

MOVING FROM CCA TO ALTERNATIVES – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, STANDARDS AND RELATED ISSUES

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The wood preservation industry has experienced a change like no other in the shift from CCA to alternatives for the residential pressure treated wood market.

The announcement by the U.S. EPA in February 2002 followed immediately by a similar notification by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada began an immense process of conversion that continues to this day. The transition will result in 80% of the pressure treated wood produced in Canada each year being manufactured with newly introduced preservatives.

CCA will remain for various commodities in the industrial/commercial/agricultural markets as well as some select residential uses. PMRA requested the newly revised pesticide registration labels for CCA reflect the changes made to the U.S. label as closely as possible. The outcome of this revision is as follows.

Effective December 31, 2003 working solutions of CCA can only be used for treatment of wood in the following categories:

- *Land, fresh water, foundation and marine piles as defined in CSAO80.3-97.*
- *Poles for highway and utility uses.*
- *Plywood.*
- *Wood for highway construction as defined in CSA O80.14-97: lumber for bridges and structural members, lumber for cribbing, culverts and bridge parts; land, fresh water and salt water piles; structural lumber in salt water; posts (fence, guard rail, guide, sign and sight); lighting poles; bridge hand rails, guardrails and posts.*

- *Fence posts and poles as defined in CSA O80.16-97 for use on farms, piles and posts used as structural members on farms, and plywood used on farms.*
- *Wood for marine construction (salt water immersion).*
- *Round poles and posts used in building construction.*
- *Sawn crossarms.*
- *Laminations before gluing.*

- *Shakes and shingles.*
- *Lumber and plywood for permanent wood foundations.*

Forest products treated with this product may only be sold or distributed for the above uses.

The only residential uses that remain are plywood, shakes, shingles, and permanent wood foundations. Round agricultural fence posts and permanent wood foundations were not on the original list released by EPA in February 2002 but were added later as a result of public comment.

New preservatives were registered by the PMRA in early 2002 to provide the industry with the opportunity to begin immediately to begin the transition from CCA. The registrations for alkaline copper quat (ACQ) and copper azole (CA) were granted on a temporary basis pending the submission of additional data by the preservative suppliers. In addition, the intent of the suppliers was to provide additional data to allow the registration to expand to also include industrial/commercial and agricultural uses not covered by the revised CCA label.

With respect to Environment Canada and the Recommendations for Design and Operation of Wood Preservation Facilities (TRDs), new sections have been developed for ACQ and CA. It is the intent of EnCan to see a continuance of the implementation of the TRDs as originally agreed in the Strategic Options Process (1999). The Canadian Institute of Treated Wood has endorsed the application of TRDs for the new preservatives.

Annual reporting by treating plants regarding their Implementation Plans for compliance to TRDs by the end of 2005 will continue. Compliance is expected by Environment Canada with assessments beginning in early 2005. It is the intent of the SOP Steering Committee to introduce a third party certification program in 2005 to continue the compliance beyond years end.

The CITW has also endorsed the continuance of the safety labeling program for CCA and expansion of that program to the new preservatives as well. The CCA safety info website and toll free line will be updated to include information on ACQ and CA.