NAMA D-004.073123

Standard Specification for Timber Mat Production

2023 Edition

NAMA

North American Matting Association (NAMA)

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For further information

All questions or other communications relating to NAMA Standards and all request for information on NAMA procedures governing its codes and standards development process, including information on the procedures for requesting formal interpretations, please submit a request or inquiry in writing to:

Secretary

North American Matting Association

606 E Center St.

Sheridan, AR 72150.

You may also contact Summer Mays at 662.325.2323. For specific details or professional advice regarding the application of the standard, please consult with appropriate experts or legal counsel.

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

1 Administration

1.1 Preamble.

Mats provide modular work and access foundations during heavy industrial construction. They are widely used in the construction of transmission power lines, pipelines, oil field development, cranes & lifting, other rigging, other energy development, roads, and bridges, etc. Mats spread relatively heavy loads over large areas and thereby reduce or minimize or manage ground pressure. Mats serve multiple purposes. They protect environmentally sensitive areas such as soils, wetlands, and others. They protect and facilitate access to and around construction sites by machinery, equipment, materials, and supplies. Matting systems can be designed to carry a variety of loads (point, line, distributed, uniform) over a variety of ground conditions including soft or marshy soils. They can be applied quickly. Also, upon completion of a job, mats can be removed, and the site can return to its pre-construction state. To better manage and improve the use, specification, applications, and expectations related to mats, it can be helpful for manufacturers, users, engineers, brokers, and other interested parties to be able to reference minimum physical standards and generally accepted practices and materials that apply to mats. This standard applies to mats at their time of manufacture and initial shipping from the manufacturer.

1.2 Consensus Statement.

The following standard is voluntary. It is developed and offered by the Association, hereafter "NAMA."

- 1.2.1 This voluntary standard was developed by a NAMA Technical Committee of balanced interests, including non-members, to ensure that individuals from competent and concerned interests had an opportunity to participate. Participation by federal or state agency representative(s) or person(s) affiliated with industry is not to be interpreted as government or industry endorsement of this standard.
- 1.2.2 NAMA does not approve, rate, or endorse any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity. NAMA does not take any position with respect to the validity of any patent or other intellectual property (IP) rights asserted in connection with any items mentioned in this standard and does not undertake to insure or indemnify anyone utilizing this standard against liability for infringement of any applicable patents or other IP rights, nor assume any such liability. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

1.3 General.

This standard was developed and is maintained with the intent to represent the consensus of concerned interests. As such, users of this standard may interact with NAMA by requesting information, proposing revisions, and attending NAMA Technical Committee meetings. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Secretary

North American Matting Association

606 E Center St.

Sheridan, AR 72150

1.4 Proposing Revisions.

The adopted standard is being made available on the NAMA webpage for public review and comment to provide an opportunity for additional public input from industry, academia, regulatory agencies, and the public-at-large. It is anticipated that NAMA will periodically review

and revise this standard to make appropriate changes, and that approved revisions will be published on the NAMA webpage. NAMA welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the paragraph number(s), the proposed wording, and a detailed description of the reasons for the proposal, including any pertinent documentation.

1.5 Interpretations.

Upon request, NAMA will endeavor to render an interpretation of any requirement of the standard. Interpretations can only be rendered in response to a written request sent to the Secretary of NAMA. Request for interpretation should address the interpretation of a specific requirement in a manner suitable for general understanding and use, not as a request for an approval of a proprietary design or situation. Requests should not contain proprietary names or information. NAMA will not provide advice or act as a consultant with respect to specific engineering problems or the general application or understanding of the requirements of this standard.

2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General.

The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this code and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.1.1 ASTM publications

ASTM D-245-06, Standard practice for establishing structural grades and related allowable properties for visually graded lumber. Conshohocken, PA, 2011.

ASTM D-2555-16 Standard practice for establishing clear wood strength values. Conshohocken, PA, 2016.

ASTM D-5456-17 *Standard specification for evaluation of structural composite lumber products.* Conshohocken, PA, 2017.

2.1.2 Structural Grading agencies and related publications

American Lumber Standard Committee. www.alsc.org.

American Softwood Lumber Standard. *Voluntary Products Standard PS20-20*. October 2021. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Standard Grade Rules for Northeastern Lumber. Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association. Cumberland Center, ME.

