

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JESSE H. JONES, Secretary
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
LYMAN J. BRIGGS, Director

National Bureau of Standards

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OAK FLOORING (EXPORTS)

COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS56E-41

Effective Date for New Orders Beginning February 5, 1941



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A RECORDED VOLUNTARY STANDARD
OF THE TRADE

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1941

PROMULGATION
of
COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS56E-41
for
OAK FLOORING (EXPORTS)

On November 20, 1939, the National Oak Flooring Manufacturers' Association requested the establishment of a commercial standard for exports of white- and red-oak flooring. The proposed standard was submitted to a number of buyers in foreign countries for comment, and following suitable adjustments the draft was circulated to manufacturers and exporters for written acceptance. Those concerned have since accepted and approved for promulgation by the United States Department of Commerce, through the National Bureau of Standards, the export standard as shown herein.

This standard is effective for new export orders beginning February 5, 1941.

Promulgation recommended.

I. J. Fairchild,
Chief, Division of Trade Standards.

Promulgated.

Lyman J. Briggs,
Director, National Bureau of Standards.

Promulgation approved.

Jesse H. Jones,
Secretary of Commerce.

OAK FLOORING (EXPORTS)

COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS56E-41

PURPOSE

1. The purpose is to establish a dependable standard specification for oak flooring exported from the United States of America. General adoption and use of this standard will facilitate the procurement of standard grades and sizes, provide a common ground for transactions between manufacturers, exporters, importers, and consumers, and set forth a uniform basis for guaranteeing compliance through the use of labels or certification.

SCOPE

2. This standard provides minimum specifications for three grades of quarter-sawed and four grades of plain-sawed white-oak and red-oak flooring for export trade. It covers standard dimensions for length, width, and thickness of tongue-and-grooved and square-edged strip flooring. It also covers defects, bundling, and a method of certifying compliance with the standard. The grades and sizes, as covered by this standard, are identical with those used for domestic trade in the United States of America, as recorded in Commercial Standard CS56-41.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3. All commercial export standard oak flooring, except square-edged strips, shall be tongued, grooved, and end-matched, in accordance with the standard dimensions shown in figures 1, 2, and 3. It shall be well manufactured and shall comply with the specifications herein contained.

DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

QUARTER-SAWED GRADES

4. *Clear.*—The face shall be practically free of defects, except that $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of bright sapwood will be permitted. The question of color shall not be considered. Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length, not to exceed 20 percent under 4 feet. Average length 5 feet.

5. *Sap clear.*—The face shall be practically free of defects, but unlimited bright sapwood will be permitted. The question of color shall not be considered. Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length, not to exceed 20 percent under 4 feet. Average length 5 feet.

6. *Select.*—The face may contain sapwood, and will admit pinworm holes, streaks, slight imperfections in working, or a small tight knot, not to exceed one to every 3 feet in length. Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length. Average length 4 feet.

PLAIN-SAWED GRADES

7. *Clear*.—The face shall be practically free of defects, except that $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of bright sapwood will be permitted. The question of color shall not be considered. Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length, not to exceed 20 percent under 4 feet. Average length 5 feet.

8. *Select*.—The face may contain sapwood and will admit pinworm holes, streaks, slight imperfections in working, or a small tight knot, not to exceed one to every 3 feet in length. Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length. Average length 4 feet.

9. *No. 1 Common*.—Shall be of such nature as to enable the laying of a sound floor without cutting. Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length. Average length 3 feet.

10. *No. 2 Common*.—May contain defects of any character, but shall be of such nature as to enable the laying of a serviceable floor. Bundles shall be $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet and up in length. Average length $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

