

RECOMMENDED DESIGN AND OPERATING PRACTICE FOR CHLOROPHENATE WOOD
PROTECTION FACILITIES

by

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1. The B.C. Chlorophenate Wood Protection Task Force

In order to respond to the environmental and health concerns related to the use of chlorophenates at wood protection facilities, the Environmental Protection Service, during 1981, proposed the establishment of the British Columbia Chlorophenate Wood Protection Task Force. The members of the Task Force included representatives of federal and provincial government agencies, forest industry companies and forest industry labour unions. The Task Force was charged with the responsibility of investigating the use of chlorophenates at wood protection facilities in British Columbia and developing practical measures for environmental and health protection. The Executive Committee of the Task Force was the decision-making body which would review the recommendations provided by the members of the General Committee.

The Environmental Protection Service retained EVS Consultants Ltd. to conduct a technical review of wood protection practices in British Columbia and to develop a draft "Code of Good Practice" for the design and operation of wood protection facilities (1). The Code provides recommendations for workers health and safety and for the storage, transportation and disposal of chlorophenate liquids and contaminated water and solid wastes.

The draft, referred to as the "Code of Good Practice", was presented to the Task Force by the contractor during August 1981. This initiated a two year review process by the Task Force which included input from other experts in both industry and government. The result of this comprehensive development and review process is the publication of this document which will be referred to in the text as the "Code".

2. Intent of the Code

This "Code" is a compendium of recommendations from the Executive Committee of the B.C. Chlorophenate Wood Protection Task Force intended to protect both the environment and workers from harmful exposure to chlorophenates. Although the "Code" is not part of any environmental legislation, it reflects the intent of the Federal Fisheries Act, Provincial Waste Management Act and Workers' Compensation Board Industrial Health and Safety Regulations (see section 3)

A significant amount of background information has been included in the "Code" in order to provide readers with the factual basis which supports the suggested designs and recommended operational practices. Although the recommendations are specific, the "Code" user should focus on achieving the objectives of protecting the environment and workers from harmful exposure to chlorophenates. Site-specific circumstances may require the modification of certain recommendations in order to best achieve these objectives.

It is the intent of the Executive Committee that new facilities will generally comply with all provisions in the "Code". However, in regard to existing facilities, it is expected that companies will make all practicable modifications necessary to meet the objectives of the "Code". More detailed comments on the implementation of provisions of the "Code" will be found in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 (Personnel Protection), Sections 5.1 and 5.2 (Design Features), Section 6 (Operating Practices), Section 7 (Transportation) and Section 8 (Disposal). The Task Force believes that the proper implementation of the provisions of the "Code" will allow the continued beneficial use of chlorophenates for wood protection and will protect both the environment and workers from potential harmful effects.