

Wood preservatives — Method for natural preconditioning out of ground contact of treated wood specimens prior to biological laboratory test

ICS 71.100.50

National foreword

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It is being issued in the Draft for Development series of publications and is of a provisional nature because the Technical Committee need some time to collect the data in this relatively new area of technology. It should be applied on this provisional basis, so that information and experience of its practical application may be obtained.

Comments arising from the use of this Draft for Development are requested so that UK experience can be reported to the European organization responsible for its conversion to a European standard. A review of this publication will be initiated 2 years after its publication by the European organization so that a decision can be taken on its status at the end of its 3-year life. Notification of the start of the review period will be made in an announcement in the appropriate issue of *Update Standards*.

According to the replies received by the end of the review period, the responsible BSI Committee will decide whether to support the conversion into a European standard, to extend the life of the Technical Specification or to withdraw it. Comments should be sent in writing to the Secretary of BSI Technical Committee B/515, Wood preservation, at British Standards House, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, giving the document reference and clause number and proposing, where possible, an appropriate revision of the text.

A list of organizations represented on this subcommittee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Cross-references

The British Standards which implement international or European publications referred to in this document may be found in the *BSI Catalogue* under the section entitled “International Standards Correspondence Index”, or by using the “Search” facility of the *BSI Electronic Catalogue* or of British Standards Online.

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Summary of pages

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English Version

Wood preservatives - Method for natural preconditioning out of ground contact of treated wood specimens prior to biological laboratory test

Produits de préservation du bois - Méthode de
préconditionnement naturel d'éprouvettes de bois traité,
sans contact avec le sol, avant essai biologique en
laboratoire

Holzschutzmittel - Verfahren zur natürlichen
Vorkonditionierung ohne Erdkontakt für behandelte Holz-
Prüfkörper vor biologischer Laborprüfung

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 11 March 2006 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

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Contents

Page

Foreword.....	3
Introduction	4
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Principle.....	5
4 Materials	5
5 Apparatus	5
6 Wood test specimens.....	6
7 End-sealing prior to exposure.....	9
8 Labelling	9
9 Exposure to natural conditions.....	9
10 Duration of the natural preconditioning procedure	12
11 Preparation of test specimens and stakes for biological tests	12
12 Reference in the test report.....	13
Bibliography.....	14

Foreword

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS 15397:2006) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 38 “Durability of wood and wood-based products”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this CEN Technical Specification: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Introduction

For use of class 3 according to EN ISO 335-1 field tests, like those described in EN 330 and ENV 12037, are a valuable means of studying the performance of a wood preservative. However, they are questionable as a basis of approvals of wood preservatives for some reasons:

The abiotic factors of outdoor exposure, such as wind, temperatures, UV radiation and rain can in combination with biotic factors change or depreciate the applied wood preservative to such an extent as to allow decay. A low frequency of precipitation and the duration of temperatures below or slightly above the freezing point can, however, in some areas of Europe hinder the development of fungi and a resulting visible deterioration. Likewise the effectiveness against wood-boring beetles can also be reduced although infestation of the timber can not occur because the weather conditions in a particular field will not promote cracking of the timber - a prerequisite for oviposition of for instance the house longhorn beetle. Furthermore under natural conditions fungal attack and insect infestation can be quite accidental, leading to remarkable variations and therefore possible misinterpretations of the test results.

Therefore - in a project supported by the Commission of the European Communities [1] to preclude such disadvantages - a method was developed and tested with a number of the most commonly used wood preservatives. In this method the treated wood specimens were exposed without soil contact to the natural abiotic and biotic ageing factors, the complexity of which cannot - or only incompletely - be simulated with the available artificial ageing methods EN 73 and EN 84. After defined periods of outdoor exposure, attack of wood-destroying fungi and/or insects were examined under controlled laboratory conditions according to the relevant European Standards. The applicability of this principle to a number of typical European climates was confirmed in a further project also supported by the Commission of the European Communities[2]. With some amendments to the method used in the projects, this document is based on this principle.