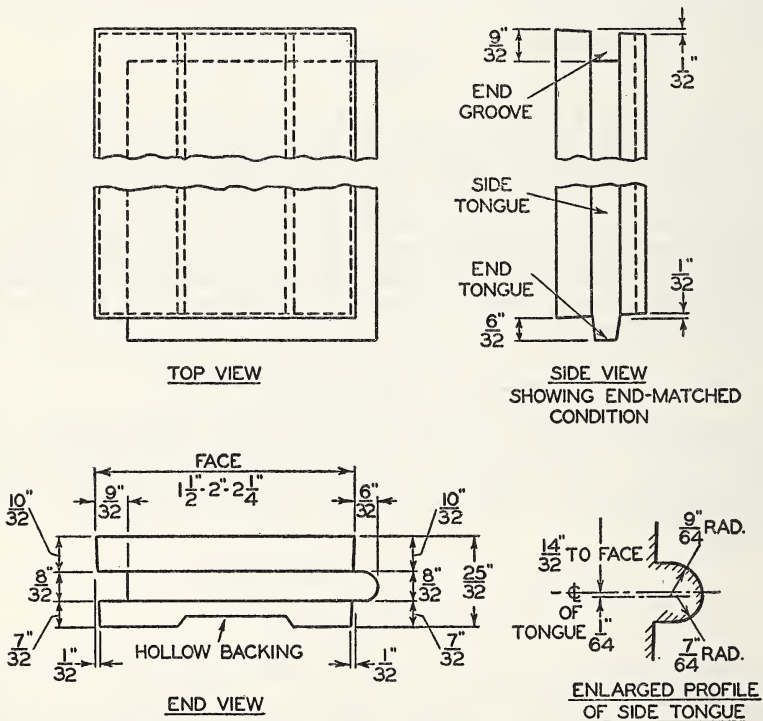


FIGURE 1.—Dimensions for $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch oak flooring.

Hollow backing. $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch flooring with $1\frac{1}{2}$ -, 2- and $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch faces shall have groove on back $\frac{3}{32}$ inch deep; $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and 1 inch wide, respectively; with sides beveled $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

SQUARE-EDGED STRIP

11. Square-edged strip flooring is manufactured in "Clear," "Select," and "No. 1 Common" grades. The grading requirements shall be the same as those for like grades of quarter-sawed and plain-sawed flooring, except that bundling and lengths shall be as follows:

Clear.—Bundles shall be 3 feet and up in length. Average length 6 feet.

Select.—Bundles shall be 3 feet and up in length. Average length 5 feet.

No. 1 Common.—Bundles shall be 2 feet and up in length. Average length 4 feet.

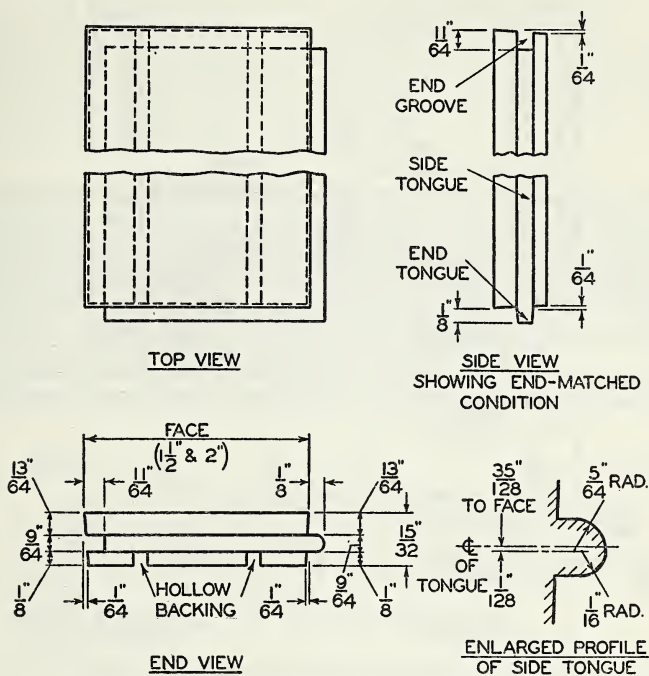


FIGURE 2.—Dimensions for $1\frac{5}{32}$ -inch oak flooring.

Hollow backing. $1\frac{5}{32}$ -inch flooring with $1\frac{1}{2}$ - and 2-inch faces shall have two square grooves on back, each $\frac{1}{8}$ inch deep, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide, and spaced 1 inch center to center.

STANDARD THICKNESSES AND WIDTHS

12. Tongued, grooved, and end-matched.

Thickness (inch)	Face width (inches)
$2\frac{5}{32}$ -----	$1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{4}$, $3\frac{1}{4}$.
$1\frac{5}{32}$ -----	$1\frac{1}{2}$, 2.
$1\frac{1}{32}$ -----	$1\frac{1}{2}$, 2.

13. Square-edged.

Thickness (inch)	Face width (inches)
$\frac{5}{16}$ -----	$\frac{7}{8}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{8}$, $1\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{3}{4}$, 2.