Standard Grade Rules for Southern Pine Lumber. Southern Pine Inspection Bureau. Pensacola,

Western Lumber Grading Rules. Western Wood Products Association. Portland, OR

2.1.3 Other Publications

FL.

Wood Handbook – wood as an engineering material. General Technical Report FPL-GTR-190. Madison, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory. 508 pages, Forest Products Laboratory, 2020.

National Design Specifications for Wood construction. Allowable Stress Design. Load Duration Factor Adjustment, Appendix B, Figure B1. American Wood Council, 2018.

Standard grading rules for Northeastern lumber. Cumberland Center, Maine, 2017.

PS-20. *American Softwood Lumber Standard*. Voluntary Products Standard. National Institute of Standards and Technology. U.S. Department of Commerce. Washington, DC, 2020

Standard grade rules for southern pine lumber, Pensacola, FL, Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, 2021.

Western lumber Grading Rules, western wood products Association, 2021.

3 Scope and Purpose

3.1 Construction Variation and Comparability.

A mat can be constructed using a variety of materials. Some matting applications require mats to have known mechanical (strength and stiffness) properties. These applications involve, but are not limited to situations with heavier loads, overhead rigging, soft/sensitive soils, and others. Some matting applications do not require mats to have known mechanical properties. These applications often involve, but are not limited to, situations with relatively small loads, minimal lifting, or lesser environmental sensitivity.

- **3.1.1** For the applications that require mats to have known mechanical properties ("Structural Applications"), it is important to develop standards that allow engineers to compare the material properties of mat products so they can make informed decisions about the products being considered for the application. For this reason, the following material properties of mats to be used in Structural Applications shall be developed, tested, and reported in accordance with generally recognized standards: Design Bending Stress Fb; Average Modulus of Elasticity MOE; Design Shear Stress Fv; and Design Compressive Stress Fc.
- **3.1.2** For the applications that do not require mats to have known mechanical properties, non-rated mats may be appropriate. See the Non-Mandatory Commentary section for more details.
- **3.1.3** In all cases, information about mat size (thickness, width, and length), species or species mix (in the case of wood mats), shall be specified

4 Non-structural Mats

- 4.1 General Purpose Mat Produced to Qualitative Specification
- **4.1.1 Timber Mat Produced to Qualitative Specifications.** This section applies to assembled woodbased mats consisting of individual timbers and larger members that are manufactured to qualitative standards described herein. Mats produced under this Section 3.1.1 shall be stamped as NON-STRUCTURAL GENERAL PURPOSE.
- **4.1.2** Lumber/Timber specification: Shall allow the use of any timber or lumber, provided that each piece as a whole is intact to permit its use for general matting.
- **4.1.3** Mats and timbers produced to this qualitative specification shall not have assigned mechanical/allowable design properties.
- **4.1.4** Permissible species are not restricted. Generally accepted species are shown in the Appendices A and B.
- 4.2 Industrial/utility produced to Qualitative and/or quantitative specifications
- **4.2.1** Timber Mat Produced to Qualitative and/or Quantitative Specifications. This section applies to assembled wood-based mats consisting of individual timbers and larger members that are manufactured to qualitative and/or quantitative standards/specifications described in a company's production manual or by consumers. Mats produced under this Section 3.2.1 shall be stamped as NONSTRUCTURAL UTILITY.
- **4.2.2** Lumber/Timber specification: Shall allow the use of any timber or lumber, provided that each piece as a whole is intact to permit its use for general matting.
- **4.2.3** Mats produced to this qualitative specification may be made in conjunction with customer and/or user specifications. Mats produced in or associated with the UTILITY category are often destined for more rigorous, demanding and/or application-specific uses as compared to mats classified as GENERAL PURPOSE. Mats and timbers produced to this qualitative specification shall not have assigned mechanical/allowable design properties.
- **4.2.4** Permissible softwood and hardwood species may include but are not limited to any species shown

in the Appendices A or B and/or any species with specific gravity (green) values at or above 0.42 or specific gravity (MC 12%) values at or above 0.48. It is under consideration that in the future, this section may be further subdivided into tiers based on timber specific gravity, durability, or other metrics.

