



# NEW ZEALAND TIMBER PRESERVATION COUNCIL *Incorporated*

PO Box 308, Wellington, Ph: +64-4 473 5200 Fax: +64+4 473 6536

Email: [inquiries@nztpc.co.nz](mailto:inquiries@nztpc.co.nz) Website: [www.nztpc.co.nz](http://www.nztpc.co.nz)

# NEWSLETTER **Issue 23 July 2006**

## CIRCULATE TO:

G.M.		Site Mgr		Plant Mgr		Plant Op		Sales Mgr	
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## Tank Certification

Most licensees have now returned their forms designating TPC as their test certifier for stationary containers.

Those who returned completed forms are up-to-date insofar as compliance with ERMA's HSNO requirements (Transfer Notice, Schedule 8) for certification of tanks is concerned. The next step is to have an assessment of the tanks and cylinders conducted by the end of March 2007.

We are currently in discussion with both ERMA and DOL to see whether it is possible to set up a programme of inspection and certification that will satisfy both of their requirements at the same time. The possibility of establishing a best practice guide and checklist that is acceptable to both is looking quite promising.

This follows comments recently by Minister Leanne Dalziel regarding the sensitive nature of the regulatory environment and I guess the political risks of industry having to comply with excessive regulation.

Shortly we will be in a position to appoint a suitable person to conduct the work that needs to be completed. He will then proceed to complete a status report on your treatment plant and whether or not it will comply with current legislation. The TPC has thought this necessary, in the first instance, to avoid unnecessary compliance costs; i.e. huge financial outlay only to be told it won't comply. The information in this report will then be fed to a HSNO "Test Certifier" to consider for certification.

If all this is achievable we expect there will be very significant cost savings for licensees as well as benefits in terms of consistency of certification across the country.

We will keep the licensees up-to-date with developments.

## NZS 3640

As advised in our last newsletter applications have been made to amend the standard to permit:

- Boron to be used in H3.1 at 0.8%.
- Copper naphthenate to be used in H3.1 at 0.05%.

The boron would need to be pre-primed at the treatment plants and both would need to be coated with a three coat paint system where used in exterior applications – fascia, weatherboards and exterior joinery. (This painting requirement is set out in NZS 3602).

No decision has been made on these applications yet. The standards committee considering the application was unable to reach a unanimous position re boron. Although the two members who objected to the boron have been withdrawn from the committee, Standards New Zealand is looking to retain an independent expert to review the data on boron with a view to making a final recommendation.

We have no idea yet when this process will be completed.

## Boron Analysis

We have held discussions with SGS and Veritec to discuss and agree on a consistent approach to spot testing and analysing boric treated timber.

The TPC has commissioned inter-laboratory comparative testing on a number of occasions in the past, not only for Boron but a whole range of chemicals and methods. We feel this is crucial in giving the treatment industry confidence in their own products and investment.

The outcome of discussions with SGS and Veritec has been the conclusion of a protocol which will be followed by the laboratories in testing boric treated timber. The protocol covers matters such as:

- Sample sizes.
- Moisture content.
- Application of reagent.
- Standing and waiting times.
- Segregation of sapwood from hardwood.
- Colour gradation.

Matters such as the reagents to be used are as specified in AS/NZS 1605.

TPC will be looking at whether the protocol should be included in AS/NZS 1605.

The preservative supply companies have been advised of the protocol. If you would like a copy please inquire at the TPC office.

## Approved Handlers Courses

Our next courses will be held in Rotorua and Christchurch on the following dates and venue.

14 August	9.00 – 1.30pm,	Commodore Airport Hotel, 449 Memorial Ave, Christchurch
18 August	12.00 – 4.00pm	Regal Geyserland, 424 Fenton Street, Rotorua

Remember all treatment plant sites should have at least one, preferably more than one, approved handler dependent on chemicals used. If you are unsure please contact Stefan for advice. This is required for compliance with HSNO.

The fee for the course and certification is:

TPC licensees \$200 + GST  
Non TPC licenses \$400 + GST

Please contact TPC office for an enrolment form.

## Verified Outdoor Treated Structural Timber G8

As you may be aware, changes have been made to the Timber Structures standard NZS 3603 (this standard outlines structural grades and stress values assigned to them) and the Timber Framed Buildings standard NZS 3604 (essentially this standard provides design information for timber framed buildings up to three stories high).

