

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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

**Part 2: Railway track timbers**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee TM-003, Timber Grading. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 27 October 2010. This Standard was published on 15 November 2010.

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The following are represented on Committee TM-003:

- A3P
- 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

Additional Interests:

- Dr Geoff Boughton
- 

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 3818.2.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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

**Part 2: Railway track timbers**

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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 3818.2—2004.

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 railway track timbers with requirements for the visual grading and selection of species for timbers intended for use in railway track.

The objectives of this revision are as follows:

- (a) To complete an overview of the AS 3818 series, with regard to consistency and alignment between all Parts.
- (b) To include grade descriptions for sound boxed heart in special sleepers and bridge transoms.
- (c) To change the format of this Part of the Standard series from single section to multiple sections.

This Standard is Part 2 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 (this Standard)
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

Appendices have been included to give advice on—

- (a) information required for purchasing orders; and
- (b) design properties.

Grading rules for 600 mm gauge railway track sleepers (sugar cane industry) are not included.

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.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA  
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**Timber—Heavy structural products—Visually graded**  
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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

### 1.1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out the minimum requirements for visually graded rail track sleepers, special sleepers for lead, crossing or turnout timbers and bridge transoms. These minimum requirements apply at the time of grading.

NOTES:

- 1 Purchasing guidelines are given in Appendix A.
- 2 It is intended that railway track timbers (except for special sleepers with boxed heart and bridge transoms with boxed heart) be predominantly backsawn (see Clause 2.1) and laid in track with the back upwards, that is, with the heart face down.

### 1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard shall be used in conjunction with AS 3818.1 to specify rail track timbers.

### 1.3 NORMATIVE REFERENCE

The following is the normative document referenced in this Standard:

NOTE: Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS

3818 Timber—Heavy structural products—Visually graded  
3818.1 Part 1: General requirements

### 1.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 3818.1 apply.

### 1.5 TIMBER SPECIES

#### 1.5.1 General

Species suitable for rail track timbers are listed in AS 3818.1.

NOTES:

- 1 Species other than those listed for rail track timbers in AS 3818.1 may be graded to this Standard subject to agreement between the purchaser and supplier.
- 2 Care should be taken to determine the correct strength group and durability rating when the species is not listed in AS 3818.1.
- 3 Further information on the identity and properties of species is available from State Forestry Departments and the CSIRO.

If timbers are supplied as a mixture of species and the timber is not marked or branded as required by AS 3818.1, the strength group applicable to the species of the lowest strength group in the parcel shall apply to the whole parcel and the durability class applicable to the species of the lowest durability class in the parcel shall apply also to the whole parcel.