



A World Leader in Certification

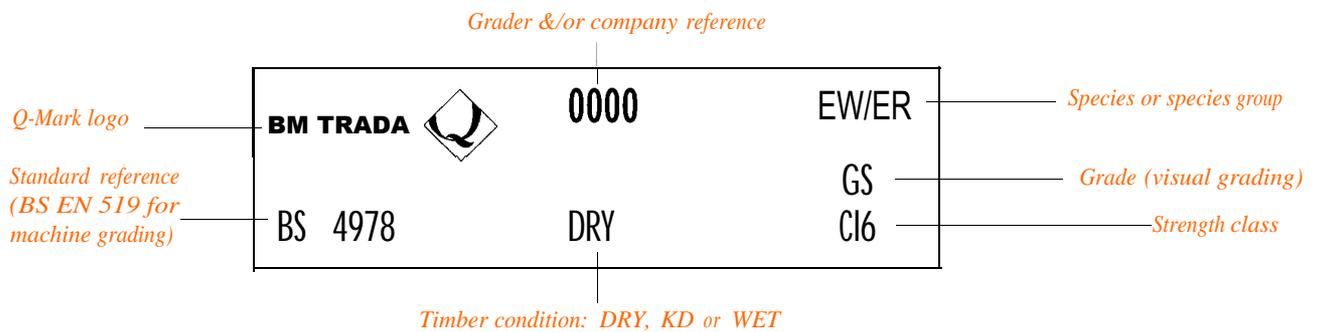
STRENGTH GRADED TIMBER

The Building Regulations require structural timber used in buildings to be strength graded and marked DRY or KILN DRIED. A grade mark should appear on all pieces of structural timber.

IF THERE IS NO GRADE MARK, THE PIECE MUST NOT BE USED for structural purposes.

BM TRADA Certification Limited¹ (BM TRADA) is marking the millennium by replacing the TRADAMARK with its successor, the Q-Mark. This brings the grade stamp logo in line with BM TRADA's other product certification schemes.

BM TRADA's mark for graded timber is:



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 & contact the UKTGC² or, if applicable, BM TRADA Certification¹
- Armed **with FACTS**, not just vague details, we **can ACT** to investigate your concerns and advise accordingly
- Remember, **NO STAMP, 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

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² The UK Timber Grading Committee (UKTGC), Clareville House, 26/27 Oxendon St, London, SW1Y 4EL UK. Tel: 020 7839 1891.

Suppliers and Customers
REMEMBER
"CHECK - GRADE - STAMP"

The Q-Mark logo will replace the TRADAMARK from 31.01.00. Timber stamped with the TRADAMARK before that date may remain in circulation for some months

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: What are the benefits of using DRY structural timber?

A: Greater strength
Easier handling and transportation
Better machining
Reduced 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; eg, 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: BS 5268: Part 2, and TRADA Wood Information Sheets, all available through TRADA, Tel: 01494 563091.

Q: Can wet timber be marked DRY on the basis that it will probably air dry to below 20% before reaching the customer?

A: No. Only timber that has a moisture content of 20% or less at the time of grading can be stamped DRY.

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, both of which should be marked WET.
Timber which cannot be marked for aesthetic reasons, in which case a grade certificate should be supplied with the timber.

Q: What should I do if there is no reference to either DRY or WET condition 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 are:

Size - mm	T1 - mm (Sawn)	T2 - mm (Machined)
≤ 100	+3 - 1	+1 - 1
> 100	+4 - 2	+1.5 - 1.5

(Measured at 20% moisture content. Allow 0.25% change in dimension for every 1% change in moisture content)