

The Canadian Quality Assurance System

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Maritime Lumber Bureau, Annual General Meeting

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1. The Canadian Quality Assurance System
2. CSA-O141 – Canadian Standard Lumber
3. CLSAB
 - a. Objectives
 - b. Organization Chart
 - c. Operations
4. CLSAB System
 - a. Classes of Accreditation
 - b. Maintaining System Control
5. Changes to CSA-O141

Canadian Lumber – Quality Assurance from Manufacture to Use

When lumber is used in structural applications, it must perform appropriately to ensure the finished building is safe for public use. In Canada, this assurance is achieved via a complex system of product standards, engineering design standards and building codes; which are put into effect through grading oversight, technical support and a regulatory framework.



Sawmills break logs down into dimensional lumber and other wood products.

The development and maintenance of lumber design values for Canadian species includes testing of grade stamped lumber.



Lumber and other building products are transformed into residential, commercial and other building types. Building professionals design and construct wood structures following the building code with due consideration for public health and safety.



CSA-O141

- The CSA-O141 standard entitled “Canadian standard lumber” specifies the requirements pertaining to the quality and uniformity of lumber produced and consumed in Canada.
 - organization, structure, and functions of the CLSAB
 - Approval of the “Canadian standard lumber” grading rules
 - NLGA establishes and maintains the approved grading rules
 - the certification programs required for Canadian standard lumber
 - consistent with the U.S. PS-20, American Softwood Lumber Standard to ensure that the Canadian and American grade marking systems are interchangeable
- CSA-O141 is:
 - prepared by the Subcommittee on Canadian Standard Lumber,
 - under the jurisdiction of the CSA-O86 Engineering Design in Wood - Technical Committee on Solid and Engineered Wood Products and the Strategic Steering Committee on Forest Products and
 - approved by the A370 Technical Committee on Solid and Engineered Wood Products

Objectives of the CLSAB

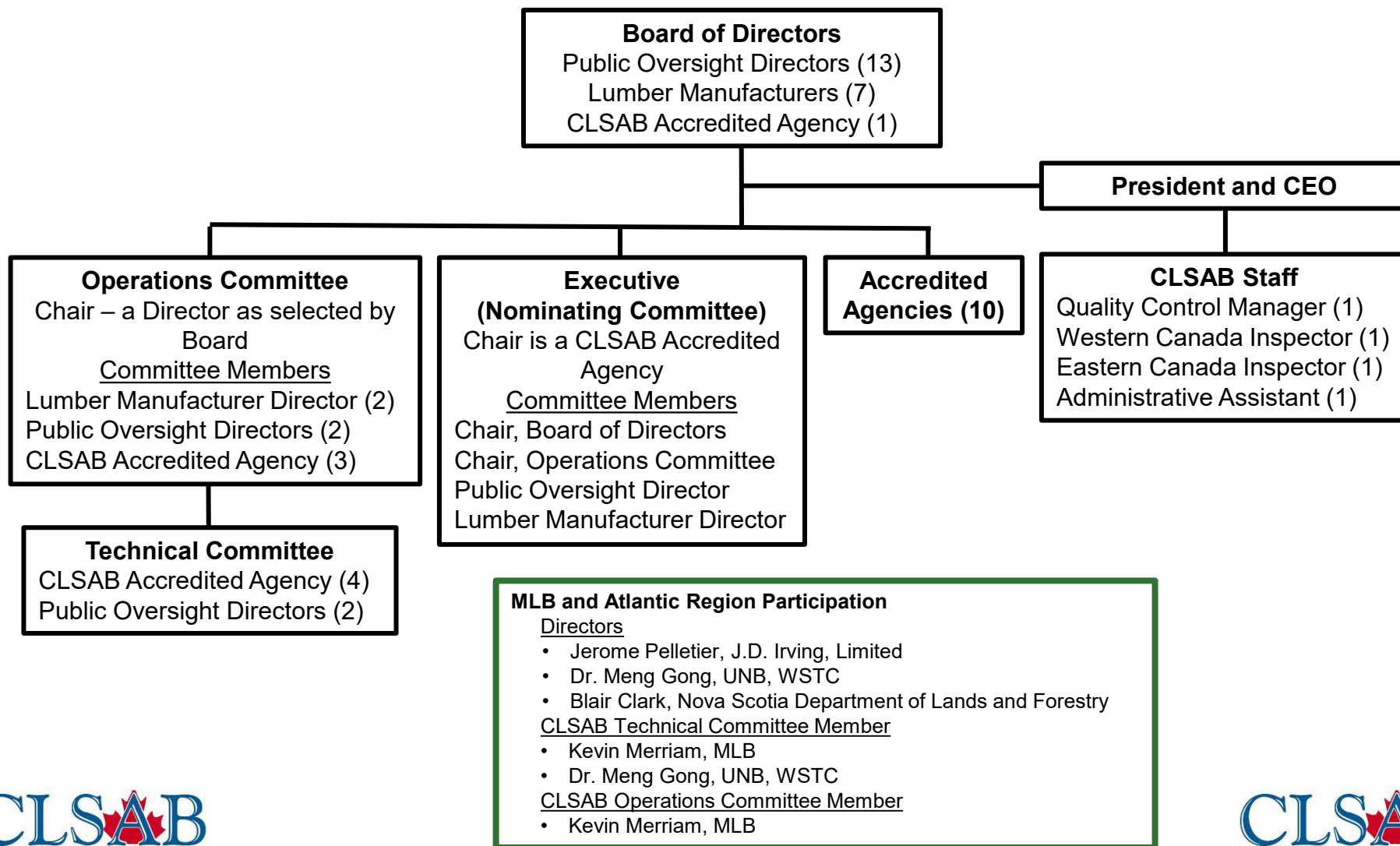
➤ **CSA-O141 – Canadian Standard Lumber**

