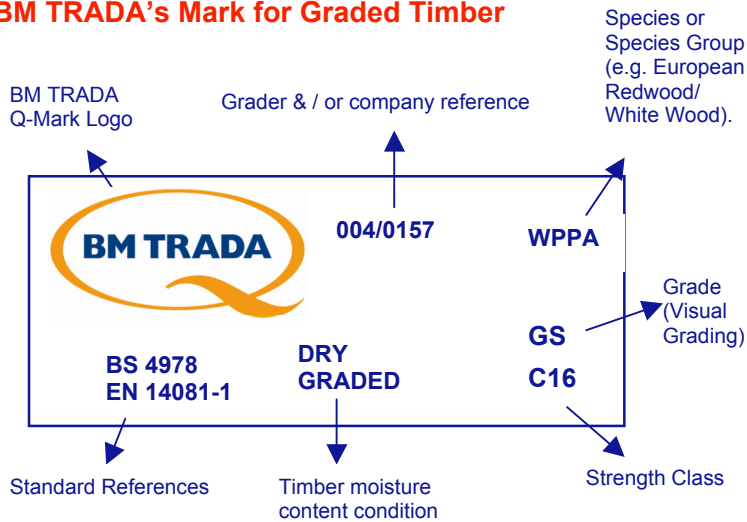


Strength Graded Timber Fact Sheet

- Building Regulations require structural timber used in buildings to be strength graded and marked dry graded.
- A grade mark should appear on all pieces of structural timber.
- If there is no grade mark, the timber **MUST NOT** be used for structural purposes.

BM TRADA's Mark for Graded Timber



Your Questions Answered

- Q.** What are the benefits of using DRY GRADED structural timber?
- A.** Greater Strength
Easier handling and transportation
Better machining
Reducing susceptibility to mould and decay fungi
Less shrinkage and distortion, which can greatly reduce unwanted 'creaks' and 'squeaks' in new construction.
Remember! Timber will shrink by around 0.25% in response to a 1% change in moisture content; e.g., a 200mm joist could shrink by 4mm if it dries from 20% to 12% in use.
- Q.** Where can I get more information on the Grade Stamp Markings?
- A.** TRADA Wood Information Sheets - all available through TRADA – www.trada.co.uk
Tel: 01494 569600
- Q.** Can wet timber be marked DRY GRADED on the basis that it will probably air dry to below 20% before reaching the customer?
- A.** No. Only timber that has a mean moisture content of 20%, or less without any measurement exceeding 24%, at the time of grading can be stamped DRY GRADED.
- Q.** Are there any exceptions to the dry grading rules?
- A.** The only exceptions are:
Large section timbers, greater than 100mm thick and timber intended for use in a high moisture environment.
Timber which cannot be marked for aesthetic reasons, in which case a grade certification should be supplied with the timber.
- Q.** What should I do if there is no reference to DRY GRADED or a grade mark is omitted altogether?
- A.** If a satisfactory answer cannot be provided from the supplier, the timber should be rejected or replaced.
- Q.** How are graders trained and monitored?
- A.** Graders must successfully complete an approved training programme and be registered with BM TRADA (or another approved certification body).
The competence of the grader is periodically assessed and if the grader fails to demonstrate acceptable standards, his registration can be withdrawn.
- Q.** What dimensional tolerances are permitted on structural timber?
- A.** The permissible cross-sectional deviations detailed in BS EN 336

Size – mm	T1 – mm (sawn)	T2 – mm (machined)
≤ 100	+3 -1	+1 -1
> 100	+4 -2	+1.5 -1.5

Customers must:

- Demand dry-graded timber for use in buildings.
- **Check Grade Stamp.** If you have any concerns over the condition, grade or grade stamp of structural timber, note the grade stamp details and contact the UKTGC¹ or if applicable, BM TRADA Certification².

Armed with **FACTS**, we can **ACT** to investigate your concerns and advise accordingly.
- Remember, **NO STAMP or CERTIFICATE NO USE**, for structural timber

Suppliers must:

- **CHECK: Moisture Content.** Average of 20% or less with no single piece exceeding 24%.
- **GRADE** using registered graders or machines licensed by BM TRADA Certification (or another accredited certification body).
- **STAMP** strength graded timber clearly and indelibly.

¹ **UK Timber Grading Committee (UKTGC)**
Clareville House, 26/27 Oxendon Street, London SW1Y 4EL
T: 020 78381891

² **BM TRADA Certification Ltd**
Stocking Lane, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4ND
T: 01494 569700 E: enquiries@bctrada.com W: www.bctrada.com