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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2007 Wisconsin Act 208**  
[2007 Senate Bill 28]

**Use of Custom-Milled Lumber in  
Residential Construction**

### USE OF UNGRADED LUMBER

Under current law, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) has authority to establish construction standards for one- and two-family and multi-family dwellings. All building materials used in these dwellings must conform to certain construction standards. Commerce standards require lumber used in the construction of these dwellings to be tested and approved, or “graded,” according to national standards.

Act 208 provides that ungraded lumber may be used in a one- or two-family or multi-family dwelling if all of the following requirements are met:

- The lumber is milled at the request of the owner of the lumber for use in his or her own dwelling or the person milling the lumber sells it directly to a person for use in construction of his or her own dwelling.
- The person milling the lumber certifies in writing that the lumber meets or exceeds the requirements of the applicable dwelling code. The person must possess a certificate of accomplishment showing that he or she is certified under the lumber grading training program described below.
- A building inspector authorizes use of the lumber. The inspector may impose construction restrictions for use of the lumber that are more stringent than the requirements of the applicable building code.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

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**Lumber Grading Training Program**

Act 208 directs the forest products outreach program at the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Stevens Point to establish a basic lumber grading training program in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and to offer the program through the UW-Extension on an annual basis.

The faculty of the forestry outreach program, in cooperation with a DNR employee selected by the DNR secretary, must develop and establish the content of the training program and determine the certification requirements for program instructors. The DNR employee selected by the secretary must be knowledgeable in the marketing of forest products. The program must provide certificates to individuals who successfully complete the course, valid for five years.

The DNR employee selected by the DNR secretary may exempt a person from the training program and issue a certificate authorizing the person to grade lumber if the person has either of the following:

- A bachelor's or postgraduate degree in forest products or wood science and technology, or a degree that is equivalent to either of these degrees.
- A level of experience or background in understanding wood properties, construction, and design that is equivalent to the level of understanding held by an individual who successfully completes the training program.

***Effective Date:*** The Act took effect on April 22, 2008.

***Prepared by:*** Mary Matthias, Senior Staff Attorney

April 25, 2008

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