



NEW ZEALAND TIMBER PRESERVATION COUNCIL

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NEWSLETTER

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Australian CCA Review

On 15 March 2005 the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) announced a phase-out of uses of CCA that it could not be confident are safe.

This was the major announcement in a package that concluded its review of arsenic timber treatments that commenced in 2003.

In summary, the APVMA has announced:

- ❑ Timber treatment facilities are to be designed and operated to meet appropriate Australian standards.
- ❑ Product labels to be varied such that uses of CCA treated timber are not permitted for timber intended for use as garden furniture, picnic tables, exterior seating, children's play equipment, patio and domestic decking and handrails.
- ❑ Product labels to specify the permitted uses for CCA products.
- ❑ Product labels required for each piece of timber to be clearly identified as having been treated with CCA (except where timber is supplied and therefore marked as a pack).
- ❑ Product labels to include more detailed instructions for application, mixing and

vacuum/pressure operations, management of freshly treated timber, management of liquids, sludge or waste material containing CCA residues, protection of wildlife, fish, crustaceans and the environment and storage and disposal.

- ❑ CCA treated timber products to be declared restricted chemical products. Supply and use to be restricted to persons with special skills and knowledge achieved through authorised training. Supply to be restricted to treatment facilities complying with appropriate standards.
- ❑ Registrants (chemical companies) to submit specific worker exposure data.
- ❑ The APVMA has no jurisdiction over existing structures using CCA treated timber, especially children's playgrounds and so makes no recommendations. However, APVMA will consult with and provide data from the review to appropriate agencies. APVMA noted that to date US, Canadian and European authorities had not recommended dismantling existing structures though the US EPA is conducting an extensive assessment at the present time.

David Loschke of APVMA attended “*Preserving the Future*” and explained the background that led to APVMA reaching its position. In terms of science he advised that the APVMA had inadequate exposure data but arrived at its conclusion based on studies conducted at 20 sites in Washington D.C.

The other “critical points” were:

- ❑ Arsenic is a proven human carcinogen.
- ❑ The mechanism for transferring arsenic from wood products to humans is not understood.
- ❑ The most at risk group is children.
- ❑ Product variability contributes to unreliability of data.

APVMA “could not determine, for Australian conditions, whether or not exposure to CCA

treated timber posed an unacceptable public health risk for some specified uses”.

APVMA did recognise that exposure to arsenic from CCA treated timber would amount to about 0.10 to 0.15 mg/day per kilogram of body weight in children of 3-5 years compared to 0.5mg/day from natural sources and the 2.0mg/day daily tolerable limit set by WHO.

However, in response to “community expectations”, APVMA has concluded that “it is not satisfied that there is no undue risk....”

The TPC says that the APVMA has got it wrong. By its own figures children’s exposure to arsenic from CCA treated decks and playgrounds amounts to just 6% of the tolerable daily limit set by World Health Organisation. Exposure from natural sources, including water and food, amounts to 25% of the WHO limit. Where is the logic for restricting the use of CCA treated timber?

“*Preserving the Future*”

We had a successful conference on 17-18 March with an attendance of about 80 hearing presentations on a whole range of topics covering:

- ❑ Compliance matters (RMA, OSH, Best Practice Guideline and TPQM).
- ❑ New product developments and industry trends.

We hope to be able to post copies of the various addresses on our website, www.nztpc.co.nz. If this is not possible, copies will be available on request.

In summary, the presentations covered the following subjects:

- ❑ Kevin Hing summarised the history, objects and content of the Best Practice Guideline and indicated its probable publication in May.
- ❑ Brent Sinclair of Environment Waikato illustrated with several examples his concerns about CCA fixation and pointed to future concerns about air emissions.
- ❑ Graeme Claridge, Koppers Arch, and Ian Southen, Osmose, reported on their recent experiences with obtaining all necessary consents for construction of new treatment plant sites.
- ❑ Ross Hodder of OSH discussed compliance with the HSE and OSH focus on “all practicable steps” to achieve compliance. He noted that solvent effects of LOSP treated timber is gaining some attention and urged the industry to resolve this.
- ❑ Brian Watts, ERMA, spoke about the industry’s good progress with certifications of approved handlers and earmarked the need for certification of tanks/cylinders in the next twelve months.

