

### **BEARING PIECES**

It is essential for safe transport that the bearing pieces - because they carry and support the load in transit - are correctly located and carefully secured. Bearing pieces must be free from decay and strength-impairing knots. Laminated bearing pieces are not permitted unless AAR approved and stamped. Bearing pieces, separators and vertical stabilizers must be of uniform thickness and width for their entire length, unless otherwise provided for under a specific figure.

The width of its base must not be less than its height. The length must not be less than the width of the car as measured between the inside face of the stake pockets.

### **SEPARATORS:**

Lumber must be placed between layers of the load. Separators are preferably rough, although finished lumber is acceptable. Coated material is not acceptable as separators or bearing pieces. All separators in each layer must be of equal thickness.

The length of each separator must be equal to the width of the load but not extended beyond the side of the car.

It is recommended that all separators be cut to the width of the load as this gives the loading crew greater latitude in the placement of interlacing bands and removes the possibility of bands snagging on separators if the load shifts in transit.

### **VERTICAL STABILIZERS:**

Form the backbone of the load. Found mainly in lumber loads, they may be made of 2 in. x 4 in. or 2 in. x 6 in. material.