



**NEW ZEALAND
TIMBER PRESERVATION COUNCIL** *Incorporated*

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NEWSLETTER

**Issue 26
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CIRCULATE TO:

G.M.		Site Mgr		Plant Mgr		Plant Op		Sales Mgr	
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Tank Certification

TPC is putting the final touches to a programme that will permit WOODmark® licensees to achieve compliance with the requirements of the HSNO Act in terms of tank certification. The programme will do away with the need for WOODmark® licensees to make their own individual arrangements such as determining whether or not their tanks need certification and then identifying a suitably qualified person or persons to do the necessary inspections and certification.

Because the certification requirements are new, not only to the timber treatment industry but also to those government departments that are responsible for ensuring compliance, the process of establishing what needs to be inspected and how and to what criteria, has been long and drawn out. TPC has worked closely with the government departments to ensure they understand completely what the practical issues are. This has included taking officials on site so they can see first hand typical site conditions.

At the end of the day, TPC will have developed a comprehensive Code of Practice that will enable the whole inspection and certification process to be completed efficiently, without any unnecessary requirements and at minimal cost.

Although the original 1 April 2007 deadline has passed, government officials are reasonably relaxed. You will not be prosecuted if you can demonstrate that you have arrangements in hand and are working towards tank certification. If you have appointed TPC as your test certifier you are okay.

All WOODmark® licensees should have received an update letter from us in the last fortnight. If you haven't received this, please let us know and we will send one to you promptly.

Approved Handlers

Another requirement of the HSNO Act is that all treatment plants be operated under the supervision of an approved handler at all times. Approved handlers are required to know the properties and characteristics of the preservatives used at their site, how to ensure they are safely stored and used and what to do in emergency situations.

Ideally, each site should have at least two approved handlers.

TPC's next approved handler courses will be held on the following dates at the venues listed:

- Christchurch** Monday 14 May, 12.00pm – 4.00pm, Copthorne Hotel, 449 Memorial Drive
- Hamilton** Wednesday 16 May, 12.00pm – 4.00pm, Novotel Tainui Hamilton, 7 Alma Street
- Palmerston North** Friday 18 May, 9.00am – 1.00pm, Novotel Palmerston North, 175 Cuba Street

Plant Audits

The TPC plant audit programme is continuing with a further 25 sites audited in the first quarter this year.

Generally speaking we have found sites to be largely compliant with the requirements of the Best Practice Guideline. However we have picked up minor matters that need some attention at all sites.

An audit report has been sent to all audited sites detailing those matters that should be corrected.

A follow up to this report should be conducted in 2008.

Our thanks go to all site owners for allowing us to conduct our audits and for making personnel available to assist.

LOSP Treated Timber

Recent publicity about alleged health effects arising from handling LOSP treated timber serves as a reminder for all treaters to ensure that their treated timber is in a fit and proper condition before it leaves the site.

In our statements and responses to the New Zealand Herald and on Radio New Zealand we have pointed to the effects of the buoyant building industry and the pressures put on custom treaters as likely causes of the isolated instances that have arisen. We have also kept in close touch with the Department of Labour in order to ensure that the LOSP treatment industry is not hit by any surprise restrictions.

There is however another side to this subject and that is that the “flash off” procedures set out in the Best Practice Guideline should be followed by all LOSP treaters. We understand the difficulties associated with control over timber that is custom treated. Our advice is to insist on the Best Practice Guideline requirements being followed but where this is not possible, affected timber should be accompanied by an advice note that states the date of treatment and the remaining time before the timber is fit for use. TPC has two templates for treaters to use in these circumstances. The first template is a simple form to be completed by the treater and to be despatched to the customer with the relevant packet of timber. The second template needs to be completed by the timber owner and is basically an instruction plus an acknowledgement that the LOSP treated timber will not be adequately flashed off. Both templates are easy to complete and we strongly recommend that they be used when necessary. It is in your interest to ensure that you are not exposed to the risk of any possible action that could be taken by your customer, stockist or user of your timber over any ill effects caused by handling or using it. If you need copies, please contact us.

Boron H3.1

Although NZS 3640:2003 has been amended to permit timber to be boric treated to H3.1, the Department of Building & Housing has not completed the procedures it needs to achieve citation into the compliance documents of the Building Code.

The Department has these procedures underway at the moment and we expect the citation to be concluded within the next four weeks or so.

In the meantime Boron H3.1 can only be used as an “alternative solution”.

Azole Analysis

We reported in our last newsletter that we were undertaking comparative lab analyses of azole treated timber and azole solution.

The object of the exercise was to find out whether the analytical results we have been receiving are consistent and reliable.

The analytical results we received from the six participating laboratories showed trends that were largely consistent for both timber and solution. Only one result showed any variance from the established norm. This variance did not have any implications for our present testing regime. As a result we are confident about the accuracy of the lab reports we receive from our contracted laboratory on samples of azole treated timber and have resumed testing effective immediately.

Revision of TUMA

Latest reports from Queensland indicate that the review proposed late last year has not progressed very far. You will remember there was a funding issue which needed to be resolved.

In the meantime, if you are looking to export treated timber to Queensland you should know that you must register first. Registration involves completion of a form and the supply of samples to the Queensland Department of Primary Industry.

The required forms for both Queensland and NSW can be downloaded from our website www.nztpc.co.nz

Promotional Activities

ROADSHOW

The first quarter of 2007 has seen the TPC participate in a series of presentations throughout New Zealand. These presentations were directed at architects, builders, merchants and regulators to clarify any misunderstandings relating to the specification and use of treated timber.

BOINZ CONFERENCE

Once again the TPC attended the annual BOINZ conference delivering a presentation regarding the recent changes in timber preservative treatment and promoting the WOODmark[®] through a trade stand.

These continuing changes have made it increasingly obvious that the TPC needs to continue to make itself available for advice and information relating to timber treatment in this sector.

MASTER BUILDERS FEDERATION

Similar to the BOINZ conference, the TPC will have representation and a trade stand at the Master Builders Federation conference held on 19-21 April.

WEBSITE

The TPC website is continuing to be updated and improved. Now available in the publications section is a Boron Information Sheet to add to our suite of timber preservative information sheets. Hard copies are available from the TPC office. Suggestions for improvements to our website are always welcomed.

SAMPLING & ANALYSIS

It is pleasing to see a lot of outstanding failure reports being tidied up recently. A reminder though that all TPQM 04 sign off forms must be accompanied by an **independent** analysis report. To maintain transparency with the WOODmark® programme these reports unfortunately are unable to be provided by your chemical supplier. Likewise, if you are seeking approval for a new process, extension to an existing approval, or a new preservative the same must apply, test results must be from an independent laboratory.

For new processes that have been approved recently please remember that any change in your treatment process requires additional approval by the TPC before approval may be given to add the WOODmark® brand to your products.

Minimal failures throughout New Zealand has seen a pleasing start to the first quarter of 2007, let's keep up the trend for the rest of the year.



Kevin Hing