- ❑ Peter Cobham, Koppers Arch, spoke about his interpretation of future trends, needs and threats to timber treatment in terms of relative merits of aqueous and non aqueous preservatives, stakeholder needs, threats to timber preservation and product differentiation.
- ❑ Bob Frost, Tasman KB, discussed the Australian market and what it was saying about the future for treated timber in various product categories including decking, claddings, framing, roundwood and structural F7.
- ❑ Dr Mick Hedley, Forest Research Institute, spoke about the issues facing LOSP treatment, particularly health and safety and the environment.
- ❑ Terry Smith, Osmose, spoke about new preservative products and shortening the gap between innovation and commercialisation.
- ❑ Howard Tonge, Ahead Lumber, reported on progress with the revisions of treatment standards in New Zealand and Australia including the role of standards in the promotion of innovation.
- ❑ Ron Eddy, Tim Tech, reported new developments with rapid fixation, wood hardening and colouring and fire retardants. He noted the impact of competition in the preservative supply industry and its effects in engendering innovation in the industry.
- ❑ Des Chan, Veritec, described the work his organisation was undertaking to develop a reliable system to analyse IPBC in wood.
- ❑ David Loschke, APVMA, described the reasoning adopted in its CCA review. He acknowledged the low level of exposure to arsenic from treated wood relative to food, water and other sources but noted the APVMA needed to recognise “community expectation” and make a value judgement. He agreed that if the industry was able to present robust data from Australian based studies APVMA may alter its position. In discussion that followed on Dr Loschke’s presentation, those in attendance were asked to support continued industry action to overturn the APVMA decision.
- ❑ Stefan Jasinski reported the review of the TPQM and highlighted the more significant modifications to the manual.
- ❑ Hayden Frew and Brent Coffey presented proposals for treated timber projects involving market development for treated timber in China and a premium decking system respectively.
- ❑ Cameron Scott, Kop-Coat, discussed future developments with boric treatment for value added products and hazard class H3.
- ❑ Ken Witzel, Osmose USA, gave an informative insight into computer based control systems for the total timber preservation process – from mixing to treatment to stock holding.
- ❑ Huck De Vensio, Koppers Arch USA, discussed recent developments in timber preservative acceptance in the USA and lessons that could be learned from that in the New Zealand context.

WOODmark® Innovation Fund

In a bid to encourage market and product innovation for treated timber the TPC has introduced the WOODmark® Innovation Fund.

Under the Fund the TPC will consider any innovative proposals from licensees and/or preservative suppliers that are designed to benefit the timber treatment industry and create new opportunities. For any deserving proposals TPC will provide resources by way of information, advice, administrative and management support in kind including sourcing of funding assistance and third party support where it is available.

At "Preserving the Future" two proposals were reported covering development of a market in China for New Zealand treated timber and a revolutionary premium decking system.

We would welcome any new proposals that will create new opportunities for licensees.

Best Practice Guideline

The final draft of the BPG was considered at a meeting of the review committee on 23 March. Comments on the draft which was circulated in December 2004 had been received from various parties and were discussed. We are

looking to publish the BPG in May. All WOODmark® licensees will receive a copy of the BPG and it will be posted on a number of websites including www.nztpc.co.nz.

Our thanks go to the committee members who produced the BPG.

Jeremy Christmas
John Duncan
Stephen Coyle
Neil Mythen,
Steve Crimp
Tony Mason
Ross Grant
Peter Dawson/Tania van Maanen
Ross Hodder
Bruce Croucher
Steve Milne
Jim Jones
Tania Noah

Fibre-Gen (Convenor)
McAlpines Ltd
Ngahere Sawmilling Co Ltd
Tenon Ltd
Osmose NZ
Koppers Arch Wood Protection
Tim Tech Chemicals Ltd
ERMA
OSH
Local Government NZ
Engineering, Printing & Manufacturing Union
National Distribution Union
Forest Industries Training

Australian Standards

The suite of Australian standards, AS1604.1 and AS/NZS1604 pts 2 to 5 have been finalised and are due for publication shortly. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy should contact the TPC office.

A review of the standard for sampling and analysing preservatives and treated timber, AS/NZS1605:2000 is about to commence.

One issue is the method for extracting tin from treated wood. The current method specified

for TBTN is sonication, a method known not to be able to extract total tin in contrast to the reflux method specified for TBTO. The shortcomings of the sonication method can cause potential problems for New Zealand treaters in terms of the heavy cost of withdrawing "non compliant" timber from the market.

We shall be promoting the adoption of the reflux method for TBTN in the standard so that a more accurate reading can be achieved.

Promotions & Marketing

On our website, www.nztpc.co.nz, contains all the latest news affecting licensees plus important background information on the WOODmark® programme and a list of licensees.

During April we will be undertaking a nationwide roadshow at 15 venues from Whangarei to Invercargill. There seems to be some confusion about the use of timber framing and its identification and the roadshow is designed to clarify this as well as promoting the WOODmark®. Our target audience is territorial authorities, designers, frame and truss manufacturers, merchants and builders. Licensees are welcome to attend the presentations which are being conducted in partnership with Verified Timber Ltd.

