

Australian Standard[®]

**Timber—Heavy structural products—
Visually graded**

Part 11: Utility poles

STANDARDS
Australia



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee TM-003, Timber Grading. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 October 2009. This Standard was published on 16 December 2009.

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- Australian Timber Flooring Association
- BRANZ
- CSIRO Manufacturing, and Infrastructure Technology
- Forest and Wood Products Australia
- Forests New South Wales
- Frame and Truss Manufacturers Association Australia
- Master Builders Australia
- New Zealand Timber Industry Federation
- Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board
- Timber and Building Materials Association (NSW)
- Timber Queensland
- University of Technology, Sydney
- Wood Processors Association New Zealand

Additional Interests:

- Dr Geoff Boughton
-

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Visually graded**

Part 11: Utility poles

Originally as SAA Int. 364—1952.
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TM-003, Timber Grading, to supersede AS 2209—1994, *Timber—Poles for overhead lines*.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to provide producers and users of timber poles, with or without full-length preservative treatment, intended primarily for use in overhead lines for electrical distribution and telecommunications purposes, with requirements for the visual grading.

The objectives of this revision are as follows:

- (a) To complete an overview of the AS 3818 series, with regard to the consistency and alignment between all Parts.
- (b) To change the basis of assessing barrel checks and end splits from a numerical rating system related to pictures to a rating system based on tabular measurements.
- (c) To bring the list of characteristics (not permitted or limited) into the order consistent with other timber grading Standards.
- (d) To revise and re-designate AS 2209—1994 as Part 11 of the AS 3818 series, *Timber—Heavy structural products—Visually graded*, which is composed of the following parts:

AS

3818	Timber—Heavy structural products—Visually graded
3818.1	Part 1: General requirements
3818.2	Part 2: Railway track timbers
3818.3	Part 3: Piles
3818.4	Part 4: Cross-arms for overhead lines
3818.5	Part 5: Mine lift guides
3818.6	Part 6: Decking for wharves and bridges
3818.7	Part 7: Large section sawn hardwood engineering timbers
3818.8	Part 8: Stumps and sole plates
3818.9	Part 9: Natural round treated hardwood corbels, girders and stringers
3818.10	Part 10: Building poles
3818.11	Part 11: Utility poles (this Standard)

Appendices have been included to give advice on—

- (a) information required for purchasing orders;
- (b) differentiating between sapwood and heartwood in softwoods; and
- (c) monitoring treatment quality.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Timber—Heavy structural products—Visually graded

Part 11: Utility poles

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out the minimum requirements for visually graded timber utility poles with or without full-length preservative treatment intended primarily for use in overhead lines for electrical distribution and telecommunications purposes. These minimum requirements apply at the time of grading.

This Standard does not cover specification for strength and dimensions, and these should be separately specified.

1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard should be used in conjunction with AS 3818.1 to specify utility poles.

Hardwood utility poles intended for use without full-length preservative treatment shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1 and 2.

Hardwood utility poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1 and 3.

Softwood utility poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1 and 4.

Any utility poles to be supplied after full-length preservative treatment shall also comply with all the relevant requirements of Section 5.

NOTES:

- 1 This Standard is intended to have general application throughout Australia but in New South Wales the *Timber Marketing Act 1977*, and in Queensland the *Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act 1977*, require prior approval of a preservative treatment and the registration and application of a brand before timber offered for sale in either of these States can be described as preservative-treated. Detailed information about the requirements of such legislation may be obtained from the State government department concerned.
- 2 This Standard recommends purchasers to nominate some options and allows them to negotiate others. It also includes other guidelines for purchasers obtaining supply according to this document (see Appendix A).
- 3 AS/NZS 4676 provides information on the typical life expectancy for timber species.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1604 Specifications for preservative treatment

1604.1 Part 1: Sawn and round timber

3818 Timber—Heavy structural products—Visually graded

3818.1 Part 1: General requirements