

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

RECONFIRMATION

OF

AS 5605 SUPP 5—2007

Guide to the safe use of preservative-treated timber - Consumer Safety
Information Sheet - Creosote or pigment-emulsified creosote (PEC)-treated timber

RECONFIRMATION NOTICE

Technical Committee TM-012 has reviewed the content of this publication and in accordance with Standards Australia procedures for reconfirmation, it has been determined that the publication is still valid and does not require change.

Certain documents referenced in the publication may have been amended since the original date of publication. Users are advised to ensure that they are using the latest versions of such documents as appropriate, unless advised otherwise in this Reconfirmation Notice.

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

The following are represented on Technical Committee TM-012:

Australian and New Zealand Timber Preservative Manufacturers Association
Australian Forest Products Association
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
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
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (NZ)
NATSPEC
New Zealand Timber Industry Federation
New Zealand Timber Preservation Council
New Zealand Wood Processors Association
Responsible Care New Zealand
Scion
Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board
Timber Preservers Association of Australia

NOTES

CREOSOTE OR PIGMENT-EMULSIFIED CREOSOTE-TREATED TIMBER

GENERAL

The principal use of creosote and pigment-emulsified creosote (PEC) is to protect timber against decay, termites and marine borers. They are mainly used in the pressure impregnation of timber for heavy-duty applications such as power and telephone poles, pilings, sleepers, and for ground line maintenance of these applications.

Timber treated with oil-borne preservatives is visually identifiable and may have a characteristic, pungent odour. Compared to creosote, PEC offers a similar degree of preservation and leaves a comparatively dry surface to the treated timber. PEC may also reduce the exposure of the public to creosote in the treated timber.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Use

Creosote- or PEC-treated timber should NOT be used in the following situations or applications:

- ☒ Where it will be in direct contact with foodstuffs (e.g., storage bins, crates, beehives, silos, etc.).
- ☒ Counter tops, cutting boards or food preparation surfaces.
- ☒ Where it will be in direct contact with drinking water (e.g., tanks, troughs, etc.).

Handling

The following precautions should be taken when handling creosote- or PEC-treated timber:

- ☒ Avoid handling or sawing freshly treated timber.
- ☒ Avoid prolonged or frequent inhalation of sawdust. A dust mask in accordance with AS 1716 should be used if airborne sawdust is being generated.
- ☒ Keep work areas clean and maintain airborne dust levels below maximum recommended exposure standards.
- ☒ Wear protective gloves (see AS 2161.1, AS 2161.2, AS 2161.10.1, AS 2161.10.2 and AS 2161.10.3).
- ☒ Wear eye protection when using power saws or machining.
- ☒ Wash hands and face after working with treated timber and before eating, drinking or smoking.