

GUIDANCE NOTE

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Issue 5: June 2023

Guidance for Wood Treaters in the NTR Region

Treatment Specifications used in the UK Market

Introduction

In November 2020, members of **Timber Development UK (TDUK)** unanimously voted to amend the TDUK Member Code of Conduct regarding the preservative treatment of wood.

TDUK Members shall now ensure that:

Preservative treated wood is being accurately and unambiguously specified/purchased, for use or resale, and is clearly identified at all points of the chain as fit for the intended purpose. As a minimum this will require identification of the product as suitable for either:

INTERIOR use only (e.g. joists, rafters, studs, tiling battens) - Use Class 2

EXTERIOR use above ground, *uncoated* (e.g. deck boards, cladding) - Use Class 3U

EXTERIOR use in ground contact and exterior structural support (e.g. posts, deck joists) - Use Class 4

In addition **preservative treated wood should be produced by or purchased, directly or indirectly, from a treatment provider whose operation has been assessed and approved under an independent and reputable accreditation scheme** (e.g. NTR in the Nordic region).

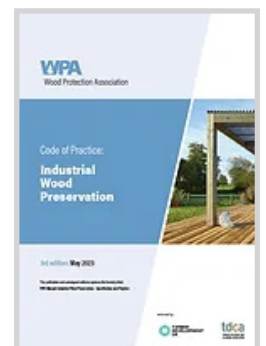
Please note that this applies to suppliers of treated wood or treatment services to TDUK members and shall be fully in place from mid-2022. Those suppliers need not be TDUK members themselves to come within scope.

This Guidance Note aims to assist NTR registered treaters to equate NTR treatment classes to the BS EN 335 Use Class system used for wood preservation in the UK, so as to enable them to supply TDUK members with the right treated product for the UK market.

National Standards in the UK Treated Wood Market

Wood Protection Association Code of Practice – Industrial Wood Preservation (May 2023)

This new national standard, endorsed by TDUK, gives recommendations for the preservative treatment of wood against biodeterioration, for determining the need for treatment and how to specify appropriately. It also sets out requirements for the penetration and retention levels for preservatives tested to BS EN 599, using the terminology in BS EN 351-1, for different timber components. It takes into account the properties of the wood employed, the Use Class as defined in BS EN 335 and the desired service life.



BS 8417 Preservation of wood – Code of Practice (2011, amended 2014)

This document, which historically has been the core standard used by the UK wood preservation industry, is currently being revised but is not expected to be published before 2024. For current recommendations and practice, therefore, reference should be made to the WPA Code of Practice. Both documents make reference to the key European Standards.



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Summary of BS EN 351-1 Penetration Classes and Analytical Zones

Penetration Class	Penetration Requirement	Analytical Zone
NP1	None	3mm from lateral faces
NP2	Min. 3mm lateral into sapwood	3mm lateral into sapwood
NP3	Min. 6mm lateral into sapwood	6mm lateral into sapwood
NP4	Min. 25mm lateral	25mm lateral into sapwood
NP5	Full sapwood	Full sapwood
NP6	Full sapwood	Full sapwood and 6mm into exposed heartwood

Acceptable Quality Levels (AQLs)

The WPA Code and BS8417 include AQLs to reflect the variable nature of wood. The AQL for a particular species is a statistical measurement of the maximum number of pieces which do not meet the set penetration class but which is still considered acceptable in a particular sample size. AQLs apply to preservative penetration only, not to retention. The recommended AQLs are:

- 10% for permeable timbers (inc. pine)
- 25% for sawn resistant timbers (inc. spruce)

Comparing the WPA Code of Practice and NTR Penetration Requirements

The following table only refers to the most common applications.

Service Situation	Use Class	Penetration (UK)		Penetration and NTR Class	
		Pine	Spruce	Pine	Spruce
Internal, above ground, covered. Occasional risk of wetting.	2 ^a	NP1	NP1	–	Class 'GRAN' NP1
External, above ground, frequently wet, uncoated; = or > 44mm thickness.	3 ^b	NP5	NP2 ^c	Class AB NP5	
External, above ground, frequently wet, uncoated; < 44mm thickness excluding Service Factor Code D.	3 ^b	NP5	NP1	Class AB NP5	Class 'GRAN' (Cladding) NP1
External, permanently exposed to wetting and/ or providing exterior structural support.	4 ^b	NP5	NP3 ^c	Class A NP5	–

Notes:

- a, b) Desired Service Life assumptions: a) 60 years b) 15 years
c) Processes to aid penetration may be required, such as incising.

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