



NEW ZEALAND TIMBER PRESERVATION COUNCIL *Incorporated*

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NEWSLETTER

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CIRCULATE TO:

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

As the next step in this process we are about to reach agreement with a suitably qualified organisation to conduct assessments of the storage tanks and cylinders operated by those licensees who have nominated TPC as their certifier.

All going to plan, the assessments will be undertaken in February/March with a view to completion by 31 March 2007. The assessments will be conducted in accordance with a Code of Practice which TPC is developing for this purpose.

These procedures will all be recognised by ERMA and Department of Labour.

The TPC has worked tirelessly to try and achieve a simple but effective outcome for its licensees to help meet obligations of the HSNO Act and HSE Act legislations regarding Tank Certification.

Creating a "one stop" verification service that certifies compliance with both Acts is a difficult task as varied interpretation of some regulations take time to clarify and iron out. But this has been achieved and a standard protocol for tank certification is nearly ready to be put in place.

In simple terms the certification process will include an inspection by an Engineer/Test Certifier who will visually inspect your stationary container system for defects or non-compliance. A compliant site will be issued with a "Fitness for Purpose" report on its pressure vessels and also a HSNO "Stationary Container System" certificate.

Some assessments will identify defects or shortcomings that will need to be rectified. In such cases we will be able to assist in having a compliance plan written up for the approval of ERMA which will give licensees time to remedy any areas of non-compliance. TPC will also be able to recommend an engineer to conduct any remedial work.

At this stage, those licensees who have nominated TPC as their tank certifier don't need to take any action. We will be in contact early in the New Year to arrange for someone to visit your site to enable the assessments to be completed.

Azole Analyses

TPC is currently having comparative laboratory analyses of Azole formulations conducted. These tests are being undertaken in response to some isolated queries raised by treaters.

These analyses are being conducted on azole retention in the wood and in solution. The analyses are being conducted at nine laboratories in New Zealand and Australia.

Plant Audits

We commenced a programme of audits of licensees' plants earlier this year. The audits are being conducted against the provisions of the Best Practice Guideline for Safe Use of Timber Preservatives & Antisapstain Chemicals.

So far audits have been completed at 51 sites. The remaining sites will be audited in the first half of 2007.

Each audited site receives an audit report in which any short comings are identified for remedial action.

The plant audits provide licensees with a good guide to the condition of their site and how it measures up against the BPG.

Thank you for making the appropriate staff available to conduct these audits which I'm sure most of you have found beneficial to your company.

H2 Framing

Proposals have been put forward to introduce a new, common framing hazard class, H2. This hazard class would replace the current H1.2 and H3.1 classes for framing. Framing used in critical situations such as enclosed balconies would be required to be H3.2 treated. The required retention level for H2 would be as for the current H3.1.

The proposal doesn't apply to claddings and fascia.

The object of the exercise is to simplify the hazard class requirement for framing and make it easier for builders, merchants, frame and truss fabricators, designers and regulators to interpret. It would also reduce potential misuse of timber.

TPC's view of the proposal is that we support the principle of simplifying the hazard class system for framing. However, before supporting it we would like to see some evidence that supports the proposal.

Treatment of LVL and Glulam

The treatment requirements for LVL and Glulam are set out in the standards AS/NZS 1604 Part 4 and AS/NZS 1604 Part 5 respectively.

The penetration requirement for both are quite stringent and not easily achievable, certainly not with standard treatment processes.

For this reason TPC requires that only approved processes be permitted for the treatment of these products. The approved processes must demonstrate an ability to meet the relevant standard on a consistent basis.

For licensees who have a history of treating glulam in particular and who have consistently achieved the standard we will be in contact to register your process. For licensees who are about to commence treating glulam or LVL we would ask that they submit details of that process together with three sets of trial results from three separate charges first before **approval to use the WOODmark® on these products is given.**

AS/NZS 1604 Parts 2 to 5

Up until now these standards, which relate to treatment of reconstituted boards, plywood, LVL and glulam, have not allowed for use of hazard classes H1.1, H1.2, H3.1 or H3.2. This is because they are joint Australia and New Zealand standards.

They have only provided for hazard classes H1 and H3, as well as H2, H4, H5 and H6.

The situation has caused some confusion when these products are used in New Zealand, for example H3 plywood.

TPC sought to have the standards amended to allow these products to be branded H1.1, H1.2 H3.1 and H3.2. as applicable. The TM 006 Committee has approved this change.

AS/NZS 1605

TPC has also made submissions to the TM 006 Committee to amend the standard specifying approved testing methods for treated timber and preservative solutions.

At present it does not include an analytical method for IPBC treated timber nor a GC method for timber treated with tebuconazole + propiconazole. Ironically, the standard has a GC method for analysing tebuconazole + propiconazole solution but not an HPLC method. We are seeking to have these anomalies rectified and as well we are seeking to have a boron spot testing method including salicylic acid introduced.

TUMA

We have heard that the Queensland government is looking to review the Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act (TUMA).

As you know one of the provisions of TUMA allows government officers to check and test treated timber for compliance with branding and treatment standards. However, over the last 4-5 years that hasn't been happening.

I understand that the Queensland government is considering whether the non-inspection of treated timber has been a bad thing or not and whether or not to retain TUMA.

A survey to find this out at a cost of AUD80,000 has been proposed. The Queensland government would put AUD20,000 into the survey with the remainder to be funded by industry.

The response from industry has been predictable. However it appears that the industry believes that TUMA should continue in order to ensure that poorly treated timber is kept out of the market.

This appears to be a reasonable position.

At this stage I'm not sure whether the term "industry" includes New Zealand suppliers or not. I am seeking clarification but in the meantime if you have a view on this please let me know. If the term "industry" does include New Zealand suppliers then I would expect we would be opposed to making any contributions to the proposed survey cost. We would see this being a responsibility of the Queensland government.

Resource Management Act (RMA)

As we all know the RMA is a complex piece of legislation which is the cause of a lot of hand ringing and gnashing of teeth.

Putting all that aside however, ERMA have produced a CD called “Your Interactive Guide to the RMA”. It covers all aspects of the RMA from making applications, consultations, hearings and approvals of projects to making submissions on district plans.

The CD is freely available from Ministry for the Environment, contact RMA Helpline 0800 RMA INFO (762 4636).

Sampling & Analysis

Generally the results from wood samples submitted for analysis have been very good this year. The pass rate for CCA analysis especially has been outstanding with very few samples failing. Of those that did fail, all were marginal or isolated incidents.

LOSP results were varied but still mostly positive. Analysis for LOSP products has been a battle at times with consistency of results, standardisation of methods and cost of analysis still factors that need to be ironed out throughout the coming year, although major advancements have been made on these already.

Boron has obviously had an interesting year with a noticeable resurgence in production that has seen new processes (and new hazard classes) introduced which have required individual approvals for inclusion in the WOODmark® programme.

Licensees should be commended for the huge improvement in their own internal testing of samples and also meeting all of their obligations in the Timber Preservation Quality Manual as a WOODmark® licensee.

Keep up the good work for 2007.



Seasons Greeting

All of us at TPC (Ela, Stefan, Barry and Kevin) wish you the very best for the holiday season and a prosperous year ahead.

Thank you all for your support.

We look forward to catching up with you in 2007.

Kevin Hing
