Moisture Management & Grade Recovery Program

A New Vision to Improve Profits through Improvements in the Lumber Drying Process – Beyond a Set of New Tools
Moisture Management & Grade Recovery Program
Allowing You to Maximize Lumber Value

A paradigm shift is occurring in the way that mills are looking at lumber drying, and Wagner Meters is at the forefront of this shift. Tapping into a wealth of resources, Wagner Meters has worked closely over the last five years with industry experts Tom Maness and Catalin Ristea of the University of British Columbia, and Mike Milota of Oregon State University. The outcome: Wagner Meters’ breakthrough Moisture Management and Grade Recovery (MMGR) Program.

Having gone from visionary to reality, the MMGR Program utilizes a revolutionary patent and a new pending patent to bring a common-sense financial approach to the drying of softwood lumber.

Analyze

- Identify the maximum value point for each charge of lumber by determining the “Sweet Spot” for each kiln charge.
- Determine Your “Sweet Spot Target” moisture content.

Optimize

- Evaluate the “Sweet Spot Variability” for each of your kilns.
- Maximize the “Sweet Spot” performance to bring additional value to the drying process.

Control

- Maintain maximum value of your lumber through various seasons and varying log diets by a continual feedback process.
Financial Impact:
Better Decisions = Better $ Results

Because incorrect data and statistics are often used, incorrect decisions about changes to kiln drying schedules lead to costly reductions in lumber grade. It can also cause an increase in drying-related energy costs, planer break-ups, and a decrease in kiln throughput.

Wagner Meters now has a methodology to optimize your lumber value and allows you to maintain the optimum lumber value over many varying conditions.

Additional Benefits MMGR

- Provides verification of proper functioning and calibration feedback for In-Kiln meters through all weather seasons and log diets.
- Shows kiln to kiln performance within the mill—Can characterize the performance of a new kiln.
- Deals with problematic non-normal distributions of drying data; eliminate wasteful time loss of chasing unreal drying problems due to improper data modeling.
- Consultants are available when needed to solve problems and to provide assistance and to improve results.
- Mills can benchmark their drying performance based on data from other mills. (Wagner Meters does not share specific mill data unless authorized to do so.)
- Insures continuous use of moisture management tools and processes within the mill.
- Increases kiln throughput and reduces energy costs per charge.

Bottom Line

Customized program levels — from standard monitoring to advanced diagnostic procedures; confirm a high rate of return for each MMGR dollar that you are investing while only paying for what you need.

“In a study* on white fir published in 1997, we determined that $3.23/mbf of lumber value was lost for each percent moisture content decrease. Even in a $300/mbf market this would be well over $2/mbf loss for each percent moisture content decrease, or $400,000 per year to a mill drying 100 mmbf annually.”

-Michael Milota, Professor Oregon State University, Wood Science and Engineering Dept.

“My observation over 20 years of working with mills is that they do not relate planer mill moisture measurements to what happened in the production process. Many mills would greatly benefit by simply graphing kiln performance over time along with other process variables. SPC could provide additional benefits, however using traditional SPC to analyze drying data can often give misleading results because the data is not always normally distributed.”

-Michael Milota, Professor, Oregon State University, Wood Science and Engineering Dept.