What you may not know is that these standards not only affect framing grades but also encompass outdoor treated timber used in structural applications; e.g. decking substructures. A grade called G8 has been established for timber used in these applications. This grade has had its structural properties verified in accordance with the new Verification of Timber Properties standard NZS3622. G8 grade is verified in a green moisture condition as it will be subject to these situations in service; e.g. it is exposed and can be wet.

If you do not verify your current N<sup>o</sup>1 Framing grade it will have its stress properties downgraded by about 25%. The unverified N<sup>o</sup>1 Framing grade can still be used but essentially more timber will need to be used for the same design as would be required with G8 grade.

To summarise, treated timber that will be used in an outdoor structural situation such as decking sub-frame can be verified or unverified. The designation for verified will be G8. For unverified it is N<sup>o</sup>1 Framing. Less timber of G8 will be required for a given structure than N<sup>o</sup>1 Framing. However G8 must be produced in accordance with a quality assurance programme.

If you think you may be affected by these changes, please call Hayden Frew, Verified Timber Limited 04 471 2424 for further information.

## CCA in Australia

The Australian labelling requirements came into force on 5 June 2006. CCA treated timber produced after this date should be labelled with the word "*Treated with copper, chrome, arsenate*".

If you are selling CCA treated timber into Australia you should ensure that you comply with this labelling requirement now.

It seems from discussions we have had with importers that the market has taken the lead with CCA treated timber. CCA decking in particular has been brought to a dead stop with merchants refusing to stock it.

## End-of-life Responsibilities

As mentioned in previous newsletters disposal of treated timber is becoming a major issue in Australia.

State governments, particularly NSW and Victoria are under pressure from environment groups to do something about waste disposal in general. As a result the governments are actively working towards joint initiatives with producers and suppliers. The emphasis of the state governments is on recovering of waste as far as possible and thereby reducing the mass of waste to be disposed. Victoria is looking to reduce the mass of waste by 60% by 2008/09 and by 75% by 2014. Areas of concern include oil based paint, CCA, creosote and LOSP treated timber which are not deemed to be recoverable. In NSW, CCA, creosote and coal tar are the only products licensed as "*waste only*" that is, non recoverable/recyclable.

Wasted wood is seen to be valuable in terms of recycling into mulch, heat and co-generation. The question is one of whether treated timber waste can be put to these uses and if not, how can it be separated from untreated wood. It seems that the debate is still at the most fundamental level, that is, given the relatively small volume of preservative in treated timber, is separation justified.

In NSW a product stewardship group has been set up to develop a strategy for dealing with treated timber waste.

## Promotional Activities

We are continuing with our programme to promote correct use of treated timber and recognition of the WOODmark® and what it stands for.

Our most recent presentations have been to staff at:

PlaceMakers, Napier  
Carters, Napier  
Benchmark, Napier and Hastings  
Mitre 10 Mega, Botany.

We also made a presentation to building control staff at Manukau City Council plus invited guests from building inspection firms. There were 40 plus people in attendance which gave us a good opportunity to discuss current issues with treated timber and to explain the WOODmark® programme.

## Sampling & Analysis

Due to the addition of new preservatives, core testing of Boron and LOSP timber and laboratory health and safety protocol, there has been a request from laboratories to present larger sample sizes. Should you send any samples for analysis the minimum requirements are as follows:

Boron Dry	10 @ 180 mm	(each sample)
Boron Wet	10 @ 50 mm	(each sample)
IPBC	2 x 10 @ 50 mm	(each sample)
Azole	2 x 10 @ 50 mm	(each sample)
TBTN/TBTO	2 x 10 @ 30 mm	(each sample)

The size of CCA, ACQ and CuAz samples remain the same.

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Licensees who require dowels for replacing sample holes can obtain these from:

Goodwood Industries  
12 Bolderwood Place  
Manukau City  
Ph: 09-279 9333  
Contact: Scott Taylor

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Last sampling round (second quarter) turned up a number of treatment plants either treating or intending to treat sapstained material. Licensees are reminded that this is not acceptable treating practice and certainly does not comply with the requirements as set out in the Timber Preservation Quality Manual (TPQM).

The condition of timber before treatment is set out in Appendix 5 of the TPQM. Please ensure that these are followed.

Our auditors will keep an eye on this next quarter.

Kevin Hing