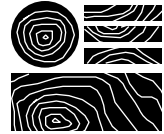


Treated Wood News



Spring 1998



Provided by Western Wood Preservers Institute

Project of Note



TREATED WOOD GUARDRAIL PROVIDES SCENIC PROTECTION

The Historic Columbia River Highway is a marvel of early 20th century engineering. The 75-mile-long road, famous for its cliff-side curves, graceful bridges and handcrafted masonry, was built between 1913 and 1922 from Troutdale to The Dalles, Oregon.

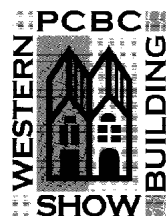
With construction of Interstate 84 in the mid-1950s, most drivers gladly gave up the scenic highway for a straighter, faster route up the gorge. But for folks not in a hurry, the "old highway" remains the favorite way to go.

Continued on page 2.

WESTERN BUILDERS TO LEARN ABOUT TREATED WOOD

Western builders, remodelers, contractors, developers, architects and designers will have the opportunity to learn more about treated wood at the 1998

See us at...



Booth #514

Western Building Show in San Francisco. The show runs June 25 - 27 at the Moscone Convention Center.



The unique, one-of-a-kind, dual rail design uses CCA treated wood backed by 3/8" steel plate.

FATAL DECK COLLAPSE COSTS LANDLORD \$12 MILLION

A San Francisco landlord has been ordered to pay \$12 million in damages in connection with a 1996 deck collapse that claimed the life of one woman and injured 14 others.

During a party, the fourth-floor deck broke off an apartment building sending 10 people falling to the deck below and an additional five victims plunging 32 feet to the ground.

According to an attorney involved, "This decision will help bring an end to a tragedy that could have and should have been prevented. Landlords cannot cut corners or ignore construction defects at the expense of people's safety." Witnesses at the trial testified that a support beam beneath the deck was moved without the proper permit and that the deck was in an area that was riddled with wood rot.



This unfortunate tragedy underscores the need for proper building materials. If pressure treated wood had been used in the construction of the deck, this accident may not have happened. In fact, in order to be in compliance with the 1997 Uniform Building Code, pressure treated wood (or naturally resistant species) must be used for this type of building application.

However, even with treated wood, a few precautions are necessary. Specifiers and purchasers should be certain the wood matches its intended use. The appropriate use and retention level should appear either as an end tag or stamp on every piece of wood. And, most importantly, be sure it bears the mark of an ALSC accredited, third party inspection agency.

RUSSIAN RIVER RESIDENTS ON SOLID GROUND WITH TREATED WOOD

For the last several years, the Russian River flooded many parts of Sonoma County, California. As a result of the flooding, the federal government declared a "disaster area" and therefore eligible for relief.

The Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program was launched earlier this year and will effect approximately 250 homes. The dwellings will be raised 1 foot above base flood elevation - approximately 3 to 8 feet per structure. The National Flood Insurance Program underwrites the program and requires the building materials to be pressure-treated according to AWPA standards.

Continued from front page.



It still retains much of its original stone guardrails, but when parts needed upgrading, treated

wood was chosen for the replacement material. Treated wood met the Oregon Department of Transportation's stringent safety requirements as well as the goal to preserve the road's historic integrity. Over 31,000 feet of construction improvements were required using CCA treated 4" x 8" double rails and 8" x 10" posts.

Treater: Allweather Wood Treater.

THE SAFETY OF TREATED WOOD

In this age of chemical and environmental awareness, the Institute is often asked about the safety of treated wood. Like other pesticides, the preservatives used to treat wood are all subject to extensive health and environmental review by the Federal EPA which evaluates the risks and benefits before allowing their use. Most preservatives, in their concentrated form, are registered "restricted use" pesticides and can only be applied in the highly regulated wood treating plants. However, because of the low amount of chemical and low risks, treated wood is not classed as a pesticide. Guidance for appropriate uses and safe handling information is included in the treated wood Material Safety Data Sheets and the EPA approved Consumer Information Sheets available from producers and distributors of the products.

The most common types of treated wood in the construction and backyard markets are the arsenicals (CCA and ACZA). Outside the EPA, these preservatives have been examined by numerous researchers who studied treating plant workers, carpenters, laboratory animals, and applications such as playground structures, garden planters and marine piling. This research has been summarized in an article published by the American Council on Science and Health, Inc. (ACSH) which consists of 250 physicians, scientists, and policy advisors. The article appeared in the ACSH magazine, *Priorities for Long Life and Good Health* (Vol. 7 #5) in 1995.

The article concluded: *They [Consumers] can be assured of what sound science has demonstrated: that when properly processed and appropriately used, CCA-treated wood is harmless to humans, plants and non targeted animals.* Contact WWPI for a free reprint of this article.