Following on from last year, TPC again participated in the Building Officials Institute Conference with a display stand promoting WOODmark® treated timber. The object of the display was to ensure that building inspectors and building certifiers recognise the WOODmark® brand and what it stands for.



H5 House Pile Brands

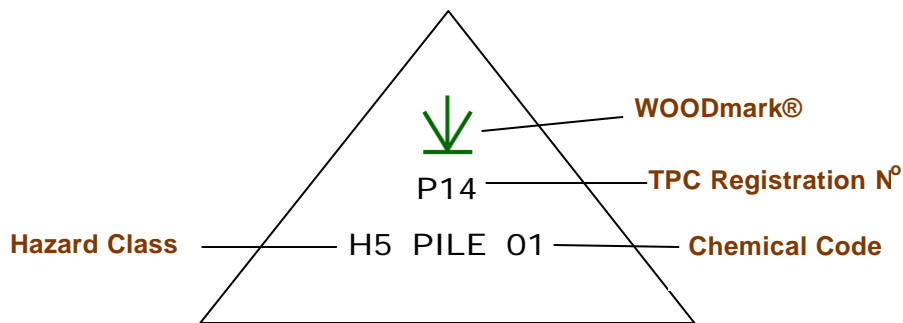
Falcon Engineering now have in stock 40 triangle pile brands available for purchase.

NZS3605 will be amended shortly to include changes to the house pile brands which has been re-formatted to include the chemical identification number. This gives compliance with NZS3605 and NZS3640 without having to end brand as well as face brand.

With these new brands all that is required is one brand on the face of house piles as they contain all the correct information.

Below is a list of licensees registered to treat H5 house piles.

Licensee	Pile Brand N°.	Licensee	Pile Brand N°.
Anderson & O'Leary	22	CHH Timber Kinleith	12
CHH Timber Nelson	15	Coville Sawmill Co	35
Croft Pole Distributors	03	Eastown Timber Products	05
Eurocell Sawmilling	44	Flight Timbers	36
Goldpine Industries	24	Great Southern	28
Great Southern – Oamaru	29	Great Southern – Ranfurly	39
Hollows Timber Co	19	Les O'Leary Ltd	10
McAlpines Ltd	27	McVicar Timber Ltd	16
Mitchell Bros	33	Mitchpine Products	21
Newfoundland Holdings	08	Ngahere Sawmilling	23
Permapine Ltd	11	Stuart Timber Co	20
T & J McIlwaine	06	Taranaki Sawmills	07
Tauranga ITM	34	Tenon Ltd	41
Tuakau Timber Treatment	04	Tumu Timber	18
Value Timber	31	Wood Enterprises	14



These new brands are available for \$250 + gst and are obtainable by contacting:

Falcon Engineering, SH3, Cnr Junction & Lepper Rds, PO Box 32, Inglewood
 Ph: (06) 756 8079; Fax: (06) 756 8075; www.falconengineering.co.nz

Species Suitability

Recently we have been aware of new species of timber being imported into New Zealand for treatment.

Licensees should be warned against treating new species that aren't backed up by scientific data proving the properties meet the penetration and retention requirements of NZS3640:2003.

No WOODmark® shall be applied to new species of treated timber without first consulting with the timber preservation council's technical committee.

Appendix 3, page 3, of the TPQM reminds licensees of the process required to follow when contemplating treating new species.

These new species may very well meet all expectations and standards and more times than not analysis will prove that to be the case, but should the timber fail in-situ I'm sure you can appreciate that the whole industry's reputation would once again suffer in an already sensitive treatment issue industry.

So, if you are looking to treat a new species please contact us first to see whether it is already approved or not. If it hasn't been approved we need to have test data supplied to us to ensure that retention and penetration requirements are met.

Regards

Kevin Hing



The first sampling round for the year has been completed.

The results of on site spot testing have been quite good. There were 73 lab analysis conducted of which 9 failed on either penetration or retention. Although the majority of analytical failures were marginal, this still gives an overall failure percentage rate of 12%. Our opinion is that this is too high and will be expecting a marked improvement on our next round.

	<i>N^o of Analysis</i>	<i>Failed Analysis</i>
H1.2	6	-
H3.1	21	4
H3.2	6	1
H4	29	4
H5	10	-
H6	1	-
Total	73	9

Just to remind you that IPBC analysis has been suspended pending development of a reliable means for testing. Instead, as you know sampling for this treatment formulations will be by weight retention basis for the time being. SGS Ltd & Veritec are working on a method at present to test for penetration of IPBC as well as a more accurate method of extraction.

Licensees are also reminded to pay special attention to the requirements of Appendix 2 in your new Timber Preservation Quality Manual (Sampling Schedules for all hazard classes). Samples will be checked upon our next site visit.

Please feel free to ask for any assistance with completing requirements in your new quality manual.

Regards

Stefan Jasinski