



Treated Wood and the Uniform Building Code

The Uniform Building Code recognizes the problems inherent in certain applications and the effectiveness of properly treated wood in enduring those situations. For some applications, the code requires treated wood; for others it allows either pressure-treated wood or a wood classified as naturally resistant to decay. The following excerpts are references to treated wood taken from the 1997 Uniform Building Code,

Chapter 23 -- WOOD

SECTION 2303 STANDARDS OF QUALITY

Treated lumber and plywood must meet the appropriate specifications of the American Wood-Preservers' Association (AWPA), which is the standard-setting organization for the treated wood industry. AWPA standards include rules for the amount of preservative necessary (retention level), depth of penetration, allowable species, and drying, among other characteristics.

SECTION 2304.1 IDENTIFICATION

All preservatively treated wood required to be treated under Section 2306 shall be identified by the quality mark of an inspection agency which has been accredited by an accreditation body which complies with the requirements of the American Lumber Standard Committee Treated Wood Program, or equivalent.

SECTION 2304.3 TIMBER CONNECTORS AND FASTENERS

Fasteners for pressure-preservative treated wood shall be of hot-dipped zinc coated galvanized, stainless steel, silicon bronze or copper.

SECTION 2306

DECAY AND TERMITE PROTECTION

2306.2 Wood Support Embedded in Ground. Except for certain water-submerged conditions, wood embedded in the ground or in direct contact with the earth and used to support permanent structures shall be treated wood. Likewise, posts, poles, and timber columns supporting permanent structures which are embedded in concrete exposed to earth or weather shall be treated wood.

2306.3 Under-floor Clearance. When wood joists or the bottoms of wood structural floors are closer than 18 inches or wood girders are located closer than 12 inches to exposed ground or unexcavated areas located within the periphery of the building foundation, the floor assembly including posts, girders, joists and subfloor, must be treated wood or an approved naturally resistant wood.

2306.4 Plates, Sills and Sleepers. All foundation plates or sills and sleepers on a concrete or masonry slab, which is in direct contact with earth, and sills which rest on concrete or masonry foundations, shall be treated wood or foundation redwood, all marked or branded by an approved agency. (Although, incising is required for most Western species, AWPA does not require it for the pressure treatment of Ponderosa Pine or Southern Yellow Pine because of their physical characteristics).

2306.8 Wood and Earth Separation. Wood used in permanent structures and nearer than 6 inches to earth shall be treated wood or a naturally resistant wood.

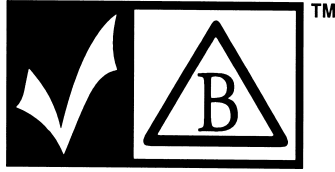
2306.11 Retaining Walls. Wood used in retaining or crib walls shall be treated wood.

2306.12 Weather Exposure. In geographical areas where needed, wood members which support buildings, balconies, or porches shall be treated wood or naturally resistant wood if exposed to weather and without adequate cover protection.

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Western Agencies Certified by ALSC

The American Lumber Standards Committee certifies five agencies that serve the West. Those meeting the ALSC criteria include:



Bode Inspection



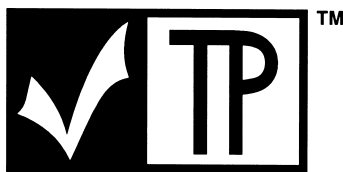
California Lumber Inspection Service



Canadian Softwood Inspection, Inc.



McCutchan Inspection Services



Timber Products Inspection

“Third party” agencies verify that pressure-treated wood was properly treated in accordance with AWPAs standards. Third party inspection is not mandated by law, but is necessary to comply with the UBC. To be certain of receiving the treated wood that was specified, only accept or approve treated wood with a quality stamp or end tag of an accredited ALSC agency.

JUST CHECK FOR IT.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

INTRODUCTION

The American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC) is responsible for the oversight and accreditation of third party inspection agencies for treated wood. In order to comply with the Uniform Building Code (UBC), treated wood must be marked with the quality stamp or end tag of an accredited ALSC agency.

The UBC reads: "All preservatively treated wood required to be treated under Section 2306 shall be identified by the quality mark of an inspection agency which has been accredited by accreditation body which complies with the requirements of the American Lumber standard committee Treated Wood Program, or equivalent."

WWPI recognizes quality marks for treated wood are sometimes confusing with much product information including proprietary brands, warranties, etc. To help clarify the situation, WWPI created the CheckMark Identification Program to easily find and recognize the various ALSC accredited agency's trademarks. Look for the CheckMark on the stamp or end-tag to quickly find the ALSC accredited agency's logo.

The treating industry also produces products that do not require ALSC oversight; such products include landscape timbers for non structural applications, decking products which carry their own manufacturer's warranty, etc.

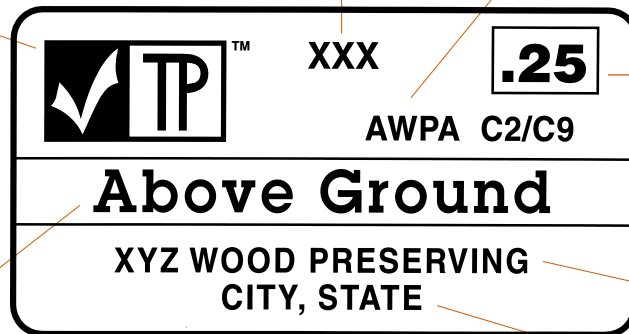
INTERPRETING A QUALITY MARK

Trademark of ALSC accredited agency

Preservative used

AWPA Standard

Retention level



Proper exposure condition

Plant location

TREATING STANDARDS

APPLICATION	RETENTION LBS./CU. FT.	AWPA STANDARDS FOR WATERBORNE TREATMENTS
Above ground	0.25	C1 General C2 Lumber-Timbers C5 Round Posts C9 Plywood
Ground Contact, Fresh Water Immersion	0.40	C15 Light Frame Construction C16 Agriculture Use
In Ground (structural)	0.60	C22 Permanent Wood Foundation C31 Out Of Contact With Ground and Continuously Protected From Liquid Water