5 Structural Mats

5.1 Member Specification

5.1.1 Timber Member Specification.

Timber Mat produced to a Timber Member Specification: This section applies to wood-based mats assembled using individual timbers and larger members that are manufactured to known and/or accepted specifications per the American Lumber Standard Committee, Voluntary Product Standard 20, and the National Grade Rule. There are 24 agencies operating under the oversight of the American Lumber Standard Committee that serve as grading agencies or rules-writing grading agencies. The grade rules include but are not necessarily limited to:

- 1) Northeastern Lumber Manufacturer's Association: (2017) Standard Grade Rules (for many North American hardwood species);
- 2) Southern Pine Inspection Bureau: (2021) Standard Grade Rules (for Southern Pine species); and
- **3)** Western Wood Products Association: (2021) Western Lumber Grading Rules (for Douglas fir, Western Larch, Western Hemlock).
- **5.1.1.1** Within these agencies and rules, lumber and timbers have descriptive characteristics that, when coupled with species descriptions, have associated allowable design values. Examples of grade or timber quality categories include Select Structural, Number 1, and Number 2. Appendix C lists these grades, several species or species groups, and their respective mechanical properties.
- **5.1.1.2** Tropical species groups that are important for matting, such as those in Appendix D, are not covered by the national grade rule. Their potential design performance can be estimated by procedures outlined in ASTM D245 (2011) and ASTM D2555 (2016).
- **5.1.1.3** Additionally, alternate species and/or grades may be considered if approved in writing, in accordance with one or more appropriate, recognized standards, by a "qualified" person or agency approved in writing by the NAMA technical committee and NAMA. For purposes of this activity, the term "qualified" means one who:
 - by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter (of approving standard and alternative species and grades for use in all types and applications of matting), the work (including but limited to determining whether a particular piece of timber complies with standard or alternative specifications), or the project (including but limited to determining whether a particular piece of timber complies with standard or alternative specifications) (Per OSHA standard 29 CFR 1926.32); and
 - 2) is accredited in this subject matter by a recognized accrediting body such that the person or agency would be considered: (1) qualified to determine that a standard to be applied in evaluating alternative species and/or grades is recognized and establishes appropriate requirements for that purpose; and (2) qualified to determine whether the proposed alternate species or grades, as well as particular timbers, comply with the requirements of the recognized standard.
- **5.1.1.4** Mats produced under Section 4.1, Timber Member Specifications shall be stamped STRUCTURAL along with the applicable bending strength (Fb) and stiffness (MOE) characteristics.

5.2 Performance-Based Mats

5.2.1 Wood Based Mat Produced to a Performance-based Standard.

This specification applies to wood-based mats manufactured under the guideline of ASTM D5456, or some other known and/or accepted standard. To reduce the complexity of testing methods, 2-foot-wide specimens are used to establish the representative material properties of the mat product. Assumptions regarding distribution of load to multiple two-foot-wide sections can then be made by the engineer. Mats produced under Section 4.2 Performance-based standard shall be stamped STRUCTURAL along with the applicable bending strength (Fb) and stiffness (MOE) characteristics.

6 Required Production Facility Manuals

6.1 Basic Requirements.

In each of the Specifications described in sections 3.0 and 4.0 any product that bears the NAMA trademark shall be manufactured by a mill that has both: a Facility Production Manual and a Facility Quality Control Manual. Together those two documents assure quality and consistency of production over time. Routine third party inspections and reporting are a requirement of mats bearing a NAMA certification mark.

6.2 Production Manual.

Each production facility shall have a mill-specific production manual that describes how a given manufacturing facility makes mats. In the case of wood-based mats, the production manual shall include at a minimum:

- 1) Mill/company level organizational chart/structure.
- 2) List of products(s) covered by the Production Manual.
- 3) Species (groups).
- 4) Mat sizes and tolerances (thickness classifications with tolerance ranges, width classifications with tolerance ranges, length classifications with tolerance ranges).
- 5) Timber sizes and tolerances (thickness classifications with tolerance ranges, width classifications with tolerance ranges, length classifications with tolerance ranges).
- 6) Timber/mat grading quality specifications that is 3.0 (NON-STRUCTURAL qualitative specification), 4.0 (4.1.1 STRUCTURAL prescriptive timber grade specification or 4.2.1 STRUCTURAL performance-based specification).
- 7) Generalized description of material flows within the production facility, production sequence, major production equipment.
- 8) Machining characteristics. If mats are to be notched, beveled, slotted, staggered, or otherwise machined then the dimensional characteristics of these machined portions must be described.
- 9) Fasteners (nuts, bolts, rods, nails, etc.) Description of fastener types, how they are installed, fastener schedules, etc.

