



Big Bend / Suwannee River Chapters

Public Service Announcement

Next Generation of Pressure Treated Wood

April 8, 2004

To All Interested Parties

Through a negotiated settlement agreement with the Federal Department of Environmental Protection, the membership of the American Wood Preservers' Association have voluntarily agreed not to manufacture Chromated Copper Arsenic (CCA) treated wood for residential and general consumer uses after December 31, 2003. This was done due to concerns about the toxic arsenic leaching out of the wood and harming the inhabitants of the built environment. Any CCA treated wood manufactured prior to December 31, 2003, can still be lawfully utilized as long as existing inventory remains. Based on the information we have received, it appears the local availability of CCA is coming to an end.

Within the wood preservative treating industry, the most common replacement for CCA is Alkaline Copper Quaternary (ACQ) which does not contain the toxic materials found in CCA. However, the ACQ contains sufficient amounts of copper so as to be corrosive to conventional carbon steel fasteners (nails, screws, bolts, anchors, etc.) and connectors (hurricane clips, joist hangers, straps, etc.). This type of wood is corrosive to the point of causing premature structural failure of the fasteners and/or connectors.

Within locations where the Florida Building Code requires the wood members to be protected against decay and termites, the type of uses for ACQ treated wood are virtually the same as CCA treated wood for both interior and exterior applications. However, due to the increased corrosiveness of the ACQ, special fasteners and connectors are required. When utilizing ACQ treated wood, special care should be exercised to ensure that both the fasteners and connectors are approved for use with ACQ treated wood. Generally this will mean they will be either stainless steel (type 304 or 316) or hot dipped galvanized in compliance with ASTM Standard A 153 for fasteners or ASTM Standard A 653 (class G-185) for connectors. This information should be available from your local product supplier or the product manufacturer. Additionally, when using stainless steel or hot dipped galvanized connectors, the connectors and fasteners should be made of the same material, and special care should be taken so as not to mix galvanized and stainless steel fasteners and connectors.

Also, in locations where the Florida Building Code requires the wood members to be protected against decay and termites, another common replacement for CCA treated wood is sodium borate (borate) treated wood. However, the use of borate treated wood is limited to above ground applications and shall be continually protected from exposure to liquid water.

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Specific locations where this product could be used would include sill plates, furring strips, studs, rafters and other similar protected locations. Borate treated wood is not to be utilized for decks or other outdoor structures exposed to weathering. The corrosion rate of borate treated wood is such that no special fasteners or connectors are necessary, beyond normal building code specifications.

This information is being presented by the following jurisdictions for your information. Should you have technical questions beyond those which the product suppliers and manufacturers can answer, please do not hesitate to contact us.

City of Live Oak	Horse Shoe Beach	Madison County
City of Madison	Dixie County	Suwannee County
City of Mayo	Gadsden County	Taylor County
City of Newberry	Gilchrist County	Wakulla County
City of Perry	Hamilton County	Florida A&M University
City of Quincy	Jefferson County	Florida State University
City of Tallahassee	Lafayette County	
Lake City	Leon County	

This public service announcement is being distributed by the membership of the Big Bend and Suwannee River Chapters of the International Code Council/ Building Officials Association of Florida. Key objectives of these organizations are: to promote uniformity in building, and promote interaction between private and public sectors of the construction industry. The association holds monthly meetings to discuss and educate the membership on current industry developments. Persons interested in participating in these organizations activities may do so by completing a membership application available at: www.boaf.net or contacting any member of our local building inspection offices.

Sincerely,

Tom Deckert,
President - BBC
Billy Tyson,
President - SRC