

Australian Standard[®]

**Guide to the safe use of preservative-
treated timber**

STANDARDS
Australia



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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RECONFIRMATION

OF

AS 5605—2007

Guide to the safe use of preservative-treated timber

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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.

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Australian Forest Products Association
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Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
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NOTES

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treated timber**

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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.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Guide to the safe use of preservative-treated timber

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard is a guide to the public on the safe use of preservative-treated timber. It provides precautions and recommendations to be taken into account to reduce any potential health and environmental risks associated with using, handling and disposing of preservative-treated timber.

NOTES:

- 1 More specific occupational guidance may be found in Worksafe Australia's documents and various material safety data sheets (MSDS).
- 2 The Supplements to this Standard, AS 5605 Supp 1 to AS 5605 Supp 5, provide consumers with safety information on the use of timber treated with CCA, ACQ, copper azole, LOSP, creosote/PEC, and bifenthrin.
- 3 Recycling spent treated timber may also be considered an option at the end of the treated commodity's service life.
- 4 AS/NZS 2843.1 specifies safety requirements for the siting, design and layout of timber preservation plants.
- 5 AS/NZS 2843.2 specifies safety requirements for the operation of timber preservation plants.

1.2 APPLICATION

Based on the type of timber preservative, this Standard is categorized into the following Sections:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| (a) Waterborne preservatives | Section 2. |
| (b) Oil-borne preservatives | Section 3. |
| (c) Light organic solvent-borne preservatives (LOSP) | Section 4. |
| (d) Glueline additives | Section 5. |

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

AS	
1604	Specification for preservative treatment (all Parts)
1716	Respiratory protective devices
2161	Occupational protective gloves
2161.1	Part 1: Selection, use and maintenance
2161.2	Part 2: General requirements
2161.10.1	Part 10.1: Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms— Terminology and performance requirements
2161.10.2	Part 10.2: Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms— Determination of resistance to penetration
2161.10.3	Part 10.3: Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms— Determination of resistance to permeation by chemicals