

## **MAKING STANDARDS WORK FOR PEOPLE AND BUSINESS**

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### **1. Summary**

Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the Forest Products sector have worked together for over 80 years in the standardization of wood products . Through continual improvement of Canadian wood standards, manufacturers, regulators, and the general public are provided with assurance that materials and processes in Canada are among the most reliable in the world.

The manuscript is divided into the following categories:

1. Standards Development: An Overview
2. Standardization in the Forest Products Sector
3. The CSA Technical Committee on Wood Preservation (A366TC)
4. CSA O80 Series *Wood Preservation*

The primary purpose is to update CWPA members on CSA's role, how we are working with the forest products industry, and specifically what is being done in the area of wood preservation.

### **2. CSA and Standards Development: An Overview**

Established in 1919, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is the oldest and largest accredited Standards Development Organization (SDO) in Canada. CSA is a national, independent, not-for-profit membership association, serving business, all three levels of government and consumers in Canada and the global marketplace with over 3000 standards related products & services.

CSA's 160 employees, with the involvement of its 9000 volunteer committee members develops product, system, and competency standards, codes, and other information products that promote public health and safety, improve the quality of life, preserve the environment, and facilitate trade. CSA's solutions address 54 different program areas such as environment, construction, quality, business management, energy, health care,

public safety, and communications. CSA's overriding purpose is to make standards work for people and business. We are recognized as a credible, neutral third party providing efficient and effective collection of stakeholder input on defined issues to support informed decision-making.

As Canada's largest standards development organization, CSA has developed considerable expertise in conducting consultations, most of them national in scope, to solicit views and achieve consensus amongst a wide variety of stakeholders within governments, the non-government sector, research groups, academia and the private sector.

CSA is a leading provider of customized solutions. CSA's core organizational competencies lie in the areas of:

1. **Stakeholder and Public Engagement:** Designing stakeholder engagement processes that serve the clients needs, drawing from our over 9000 volunteer member experts, external organizations and the public.
2. **Consensus Building:** Using proven techniques to build consensus within diverse stakeholder groups.
3. **Project Management:** Management of small to large-scale standardization and advisory projects.
4. **Standardization:** Development of consensus and non-consensus standards and guidelines, codes of practice, specifications and handbooks, many of which are referenced in legislation.
5. **Research and Analysis:** Conducting environmental scans, focus groups and background research and analysis to feed into standardization and code development efforts.

CSA has a long and distinguished history in the construction field, with one of the longest being in the area of forest products. CSA's solutions accommodate new materials, technologies and construction processes, as well as businesses' need to compete around the world. CSA manages 120 Technical Committees in this sector, and has approximately 300 construction sector standards, which serve the needs of residential, commercial, institutional, industrial and civil infrastructure sectors. Many of CSA construction standards are referenced in the National Building Code as well as provincial/territorial building codes.

Our experience is well supported by the significant engineering, operational, process, and regulatory experience of the volunteer technical experts, who are our members and stakeholders. Their expertise and knowledge can be drawn upon as needed, as the deliverables are being developed.

### 3. Standardization in the Forest Products Sector

CSA have established a long history of standards development in the forest products sector. The first CSA standard on record for forest products (C15) was developed in 1924 when CSA was still called the Canadian Engineering Standards Association (CESA).

The following is a list of the standards that CSA developed for the forest products sector, which laid the foundation of the successful industry that exists today:

- 1924: C15 *Eastern cedar poles*
- 1937: A43 *Structural timber*
- 1942: A56 *Round timber piles* (became O56)
- 1952: O115 *Hardwood and decorative plywood*
- 1953: O116 *Power and communication sawn wood crossarms*
- 1953: O121 *Douglas fir plywood*
- 1953: O122 *Structural gluelam*
- 1954: O80 Series *Wood preservation*
- 1957: O124 *Physical properties of power and communication wood insulator pins*
- 1959: O141 *Yard lumber*
- 1960: O112 Series on *Wood Adhesives*
- 1961: O151 *Western softwood plywood*
- 1962: O152 *Performance of construction plywood*
- 1963: O153 *Poplar plywood*

As needs have changed, so have CSA standards. Standards have been withdrawn when no longer relevant (CSA O115) or expanded upon when technology dictates the need (O112 Series). The phrase “if it isn’t broken , don’t fix it” also applies in some cases. CSA O124 *Wood insulator pins* has remained unchanged since it’s original publication in 1957.