Also made rough back $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thickness; $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and 2-inch face. All faces shown above in $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch square-edged flooring are finished $\frac{1}{64}$ inch over face.

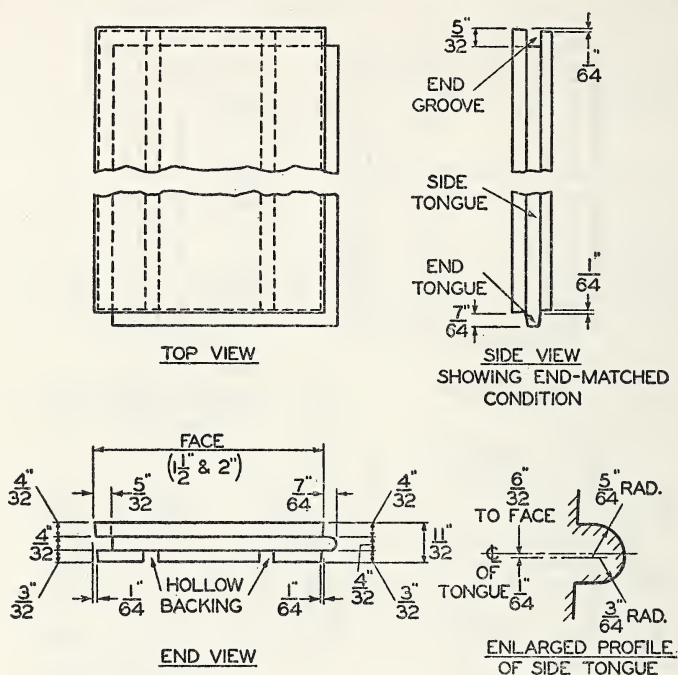


FIGURE 3.—Dimensions for $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch oak flooring.

Hollow backing. $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch flooring with $1\frac{1}{2}$ - and 2-inch faces shall have two square grooves on back, each $\frac{3}{32}$ inch deep, $\frac{3}{32}$ inch wide, and spaced $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch center to center.

BUNDLING

14. Oak flooring is bundled by averaging the lengths. A bundle may include pieces from 6 inches under to 6 inches over the nominal length of the bundle.

15. The percentages under 4 feet referred to in this standard apply to total footage (board feet) in any one shipment of the item.

MEASUREMENT

16. *Thickness.*—In computing the footage of standard oak flooring, a thickness of 1 inch shall be used.

17. *Width.*—Tongue-and-grooved flooring $2\frac{5}{32}$ inch thick is counted as $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wider than the actual face width, whereas flooring $1\frac{5}{32}$ inch and $1\frac{1}{32}$ inch thick is counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wider than the actual face width. Square-edged strip flooring shall be measured as of the actual face width.

18. *Length.*—The length of end-matched flooring is counted as $\frac{3}{4}$ inch longer than the actual length.

CERTIFICATION

19. In order to assure the purchaser that he is getting oak flooring of the grade specified, it is expected that producers will individually, or in concert with their trade association, issue a certificate of grade with each shipment, or grade and trade-mark each piece or bundle as conforming to this established standard. The National Oak Flooring Manufacturers' Association has adopted the label shown below, by which the manufacturer and the association, individually and jointly, certify full compliance with this standard.



EFFECTIVE DATE

The standard is effective for new export orders beginning February 5, 1941.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The following individuals comprise the membership of the standing committee, which is to review, prior to circulation for acceptance, revisions proposed to keep the standard abreast of progress. Each organization nominated its own representatives. Comment concerning the standard and suggestions for revision, may be addressed to any member of the committee or to the Division of Trade Standards, National Bureau of Standards, which acts as secretary for the committee:

- RALPH E. HILL (chairman), National Oak Flooring Manufacturers Association, 830 Dermon Building, Memphis, Tenn.
 J. G. SMITH, Arkansas Oak Flooring Co., 2200 West Fifth Avenue, Pine Bluff, Ark.
 C. ARTHUR BRUCE, E. L. Bruce Co., P. O. Box 397, Memphis, Tenn.
 L. C. AILOR, Miller Brothers Co., East Walnut Street, Johnson City, Tenn.
 J. C. TURNER, W. M. Ritter Lumber Co., 115 East Rich Street, Columbus, Ohio.