6.3 Quality Control Manual.

Each production facility shall have a mill-specific Quality Control Manual. This document describes how a given manufacturing facility assures the consistency of the stated characteristics of their mats as described in their Production Manual. This includes some stipulation for routine verification. This document will be attested to by the third party and is confidential to the mill/production facility.

7 Required Third Party Auditing

7.1 Basic Requirements.

Any product that bears the NAMA trademark shall be manufactured by a mill that engages the services of a third-party auditing service approved in writing by NAMA. Duties and obligations of the third-party auditing entity shall include but are not necessarily limited to:

- 1) Review mill-specific Production Manual (Each production facility may desire or need some type of non-disclosure agreement/arrangement between mill/production facility and third-party auditing entity).
- 2) Review mill-specific Quality Manual (Each production facility may desire or need some type of non-disclosure agreement/arrangement between mill/production facility and third-party auditing entity).
- 3) Perform inspections at the participating mill site. At a minimum, on-site inspections shall occur quarterly. On-site inspections may be required more often particularly for mills producing mats per section 4.0.

8 Required Licensing Agreement and Product Marking

8.1 Basic Requirements.

No product may bear the NAMA certification mark except as authorized in accordance with a signed licensing agreement between NAMA and the producer of the mat. Among the requirements imposed by the licensing agreement are the following.

- **8.1.1** NAMA members that do not follow the standard shall not use the NAMA mark in any manner associated with products.
- 8.1.2 Any product that bears the NAMA certification mark shall also bear a conspicuous mark identifying the: manufacturer, mill, grade, and date of manufacture. Mats produced under Section 3.0 of this standard shall include the phrase "NON-STRUCTURAL" in the mark in lettering and a size approved by NAMA. Mats produced under Section 4 of this standard shall include the word "STRUCTURAL" in the mark in lettering and a size approved by NAMA.
- **8.1.3** Any and all production and quality information associated with any product that bears the NAMA certification mark, shall be applicable to the said product at the date the said product leaves the production facility.

Appendix A

Table A.1 List of important North American softwood species

Common name(s)	Scientific name	Specific gravity (green)*	
Douglas fir	Pseudotsuga menzeisii	0.43-0.45	
Hemlock, Western or Mountain	Tsuga heterophylla or mertensiana	0.42	
Larch, Western	Larix occidentalis	0.48	
Pine, Southern	Pinus spp	0.47-0.54	

^{*} Forest Products Laboratory 2010. Table 5-3b.

Appendix B

Table B.1 List of important North American hardwood species

Common name(s)	Scientific name	Specific gravity (green)*
Ash, Black	Fraxinus nigra	0.45
Ash, Green	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	0.53
Ash, White	Fraxinus americana	0.55
Beech, American	Fagus grandifolia	0.56
Birch, Sweet	Betula lenta	0.60
Birch, Yellow	Betula alleghaniensis	0.55
Elm, American	Ulmus americana	0.46
Elm, Rock	Ulmus thomasii	0.57
Elm, Slippery	Ulmus rubra	0.48
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	0.49
Hickory, Bitternut	Carya cordiformis	0.60
Hickory, Mockernut	Carya tomentosa	0.64
Hickory, Nutmeg	Carya myristicaeformis	0.56
Hickory, Pecan	Carya illinoensis	0.60
Hickory, Pignut	Carya glabra	0.66
Hickory, Shagbark	Carya, ovata	0.64
Hickory, Shellbark	Carya lacinosa	0.62
Hickory, Water	Carya aquatic	0.61
Magnolia, Southern	Magnolia grandiflora	0.46
Maple, Black	Acer nigrum	0.52
Maple, Red	Acer rubra	0.49
Maple, Silver	Acer saccharinum	0.44
Maple, Sugar	Acer saccharum	0.56
Oak, Black	Quercus velutina	0.56
Oak, Bur	Quercus macrocarpa	0.58
Oak, Cherrybark	Quercus falcate var. pagodaefolia	0.61
Oak, Chestnut	Quercus prinus	0.57
Oak, Laurel	Quercus laurifolia	0.56
Oak, Live	Quercus virginiana	0.80
Oak, Northern red	Quercus rubra	0.56
Oak, Overcup	Quercus lyrata	0.57
Oak, Pin	Quercus palustris	0.58
Oak, Post	Quercus stellate	0.60
Oak, Scarlet	Quercus coccinea	0.60
Oak, Southern red	Quercus falcate	0.52
Oak, Swamp chestnut	Quercus michauxii	0.60
Oak, Swamp white	Quercus bicolor	0.64
Oak, Water	Quercus nigra	0.56
Oak, White	Quercus alba	0.60
Sassafras	Sassafras albidum	0.42
Sweetgum	Liquidambar styraciflua	0.46
Sycamore	Platanus occidentalis	0.46
Tupelo gum, Black or Water	Nyssa sylvatica	0.46

