

The process of assigning lumber to manufacturing categories which provide the extent and limitations of characteristics permitted in a particular grade is known as lumber grading. The grade category classifies the lumber according to appearance and/or utility. Structural lumber grade categories include the assignment of applicable design values related to the strength of the lumber. Grading can be accomplished by a variety or combination of methods including 1) human application of visual grading rules, 2) machine application of visual grading rules, and 3) incorporating nondestructive evaluations of strength or stiffness properties to help aid appropriate design value assignment along with the application of visual grading rules by humans and/or machines.

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Add the following common nomenclature to the table in Appendix A:

Commercial Species or Species Group Names[8]	*Official Common Tree Names*[9]	*Botanical Names*
PINE (continued)		
Longleaf Pine[15]	longleaf pine	*P. palustris*
	slash pine	*P. elliottii*
Southern Pine[16] (Major) (also known as Southern Yellow Pine)	loblolly pine	*P. taeda*
	longleaf pine	*P. palustris*
	shortleaf pine	*P. echinata*
Southern Pine[16] (Minor) (also known as Mixed Southern Pine)	slash pine	*P. elliottii*
	pond pine	*P. serotina*
	Virginia pine	*P. virginiana*
	sand pine	*P. clausa*
	spruce pine	*P. glabra*

[16] "Southern Pine" and "Southern Yellow Pine" refer to domestic southern pine primarily grown and harvested from the southeastern United States.