1. To control the identification and certification of lumber to be used in Canada, exported from Canada, or manufactured in accordance with standards approved in Canada.
2. To provide a medium for the accreditation and supervision of Lumber Grading Agencies.
3. To review, advise upon and approve or disapprove the grading rules or other standards.

➤ **CLSAB Board**

1. To facilitate acceptance in foreign markets of the Canadian lumber grading system overseen by CLSAB.

CLSAB Organization Chart



Operations – CLSAB Programs

1. Approval of Visual Grade Rules
2. Approval of Special Product Standards
3. Approval of MSR Machines
4. Approval of Heat Resistant Adhesives for HRA labelling
5. Approval of Moisture Content Correction tables
6. Approval of Agencies/facilities to CE Mark lumber for export to the European Union and the United Kingdom
7. CFIA Forestry Directives
 - a. Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program (CHTWPCP)
 - b. Canadian Sawn Wood Certification Program (CSWCP)
 - c. Canadian Debarking and Grubhole Control Program (CDGHCP)

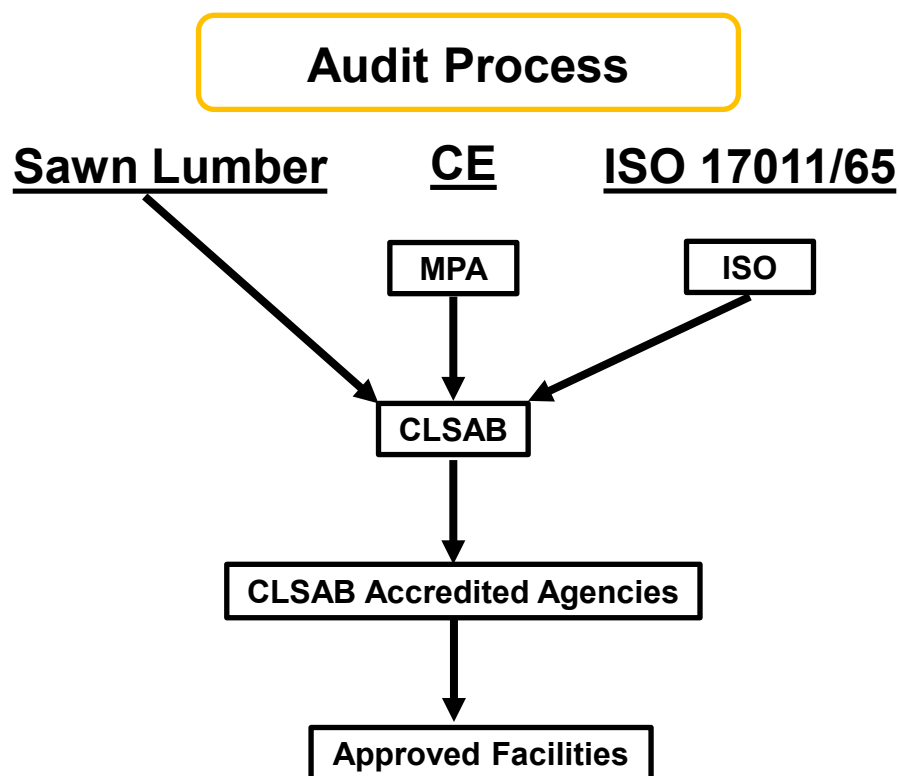
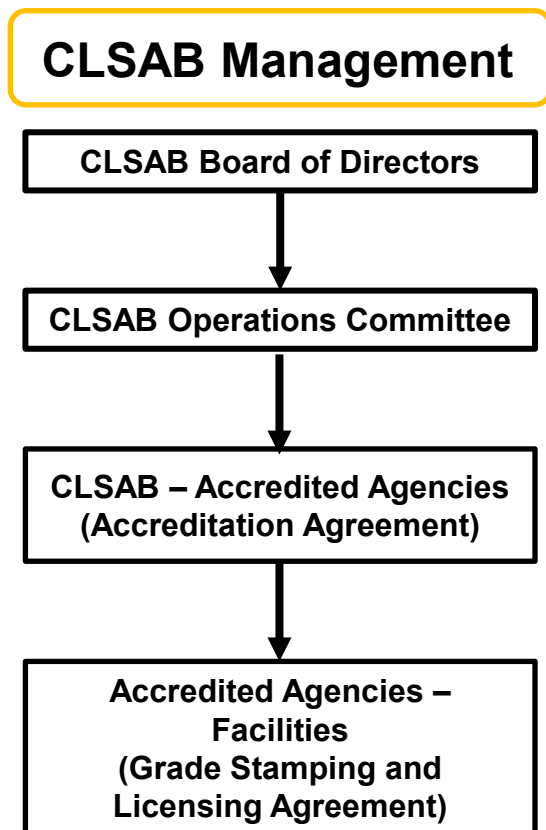
Operations - Classes of Accreditation

