

BBRS

Official Interpretation No. 2012_1

Date: January 10, 2012

Subject: Using Native Lumber

QUESTION 1: If a person is cutting and milling lumber for his/her own use for the purpose of constructing his/her: one- or two-family dwelling, or accessory building thereto, or agricultural building, does that person need to be registered as a Native Lumber Producer per the 8th Edition of 780 CMR, Regulation 110.R4?

ANSWER 1: No. The definition of Native Lumber Producers, per the 8th Edition of 780 CMR, Regulation 110.R4.1.2 is: *Persons or corporations in the business of milling wood into native lumber within Massachusetts.*

Since the milling of lumber for personal use, as described above, is not for business purposes, the person milling lumber on his/her own property for his/her own personal use is not in the business of milling lumber.

QUESTION 2: What structural design guidance is intended or required on the use of Native Lumber?

ANSWER 2: Because locally milled lumber is not graded, for structural applications, 780 CMR imposes controls on its structural design characteristics. Per the 8th Edition of 780 CMR, Regulation 110.R4.1.2, DEFINITIONS, Native Lumber shall be restricted to use in one- and two-family dwellings, barns, sheds, agricultural and accessory buildings and structures and other uses as permitted by the *International Building Code 2009* with the Massachusetts amendments*.

*Chapter 23, as referenced above, Section 2303.1.12 and Table 2303.1.12 “NATIVE LUMBER – ALLOWABLE STRESSES” read as follows:

2303.1.12 Add subsection:

2303.1.12 Native Lumber. Native lumber shall be acceptable for use in one- and two-family dwellings, barns, sheds, and agricultural and accessory structures. Native lumber shall also be acceptable for use in one- or two-story structures as columns when the design loads are 25% greater than required in Chapter 16; as joists, principal beams, and girders in floor constructions when the design loads are 15% greater than required in Chapter 16; and as other elements when the design loads are as required in Chapter 16.

When native lumber is used, it shall be subject to the following requirements:

1. Sizing Criteria: For lumber, sized in accordance with the DOC PS-20, figures for maximum fiber stress and modulus of elasticity for framing grade No. 2 shall be used in establishing span and spacing characteristics for all structural members.

2. Stress Criteria: Lumber which is sized in excess of the dimensions established by the DOC PS-20 for the given nominal size referenced shall be allowed to have a maximum fiber stress increase above that provided in section 2303.1.12 item 1 in proportion to the increased bearing capacity of the cross section as provided in Table 2303.1.12.

TABLE 2303.1.12 NATIVE LUMBER-ALLOWABLE STRESSES... *(omitted here for clarity).*