HISTORY OF PROJECT

On November 20, 1939, the National Oak Flooring Manufacturers' Association requested the cooperation of the National Bureau of Standards in the establishment of a commercial standard for oak flooring exported from the United States of America. A draft of the proposed standard was referred to a number of foreign countries for comment, through the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

After the requirements were harmonized and adjusted so that the draft represented the composite views of those interested, the recommended commercial standard was circulated on August 19, 1940, to the trade for written acceptance.

Upon receipt of official acceptance, estimated to represent a satisfactory majority of the export volume of oak flooring, and in the absence of active, valid opposition, the success of the project was announced on December 5, 1940, to become effective for new export orders beginning February 5, 1941.

ACCEPTANCE OF COMMERCIAL STANDARD

If acceptance has not previously been filed, this sheet properly filled in, signed, and returned will provide for the recording of your organization as an acceptor of this commercial standard.

Date -----

Division of Trade Standards,
National Bureau of Standards,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Having considered the statements on the reverse side of this sheet, we accept the Commercial Standard CS56E-41 as our standard of practice in the

Production ¹

Distribution ¹

of oak flooring (exports).

We will assist in securing its general recognition and use, and will cooperate with the standing committee to effect revisions of the standard when necessary.

Signature of individual officer -----
(In ink)

(Kindly typewrite or print the following lines)

Name and title of above officer -----

Organization -----
(Fill in exactly as it should be listed)

Street address -----

City and State -----

¹ Please designate which group you represent by drawing a line through the other one. Please file separate acceptances for all subsidiary companies and affiliates which should be listed separately as acceptors. In the case of related interests desiring to record their general approval, the words "in principle" should be added after the signature.

Cut on this line

TO THE ACCEPTOR

The following statements answer the usual questions arising in connection with the acceptance and its significance:

1. *Enforcement.*—Commercial standards for exports are commodity specifications voluntarily established by mutual consent of those concerned. They present a common basis for understanding between the producer, distributor, and consumer and should not be confused with any plan of governmental regulation or control. The United States Department of Commerce has no regulatory power in the enforcement of their provisions, but their provisions through usage soon become established as trade customs, and are made effective through incorporation into sales contracts by means of labels, invoices, and the like.

2. *The acceptor's responsibility.*—The purpose of commercial standards is to establish for specific commodities, nationally recognized grades or consumer criteria and the benefits therefrom will be measurable in direct proportion to their general recognition and actual use. Instances will occur when it may be necessary to deviate from the standard and the signing of an acceptance does not preclude such departures; however, such signature indicates an intention to follow the commercial standard where practicable, in the production or exportation of the article in question.

3. *The Department's responsibility.*—The major function performed by the Department of Commerce in the voluntary establishment of commercial standards for exports on a Nation-wide basis is fourfold: first, to act as an unbiased coordinator to bring all interested parties together for the mutually satisfactory adjustment of trade standards; second, to supply such assistance and advice as past experience with similar programs may suggest; third, to canvass and record the extent of acceptance and adherence to the standard on the part of producers and exporters; and fourth, after acceptance, to publish and promulgate the standard for the information and guidance of buyers and sellers of the commodity.

4. *Announcement and promulgation.*—When the standard for exports has been endorsed by a satisfactory majority of production in the absence of active, valid opposition, the success of the project is announced. If, however, in the opinion of the standing committee or the Department of Commerce, the support of any standard is inadequate, the right is reserved to withhold promulgation and publication.

ACCEPTORS

The organizations and individuals listed below have accepted these grading rules as their standard of practice in the production and distribution of oak flooring for export. Such endorsement does not signify that they may not find it necessary to deviate from the standard, nor that producers so listed guarantee all of their products in this field to conform with the requirements of this standard. Therefore, specific evidence of compliance should be obtained where required.

ASSOCIATIONS

National Lumber Exporters Association,
The, Memphis, Tenn.
National Oak Flooring Manufacturers
Association, Memphis, Tenn.