The most stringent consumer warning requirements in the nation exist in California as a result of the voter approved Proposition 65 (The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986). This act requires, among other items, public warnings on products which contain any of over 400 substances listed by the state as "carcinogens" or "reproductive toxicants."

In 1995, legal action was brought against the treated wood industry claiming arsenical treated wood products should carry a warning due to the presence of chromium and arsenic. The industry determined a negotiated settlement was prudent business.

As a result, all CCA and ACZA treated wood sold in California now carries a Prop 65 warning statement. The legal notice found in this newsletter was also required by the settlement.

Produced and used appropriately, treated wood is safe for humans and the environment!

ATTENTION

CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS AND BUILDING TRADES

A Message From The Western Wood Preservers Institute

Proper Use of Treated Wood Products

The benefits of using pressure treated wood products are well known. Waterborne arsenical treated wood products, such as CCA and ACZA, when properly specified, quality assured, and utilized, can extend the useful life of wood for many years. The protection from wood destroying insects and fungus is made possible through the presence of chemical toxic to the target organisms.

As with all building materials, treated wood should be handled with care by workers. Eye protection and a dust mask should be worn when sawing and sanding. Waste treated wood should never be burned. Treated wood should not be cut, sawed or sanded over any source of drinking water.

A recent lawsuit has underscored the need for employers to comply with the Hazard Communication Standard to assure their employees use the products appropriately.

Proposition 65, a California law, requires warnings to California workers exposed to chemicals listed under that law, including Arsenic and Chromium, which may have been used to treat the wood you are purchasing. Treated wood producers provide their customers with Consumer Information Sheets and Material Safety Data Sheets that describe the nature of the wood preservatives used to treat this wood and the safe handling practices that should be followed by people who work with it.

The settlement of a recent lawsuit releases employers from Proposition 65 liability for exposure to wood treatment chemicals provided those employers incorporate Proposition 65 warnings about chromium and/or arsenic based wood treatment chemicals into the Hazard Communication Program required under Title 8, Cal. Code Regs. S 5194.

Employers may take advantage of this settlement if they provide the Proposition 65 warnings to their employees as required by California's Hazard Communication Regulation.

For more information about treated wood and its special decay-preventing properties, contact:

Western Wood Preservers Institute

7017 N.E. Highway 99, Suite 108, Vancouver, WA 98665

Western Agencies Certified by ALSC

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



B 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 AWPA 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.



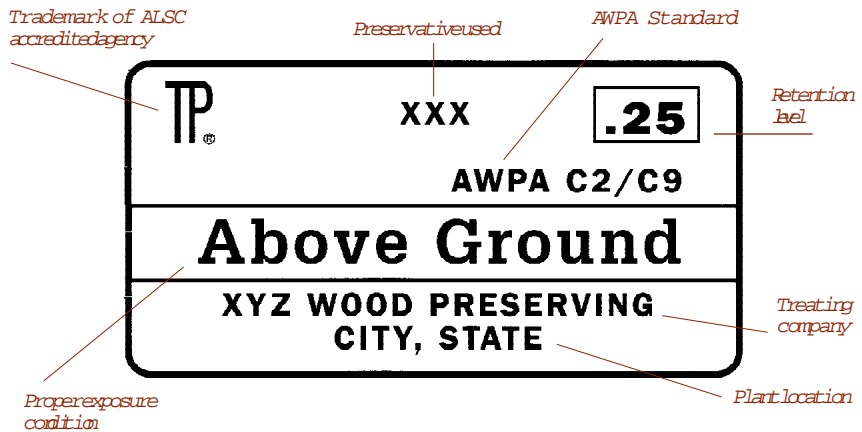
QUALITY ASSURANCE

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, treated wood must be marked with the quality stamp or end tag of an accredited ALSC agency.

The 1997 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 an accreditation body which complies with the requirements of the American Lumber Committee Treated Wood Program, or equivalent."

INTERPRETING A QUALITY MARK



TREATING STANDARDS

APPLICATION	RETENTION LBS./CU. FT.	PENETRATION ASSAY ZONE	AWPA STANDARDS FOR WATERBORNE TREATMENTS
Above ground	0.25	0 - .60"	C1 General C2 Lumber-Timbers C5 Round Posts C9 Plywood
Ground Contact, Fresh Water Immersion	0.40	0 - .60"	C15 Light Frame Construction C16 Agriculture Use
In Ground (structural)	0.60	0 - .60"	C22 Permanent Wood Foundation (UBC SEC. 1810) C31 Out Of Contact With Ground and Continuously Protected From Liquid Water