Accredited Agencies – 10

1. **Visually graded lumber** (NLGA) – 293 facilities
2. **Machine graded lumber** (Machine Stress Rated/Machine Evaluated Lumber) – 54 facilities
 - SPS2 - Machine Graded Lumber
3. **Fingerjoined/Face Glued lumber** - 11 facilities
 - SPS1 – FingerJoined Structural Lumber
 - SPS3 – FingerJoined “Vertical Stud Use Only” Lumber
 - SPS4 – FingerJoined Machine Graded Lumber (FJ-MGL)
 - SPS5 – Face-Glued FingerJoined Lumber - “Vertical Stud Use Only”
 - SPS6 – Structural Face-Glued Lumber
4. **“HT” Programs** - heat treatment program
 - Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program – 386 facilities
 - Wood Packaging (ISPM 15) - 208 facilities
 - Custom dry kilns – 29 facilities
5. **CLSAB has been provided delegated authority**
 - CE Marking – European Union and United Kingdom - 40 facilities
 - Canadian Green Sawn Wood Certification Program - Australia – 31 facilities
 - Canadian Debarking and Grubhole Control Program – European Union – 41 facilities
6. **Additional Grade Rules approved by CLSAB**
 - Coast Forest & Lumber Association (CFLA) Japanese Product Standard 1-05
7. **Agency certified lumber**
 - Performed by Agencies