FIRMS

Anderson, O. S., Rockford, Ill.
Angel & Co., J., New York, N. Y.
Arkansas Oak Flooring Co., Pine Bluff,
Ark.
Barnes Lumber Corporation, Charlottesville,
Va.
Bond-Woolf & Co., Alcoa, Tenn.
Bradley Lumber Co. of Arkansas,
Warren, Ark.
Briggs Lumber & Manufacturing Co.,
Chas. A., Scottsdale, Pa.
Brown, David, New York, N. Y.
Bruce Co., E. L., Memphis, Tenn.
Chapman & Dewey Lumber Co.,
Memphis, Tenn.
Colonial Hardwood Flooring Co., Hag-
erstown, Md.
Cook Co., A. B., Malvern, Ark.
Crossett Lumber Co., Crossett, Ark.
Dierks Lumber & Coal Co., Kansas
City, Mo.
Eaglesfield Flooring Co., Indianapolis,
Ind.
Elco Lumber Co., Inc., Norfolk, Va.
Fordyce Lumber Co., Fordyce, Ark.
Green Lumber Co., The, Laurel, Miss.
Griffith Stave Co., Geo. C., Springfield,
Mo.
Harris Hardwood Co., Inc., Roanoke,
Va.
Harris Manufacturing Co., Johnson
City, Tenn.
Hickson-Rogers Manufacturing Co.,
Paragould, Ark.
Hutton & Bourbonnais Co., Hickory,
N. C.
Inlaid Floor Co., San Francisco, Calif.
James Lumber Co., Boston, Mass.

Kellogg Lumber Co., Monroe, La.
Kentucky Flooring Co. of Virginia,
Inc., Orange, Va.
Lanham Hardwood Flooring Co., Louis-
ville, Ky.
Leaman, W. & A., New York, N. Y.
Lightsey Brothers, Miley, S. C.
Long-Bell Lumber Co., The, Kansas
City, Mo.
Louisiana Central Oak Flooring Corpo-
ration, Monroe, La.
Marsh Lumber Co., Inc., Dover, Ohio.
McMinnville Manufacturing Co., Mc-
Minnville, Tenn.
Meadow River Lumber Co., The,
Rainelle, W. Va.
Merit Oak Flooring Co., Birmingham,
Ala.
Miller Brothers Co., Johnson City,
Tenn.
Montgomery Oak Flooring Co., Mont-
gomery, Ala.
Nickey Brothers, Inc., Memphis, Tenn.
North American Wood Products Cor-
poration, New York, N. Y.
Overseas Lumber Co., Inc., New York,
N. Y.
Owen Co., R. C., Hopkinsville, Ky.
Ozark Oak Flooring Co., Bismarck,
Mo.
Peerless Flooring Co., High Point, N. C.
Price & Heald, Baltimore, Md.
Priest Lumber Co., Inc., Norfolk, Va.
Rex Lumber Co., Graceville, Fla.
Schell-Sasse Manufacturing Co., Jack-
sonville, Fla.
Schofield, Ernest J., New Orleans, La.
Seyler Lumber Co., Blufield, W. Va.
Southern Lumber Co., Warren, Ark.
Stowers Lumber & Manufacturing Co.,
Harriman, Tenn.
Tennessee Flooring Co., Knoxville,
Tenn.
Texas Oak Flooring Co., Dallas, Tex.
White Brothers, San Francisco, Calif.
Wrape Stave Co., Inc., W. R., Little
Rock, Ark.

