



TIMBER PRODUCTS
We Deliver Confidence.

Certificate Inspection FAQ

A certificate inspection is one of many services that Timber Products Inspection, Inc. (TP) offers. When performing a certificate inspection, TP inspects the client's lumber at their location or at an offsite location as specified by the client. In order to schedule this inspection, the client must complete all of the information on the letter of request form (page 2), sign it, and send it back to the lumberdivision@tpinspection.com email address. Once we receive that completed form and the required retainer, we can issue the work order out to our local inspector so that they can contact the client to schedule the inspection.

Availability of inspectors varies throughout the month, but we can typically accommodate a request within a month or so from the time we receive an executed letter of request and required retainer. Quicker times may be able to be accommodated depending on availability, but it adds to the travel costs. We charge for these inspections on an hourly basis (travel and inspection time) plus reimbursable expenses (lodging, mileage, meals, etc.).

The species of the material must be known prior to performing a certificate inspection in order to know which grade rules are applicable. If the client knows the species already, they specify it on the letter of request form, but if not, a species identification must be performed first. Once we know the species and which grade rules are applicable, the visual inspection process can begin. All four sides and both ends must be visible for all of the inspected pieces included in the results of our inspection; TP cannot issue a certificate of grade for material that is not 100% visible. Only lumber used in structural applications need be graded for building code purposes; nonstructural items such as trim, flooring, and siding products are not required to be graded.

In addition to the visual process of judging the grade limiting defects present on each piece, TP will evaluate aspects such as moisture content, sizing, and surfacing quality (if surfaced). Lumber that is 2" nominal thickness is typically required to have a moisture content of 19% or less, whereas lumber that is 3" nominal thickness or greater typically does not have a moisture content limit. Standard sizes for rough dry lumber are 1/8" greater than the standard sizes for surfaced lumber (E.G. - dry, surfaced 2x4's are 1-1/2" x 3-1/2", and dry, rough 2x4's are 1-5/8" x 3-5/8"), and rough sawn lumber is commonly cut to sizes larger than the minimum standard sizes. A certificate inspection can allow non-standard sizes though, since the minimum actual size found will be reported for each item inspected. Eased edges common in dressed commodity lumber are not a requirement of lumber graded under certificate inspections.

For every inspected piece that meets the grade requested, TP marks the accepted pieces with an identification mark such as a hammer brand or a unique crayon/paint mark that will be used for reference purposes in the final report. The final report will be required by the building code official as proof of building code conformance.

Most certificate inspection jobs involve a landowner who wants to build a house using rough-cut lumber that is cut from the trees that were harvested from their property. To inspect the volume of lumber needed to build the average sized house that will be built using conventional framing techniques, it usually takes about 4-8 hours onsite to complete the visual inspection process. The length of time required to perform these types of inspections is highly variable, though, with accessibility to the lumber being the biggest factor.

To maximize the efficiency of the jobsite for performing the inspection, begin by sorting the rough green lumber by width as it comes off the saw, and stack each width separately on supports/stacking sticks spaced 2' on center. Leave approximately 2" gaps between each board in order to promote both vertical and lateral airflow. Airflow is paramount to proper drying, so the lumber stacks should be positioned so that airflow is not impeded; it is recommended to not place the stacks inside a barn, adjacent to a wall, in a wooded area dense with ground-level foliage, or within 3-4' of a neighboring stack. A pole barn with no walls can be an ideal place to air dry lumber, but if not available, tin placed on top of the stacks can be similarly beneficial in keeping excess rain off of the stacks. Tarps are specifically not recommended, because they tend to drape over the sides cutting off airflow.

Once the 2" lumber has dried to 19% moisture content or less (approximately 3-6 months depending on species, widths, and site conditions), remove the stacking sticks and restack the material in units of like widths staged far enough apart with sufficient room to be restacked during the inspection process. Keep these stacks of lumber dry and protected from the rain! TP will then inspect the material by flipping through these units of lumber piece by piece and will mark and tally the accepted pieces as we go.



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OFFICE USE ONLY	
ACCT #:	
INSP:	
INVOICING:	VIA EMAIL

CERTIFICATE INSPECTION SERVICE REQUEST FORM

FROM	(COMPANY NAME)	(CONTACT NAME)
BILLING ADDRESS	(STREET ADDRESS)	(CITY, ST, ZIP)
CONTACT INFO	(PHONE)	(EMAIL ADDRESS)
INSPECTION ADDRESS	(STREET ADDRESS)	(CITY, ST, ZIP)
JOBSITE CONTACT	(NAME)	(PHONE)
READY DATE:		

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

SIZE (TH X W)	MOISTURE (DRY/GRN)	SPECIES	APPROX # OF PCS	MIN. GRADE REQUIRED	WAIVERS	OFFICE USE ONLY	
						MARKING METHOD	GRADE RULE BOOK TO BE USED

REQUEST - Inspect the material described above and issue a certificate of grade based on the findings of the inspection.

INSPECTION, TRAVEL, & REPORT RATE (hourly):	
MINIMUM CHARGE (& REQUIRED RETAINER):	
ACTUAL TRAVEL EXPENSES & MILEAGE RATE OF:	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - A retainer is required before inspection work can be scheduled. Full payment is required within 30 days of the final invoice date and before the final report is issued. By completing, signing and returning this

form to Timber Products Inspection, Inc. ("TP"), you agree to indemnify and hold TP harmless from any claims, damages, charges, liabilities, demands, expenses, lawsuits or other obligations of any nature (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees and costs), that are threatened, asserted or secured against, or are incurred, sustained or suffered by TP in connection with, resulting from, arising out of, or incident to your acts or omissions.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** _____

Return via email to lumberdivision@tpinspection.com or by mail to 100 KEDRON DR, PEACHTREE CITY, GA 30269



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CREDIT CARD RETAINER PROCESSING REQUEST

DATE OF REQUEST: _____

CC#: _____

CARD EXP DATE: _____ CID#: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

TYPE OF CARD: _____

BILLED AMOUNT*: \$ _____ PLUS 3%

*Note: Credit card convenience fee of 3% added to billed amount

EMAIL COPY OF RECEIPT TO: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS

OFFICE USE ONLY

TP ACCT NAME & NO: _____

TP INVOICE/TRANSACTION NUMBER BEING PAID: _____