

## WORKING GROUP II : WOOD PROTECTION

### SAPSTAIN, MOULD AND DECAY CONTROL ON LUMBER

by

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During the past year, two new chemicals have been successfully field tested as substitutes for the chlorophenols currently used to protect lumber in transit and storage. These chemicals are called TCMTB [2-(thiocyanomethylthio) benzothiazole] and MBT [methylene bithiocyanate]; but only the TCMTB is registered and available for use in Canada. Both chemicals, when suitably formulated, should provide a substitute for chlorinated phenols and thereby a means of avoiding the dioxin problem associated with these chemicals. MBT has yet to be registered by Agriculture Canada, if it can be supported by a suitable toxicity package.

Also, during the past year we have seen a great increase in the use of wax water repellent treatments for export lumber, particularly SPF from the interior of BC. A great potential for some surface protection without the use of toxic chemicals has been suggested by these treatments. However, this has yet to be confirmed by laboratory experimental data and also by field trials. Certainly such treatments provide good protection against rewetting by rain during transit, which is a common problem. Also, such treatments could provide a means to avoid the wrapping of packaged lumber, which as well as being costly, causes an environmental disposal problem to the recipient of the lumber.

A marriage of these two new developments is possible for the future, where both new chemicals and wax water-repellent treatments will be used to protect a large portion of the 18 billion board feet of soft-wood lumber produced in Canada annually.