COMMERCIAL STANDARDS

CS No.	Item	CS No.	Item
0-40.	Commercial standards and their value to business (third edition).	51-35.	Marking articles made of silver in combination with gold.
1-32.	Clinical thermometers (second edition).	52-35.	Mohair pile fabrics (100-percent mohair plain velvet, 100-percent mohair plain frieze, and 50-percent mohair plain frieze).
2-30.	Mopsticks.	53-35.	Colors and finishes for cast stonc.
3-40.	Stoddard solvent (third edition).	54-35.	Mattresses for hospitals.
4-29.	Staple porcelain (all-clay) plumbing fixtures.	55-35.	Mattresses for institutions.
5-40.	Pipe nipples; brass, copper, steel, and wrought iron.	56-41.	Oak flooring (second edition).
6-31.	Wrought-iron pipe nipples (second edition). Superseded by CS5-40.	56E-41.	Oak flooring (exports).
7-29.	Standard weight malleable iron or steel screwed unions.	57-40.	Book cloths, buckrams, and impregnated fabrics for bookbinding purposes except library bindings (second edition).
8-41.	Gage blanks (third edition).	58-36.	Woven elastic fabrics for use in overalls (overall elastic webbing).
9-33.	Builders' template hardware (second edition).	59-41.	Woven textile fabrics—testing and reporting (third edition).
10-29.	Brass pipe nipples. Superseded by CS5-40.	60-36.	Hardwood dimension lumber.
11-29.	Regain of mercerized cotton yarns.	61-37.	Wood-slat venetian blinds.
12-40.	Fuel oils (fifth edition).	62-38.	Colors for kitchen accessories.
13-39.	Dress patterns (second edition).	63-38.	Colors for bathroom accessories.
14-39.	Boys' button-on waists, shirts, junior and polo shirts (made from woven fabrics) (second edition).	64-37.	Walnut veneers.
15-29.	Men's pajamas.	65-38.	Wool and part-wool fabrics.
16-29.	Wall paper.	66-38.	Marking of articles made wholly or in part of platinum.
17-32.	Diamond core drill fittings (second edition).	67-38.	Marking articles made of karat gold.
18-29.	Hickory golf shafts.	68-38.	Liquid hypochlorite disinfectant, deodorant, and germicide.
19-32.	Foundry patterns of wood (second edition).	69-38.	Pine oil disinfectant.
20-36.	Staple vitreous china plumbing fixtures (second edition).	70-41.	Phenolic disinfectant (emulsifying type) (second edition) (published with CS71-41).
21-39.	Interchangeable ground-glass joints, stop-cocks, and stoppers (fourth edition).	71-41.	Phenolic disinfectant (soluble type) (second edition) (published with CS70-41).
22-40.	Builders' hardware (nontemplate) (second edition).	72-38.	Household insecticide (liquid spray type).
23-30.	Feldspar.	73-38.	Old growth Douglas fir standard stock doors.
24-30.	Standard screw threads.	74-39.	Solid hardwood wall paneling.
25-30.	Special screw threads.	75-39.	Automatic mechanical draft oil burners.
26-30.	Aromatic red cedar closet lining.	76-39.	Hardwood interior trim and molding.
27-36.	Mirrors (second edition).	77-40.	Sanitary cast-iron enameled ware.
28-32.	Cotton fabric tents, tarpaulins, and covers.	78-40.	Ground-and-polished lenses for sun glasses (second edition). (published with CS79-40).
29-31.	Staple seats for water-closet bowls.	79-40.	Blown, drawn, and dropped lenses for sun glasses (second edition) (published with CS78-40).
30-31.	Colors for sanitary ware.	80-41.	Electric direction signal systems other than semaphore type for commercial and other vehicles subject to special motor vehicle laws (after market).
31-38.	Wood shingles (fourth edition).	81-41.	Adverse-weather lamps for vehicles (after market).
31-31.	Cotton cloth for rubber and pyroxylin coating.	82-41.	Inner-controlled spotlamps for vehicles (after market).
32-32.	Knit underwear (exclusive of rayon).	83-41.	Clearance, marker, and identification lamps for vehicles (after market).
34-31.	Bag, case, and strap leather.	84-41.	Electric tail lamps for vehicles (after market).
35-31.	Plywood (hardwood and eastern red cedar).	85-41.	Electric license-plate lamps for vehicles (after market).
36-33.	Fourdrinier wire cloth (second edition).	86-41.	Electric stop lamps for vehicles (after market).
37-31.	Steel bone plates and screws.	87-41.	Red electric warning lanterns.
38-32.	Hospital rubber sheeting.	88-41.	Liquid-burning flares.
39-37.	Wool and part wool blankets (second edition).	89-40.	Hardwood stair treads and risers.
40-32.	Surgeons' rubber gloves.	90E-41.	Crawler mounted, revolving power shovels, lifting cranes, dragline and clamshell excavators (export classifications).
41-32.	Surgeons' latex gloves.	91-41.	Factory fitted Douglas fir entrance doors.
42-35.	Fiber insulating board (second edition).	92-41.	Cedar, cypress and redwood tank stock lumber.
43-32.	Grading of sulphonated oils.		
44-32.	Apple wraps.		
45-40.	Douglas fir plywood (domestic grades) (fourth edition).		
45E-36.	Douglas fir plywood (export grades).		
46-40.	Hosiery lengths and sizes (third edition).		
47-34.	Marking of gold-filled and rolled-gold-plate articles other than watch cases.		
48-40.	Domestic burners for Pennsylvania anthracite (underfeed type) (second edition).		
49-34.	Chip board, laminated chip board, and miscellaneous boards for bookbinding purposes.		
50-34.	Binders board for bookbinding and other purposes.		

NOTICE.—Those interested in commercial standards with a view toward accepting them as a basis of everyday practice may secure copies of the above standards, while the supply lasts, by addressing the Division of Trade Standards, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.