

Australian Standard[®]

Guide to the safe use of preservative-treated timber



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee TM-006, Timber Preservation and Durability. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 January 2007. This Standard was published on 22 March 2007.

The following are represented on Committee TM-006:

- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
- Consumers' Federation of Australia
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
- Engineers Australia
- Ensis
- Forests NSW
- Glued Laminated Timber Association of Australia
- Housing Industry Association, Australia
- LOSP Treated Timber Association
- New Zealand Timber Industry Federation
- New Zealand Timber Preservation Council
- Timber Preservers Association of Australasia
- Timber Queensland

Additional Interests:

- Dr Harry Greaves
-

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

RECONFIRMATION

OF

AS 5605—2007

Guide to the safe use of preservative-treated timber

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Approved for reconfirmation in accordance with Standards Australia procedures for reconfirmation on 27 April 2017.

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Australian Forest Products Association
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Australian Timber Flooring Association
Australian Timber Importers Federation
Building Research Association of New Zealand
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QLD)
Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
Forest and Wood Products Australia
Forestry Corporation of NSW
Glued Laminated Timber Association of Australia
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New Zealand Wood Processors Association
Responsible Care New Zealand
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Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board
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NOTES

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee TM-006, Timber Preservation and Durability. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (February 2008). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

The objectives of this Standard are to promote the safe use of preservative-treated timber and to reduce any potential health and environmental risk.

Timber preservatives are registered for use in Australia and regularly reviewed by the APVMA (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority). The recommendations from the APVMA's recent review on copper chrome arsenate (CCA) have been incorporated in this Standard.

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FOREWORD

Preservative-treated timber is widely used throughout the community in a multitude of applications from agricultural and rural uses to supporting the very structure of our homes.

All the preservatives used for the protection of wood against biodegradation are toxic to some degree and, therefore, may be potentially hazardous. For instance, some preservative components may migrate in very small quantities from the treated wood into surrounding soil over time and there may also be incidental contact with skin during construction or use. In rare cases, the preservative, the wood itself, or other additives may cause irritation to some individuals.

The preservative-treated timber is always to be used in a fit-for-purpose manner. For instance, some of the preservatives used to protect timber for H1 and H2 exposure conditions may not be used if subjected to significant wetting.

Preservatives are localized on and within the wood. Therefore, preservatives are highly resistant to removal from the wood, being either chemically bonded to it, or physically immobile.

As with hundreds of other chemicals in regular use, precautions are required and/or advisable to ensure that the risk to the occupationally exposed, the general public, and the environment are within acceptable limits at all times.