Over the past 5 years, CSA, the Strategic Steering Committee, and the Technical committees have worked to rationalize and update the FP portfolio. This has helped to eliminate redundant standards, provide new editions with updated technical requirements, and publish new standards where needed

CSA and Industry have also actively worked with the Canadian Codes Centre to ensure the latest editions are referenced in the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC).

### 4. The CSA Technical Committee on Wood Preservation (A366TC)

The CSA Technical Committee (TC) on Wood Preservation consists of volunteer technical experts in the area of wood preservation. Together, the members work to continually improve the CSA O80 Series of standards. Typically, the TC meets once per

year, with additional face to face meetings or teleconferences as needed to carry out critical work.

These volunteer members actually develop and write the standards, which ensures the broadest expert input possible. CSA staff act as a facilitator for the TC to ensure all voices are heard. No single group dominates the agenda, nor decides outcome.

The TC on Wood Preservation contains balanced representation from three essential interest group: Regulators, Producers and Users. A balanced-matrix approach ensures our standards have the consensus of the TC and take into consideration all thoughts, issues and suggestions. Through the balanced-matrix approach, a CSA project manager moderates the process to ensure all participants are given an equal voice. This way, the final standard meets everyone's needs.

Content is decided through consensus, resulting in a more accepted, more applied standard that is recognized by all affected stakeholders.

## **5. CSA O80 Series *Wood Preservation***

In 1940, the CSA C15 Pole series was expanded to include a new standard that first dealt with preservative treatment of wood, the C15D *Standard specification for creosote preservative treatment of Red, Jack, and Lodgepole pine poles and reinforcing stubs by pressure processes*. This specification provided the basis for future wood preservation standards.

In 1954, the first edition of the CSA O80 Series *Wood Preservation* was first published, containing 35 separate specifications. Even then, a relationship had been established between CSA and American Wood Preserver's Association (AWPA). This relationship still exists today, as the CSA TC work with AWPA to align the structure and requirements of the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> edition of CSA O80 Series..

By 2004, the CSA TC on Wood Preservation determined that the 35 standards contained within the O80 Series-97 were not as user-friendly in the current format as possible, and decided to redevelop O80 Series into a more simplified layout known as the Use Category System (UCS). CSA have worked closely with AWPA to ensure that the O80 Series is structured in a similar nature to the AWPA Book of Standards, providing familiarity for the Canadian user.

A dedicated team of volunteer subcommittee members spent over 100 meeting hours transferring technical requirements from the existing CSA O80-97 to the new UCS format. Where the need for technical changes was identified, these changes were highlighted for review by the full Technical Committee. CSA have also carried out an edit of the draft to ensure that, by converting to a UCS format, language meets the

necessary requirements for Canadian Standards, and that the layout meets typical CSA conventions.

CSA is working with the TC to publish the next edition of CSA O80 Series-08 *Wood preservation* in time for consideration in the 2010 National Building Code of Canada (NBCC). This is a very tight deadline, as final TC approval of technical content will be required in early 2008. Presuming that the TC achieves consensus and approves the proposed standard on the first ballot, the scheduled target dates toward publication are as follows:

- October 2007 Draft finalized
- Nov / Dec 2007 Public review and comment period
- January 2008 TC letter ballot on draft standard CSA O80 Series -08
- February 2008 Submission of finalized Standard to Canadian Codes Centre for consideration in the 2010 NBCC
- April 2008 Publication of CSA O80 Series-08 Wood Preservation
- November 2008 Publish O80 Series-08 in French
- November 2008 Submit for approval as a National Standard of Canada

## **6. Conclusions**

Standardization requires the dedication of many individuals. By working together, we provide uniform requirements, both nationally and internationally that improve efficiency, safety and quality. Standards also highlight the proactive attitude the Canadian market is taking, an attitude that is noticed internationally.

Standards touch your life every day, affecting nearly every product or service you use. They help to ensure that products and services live up to your expectations. Standards hasten the implementation of new technology and provide market access. They promote interconnectivity and harmonization among products and components, and help open doors to new markets.

They also have a role to play in supporting positive public policy. Consensus-driven, collaborative solutions embrace all stakeholders and form the basis for voluntary or mandatory verification programs. Ones that may serve as viable alternatives to regulation.

CSA is pleased to have worked with the Wood Preservation industry for over half a century, and look forward to doing our part to help advance the industry further in the future.