^{*} Forest Products Laboratory 2010. Table 5-3b.

Appendix C Table C.1 Various species and species groups and their mechanical properties, Posts and Timbers (5-inches by 5 inches and Larger) in visual grades Select Structural, 1, and 2^{17} .

Species group	Rules writing agency	Grade	Fb (psi)²	MOE (million psi) ^{3**}	Fc, perp (psi) ⁴	Fc, par (psi) ⁵	Fv (psi) ⁶
	NeLMA	SS	1375	1.0	536	876	171
Mixed oak ⁷		#1	1100	1.0	536	776	171
		#2	633	0.8	536	350	171
Mixed hardwood ⁸	NeLMA	SS #1	1210 963	1.1 1.1	415 415	751 651	198 198
		#2	550	0.9	415	300	198
Southern Pine	SPIB	SS #1 #2	1650 1485 935	1.5 1.5 1.2	251 251 251	951 826 526	182 182 182
Douglas-fir Larch	WWPA	SS #1 #2	1650 1320 825	1.6 1.6 1.3	419 419 419	1151 1001 701	187 187 187
Douglas-fir South	WWPA	SS #1	1595 1265	1.2 1.2	348 348	1051 926	182 182
		#2	743	1.0	348	651	182

¹ Allowable design values are for green (19% MC or above), single members, adjusted from 10-year to 1-year duration of load at design stress (CD=1.1 estimated from National Design Specifications (2018)). Single member values may be adjusted to account for size, load sharing among adjacent and multiple members, and/or other mat or application specific factors as recommended by a qualified person.

² Allowable fiber stress in bending for design. Pounds per square inch.

³ Modulus of Elasticity. Million pounds per square inch.

⁴ Allowable fiber stress in compression, perpendicular to grain, for design. Pounds per square inch.

⁵ Allowable fiber stress in compression, parallel to grain, for design. Pounds per square inch.

⁶ Allowable shear stress, parallel to the grain. Pounds per square inch.

⁷ Mixed oak (including: black, cherrybark, Northern red, Southern red, laurel, pin, scarlet, water, chestnut, live, post, swamp, white, bur, overcup, swamp white).

⁸ Mixed hardwood group, including only: American beech, birch (including sweet and yellow), maple (including black, red, silver, sugar), hickory (including bitternut, mockernut, nutmeg, pecan, pignut, shagbark, shellback, and water), red and white oak group.

Appendix D

Table D.1 List of important imported species

Common name(s)	Scientific name	Specific gravity (green)	
Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus grandis	0.60	
Ekki or Azobe	Lophira alata	0.87	
Mora	Mora excelsa, M. gonggrijpii	0.78	
Dahoma or Debema	Piptadeniastrum africanum	0.56	
Greenheart	Chlorocardium rodiei	0.80	
Tonka, Cumaru, Brazilian Teak	Dipteryx odorata	0.55	
Wamara or Guyana Rosewood	Swartzia spp	0.92	

APPENDIX E

Examples of Product Identification Marking

ABC MATTING GREENVILLE NAMA NONSTRUCTURAL UTILITY [Date of Manufacture]

ABC MATTING
GREENVILLE
STRUCTURAL
1800F 1.8E
[Date of Manufacture]

APPENDIX F

Non-Mandatory Commentary:

If one needs allowable strength and stiffness values (STRUCTURAL) for a given application, one is directed toward mats from Section 4.0.

If one needs general purpose mats from documented manufacturing practices and documented quality programs, then one is directed toward mats from section(s) 3.0 (NON STRUCTURAL) and 4.0 (STRUCTURAL).

4891-2691-6762, v. 4