

West's New Mexico Statutes Annotated
Chapter 68. Timber
Article 6. Timber Grading Act

N. M. S. A. 1978, § 68-6-1

§ 68-6-1. Short title

Effective: June 20, 2025

[Currentness](#)

This act may be cited as the “Timber Grading Act”.

Credits

Added by [L. 2025, Ch. 49, § 1](#), eff. June 20, 2025.

NMSA 1978, § 68-6-1, NM ST § 68-6-1

Current through emergency chapters of the 2026 Second Regular Session of the 57th Legislature (2026) effective May 20, 2026.

The 2026 Second Regular Session convened on January 20, 2026.

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N. M. S. A. 1978, § 68-6-2

§ 68-6-2. Definitions

Effective: June 20, 2025

[Currentness](#)

As used in the Timber Grading Act:

- A. “building inspector” means a person certified by the construction industries division of the regulation and licensing department and certified by one or more trade bureaus to conduct inspections of permitted construction work to ensure that all work performed by a contractor or homeowner complies with applicable building codes;
- B. “certificate” means the document provided to a person after completion of a program that allows that person to engage in timber grading and labeling as a grader;
- C. “division” means the forestry division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department;
- D. “grader” means the owner of a sawmill or a person employed by a sawmill who is certified to inspect, grade and label structural timber at that sawmill;
- E. “label” means a document that provides information on the grade of structural timber that was milled in-state;
- F. “program” means the structural timber grading certificate program; and
- G. “structural timber” means dimensional lumber, structural beams and vigas milled in-state.

Credits

Added by [L. 2025, Ch. 49, § 2, eff. June 20, 2025](#).

NMSA 1978, § 68-6-2, NM ST § 68-6-2

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N. M. S. A. 1978, § 68-6-3

§ 68-6-3. Division powers and duties; structural timber grading system;
structural timber grading certificate program; structural timber grading certificate

Effective: June 20, 2025

[Currentness](#)

A. The division shall:

- (1) create a structural timber grading certificate program accessible to sawmill owners and the employees of sawmills to provide training on structural timber grading and labeling. The program may be provided by a public post-secondary educational institution;
- (2) develop a state-specific system to grade and label structural timber based on the system used by the American lumber standard committee;
- (3) issue a structural timber grading certificate to a person who completes the program; and
- (4) promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of the Timber Grading Act, including for the:
 - (a) awarding of certificates;
 - (b) training components of the program;
 - (c) qualification of program instructors; and
 - (d) grounds and processes for the suspension or revocation of certificates.

B. The division may charge a fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the issuance of a certificate.

C. A certificate shall include the name of the recipient and the date of issuance and shall expire after five years.

D. The division may suspend or revoke a certificate for good cause as provided by rule. The grader shall be given notice of the reason for suspension or revocation and given the opportunity for a hearing. Procedures for the notice, hearing and final

decision shall be provided by rule in conformity with the Uniform Licensing Act. A final agency decision may be appealed as provided in [Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978](#).

Credits

Added by [L. 2025, Ch. 49, § 3, eff. June 20, 2025](#).

NMSA 1978, § 68-6-3, NM ST § 68-6-3

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N. M. S. A. 1978, § 68-6-4

§ 68-6-4. Structural timber grading label; use of structural timber in construction

Effective: June 20, 2025

[Currentness](#)

A. A grader shall prepare a label for structural timber that has been graded and shall provide the label to the purchaser of the structural timber. The label shall include the following information:

- (1) the name of the grader;
- (2) the name and location of the sawmill where the timber was processed;
- (3) the name of the timber species;
- (4) the quantity and type of structural timber that was graded and labeled;
- (5) the location where the timber is to be used;
- (6) the date that the timber was cut and processed;
- (7) the date on which the timber was graded; and
- (8) the moisture content of the timber at the time of grading.

B. A grader shall only grade and label structural timber that the grader has processed at the sawmill the grader owns or is employed by.

C. Structural timber that has been graded and certified in-state may be used in all residential and commercial buildings in the state.

D. The end user of structural timber that has been graded and labeled in-state shall provide the label to the building inspector in lieu of a grade stamp, and the label shall be accepted as proof of grading. Timber that has been graded and labeled in-state is equivalent to structural timber grade stamped by an accredited lumber grading or inspection agency.

Credits

Added by [L. 2025, Ch. 49, § 4](#), eff. June 20, 2025.

NMSA 1978, § 68-6-4, NM ST § 68-6-4

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