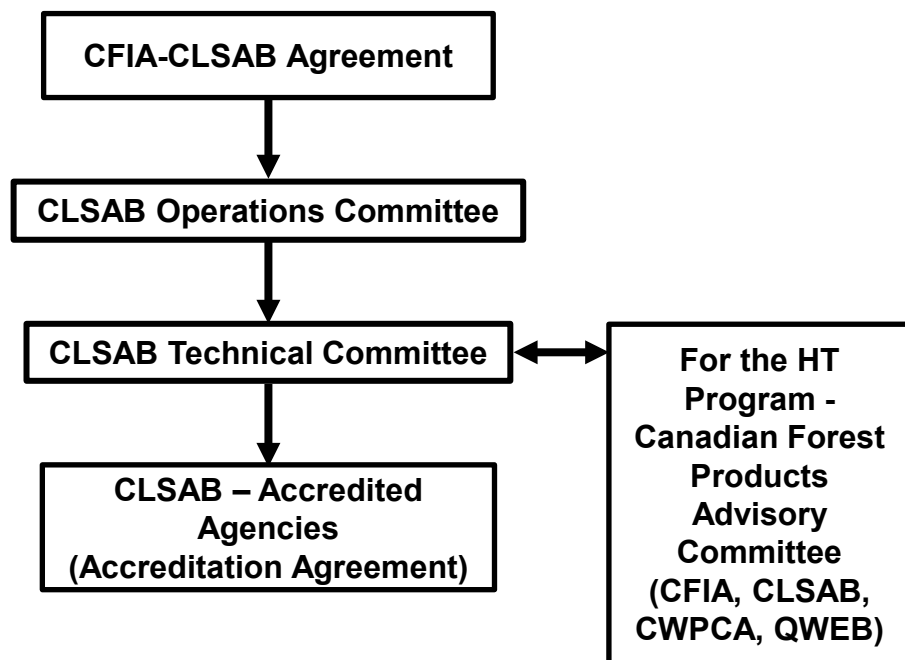
SPS = Special Products Standard

Operations – Sawn Lumber, CE and ISO 17011/65

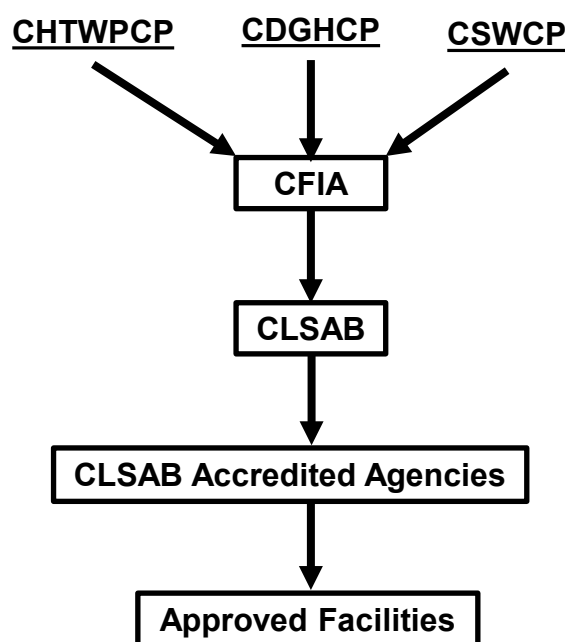


Operations – Phytosanitary (CFIA Forestry Directives)

Management



Audit Process



Operations – Phytosanitary

- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency** (CFIA) – Certification and rules for importing and exporting forestry products. Focus is on systems approaches and alternative service delivery
 - ***Canadian Forest Products Advisory Committee*** (CFPAC) – group that consults and advises CFIA on the HT Program (*CLSAB Technical Committee*)
 - ***Canadian Forest Products Working Group*** (CFPWG) - a forum for government and industry to identify and address in a timely and strategic manner phytosanitary trade issues related to the export of Canadian wood products (*CLSAB staff and Chair, CLSAB Technical Committee*)
- ***North American Plant Protection Organization*** (NAPPO) - phytosanitary standard-setting organization for North America (*CLSAB staff*)
 - **Forest Quarantine Research Group** responsible for identifying and prioritizing forest quarantine market issues and research needs in the region
- ***Canadian Plant Health Council*** - work in partnership with plant health partners to continuously strengthen Canada's plant health system (*CLSAB staff*)

Operations - Maintaining System Control

- CLSAB has an Accreditation Agreement with each Accredited Agency
 - Each Accredited Agency has a Grade Stamping and Licencing Agreement with each facility
- Minimum of 12 audits per year conducted on a monthly basis by CLSAB Accredited Agencies at every registered facility (sawn lumber program)
- CLSAB conducts random, unannounced audits at registered facilities
 - 20-30% per year – two surveys/year
- CLSAB conducts an annual office record check of each Accredited Agency
- Agencies submit Quarterly Reports to CLSAB
- Statistical Comparison of Agency Results to CLSAB Results
- CLSAB staff report on a quarterly basis to the CLSAB Operations Committee

Operations - Maintaining System Control

- Unsatisfactory item inspection
 - CLSAB Accredited Agencies – documented and corrective action
 - CLSAB – held for Agency, written communication, recall inspection of item held by CLSAB to verify corrective action
- Unsatisfactory CLSAB survey of an Agency and their facilities
 - Third survey – Agency expense
 - Review Panel – Hearing
 - Mandatory Orders
 - Fines
 - Probation
 - Suspension
 - De-accreditation

Changes to CSA-O141

- In, 2023, the scope of CSA-O141 was expanded to include imported lumber
- **What does that mean?**
- Structural lumber marketed in Canada must comply with the National Building Code of Canada. Requires the grade stamping of “Canadian standard lumber” to be carried out under the supervision of a CLSAB accredited agency.
- The lumber must have the following:
 - design values – strength and related properties determined by the CSA-086 Engineering Design in Wood - Technical Committee on Solid and Engineered Wood Products
 - grade rule – approved by the CLSAB
 - moisture content correction table – approved by the CLSAB
- Equal treatment for Canadian manufacturers with imported lumber

Changes to CSA-O141

- **Next Steps**

- Set an Implementation Date
- Circulate a World Trade Organization notice of the changes and how the system operates

- **Impact**

- Level playing field for Canadian manufacturers
- Simplifies the duties of Canadian building code officials
- CLSAB accrediting grading agencies located outside of Canada



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