

# Treated wood is all the same, right?

## Look for treated wood that meets stringent AWPA Standards

In this economy, everyone is looking for ways to save money and stay in business. The building products industry is no exception. With increased competition for sales and market share, lowering the quality of products or services is one way to save money. While a reduction in cost and quality might help some organizations survive on a short term basis, it can have unintended long-term consequences. For this reason alone, it's important to provide high quality products and services to the public to maintain the trust of the customer to gain repeat business and positive referrals. AWPA has been the premier developer of consensus-based standards for treated wood products since 1904, which is why the building codes rely on AWPA Standards.

Research has shown that consumers have a preference for standardized products when they are aware that they exist. In the case of treated wood, many

builders (as well as most architects and engineers) are familiar with AWPA Standards for treated wood and usually specify treated wood that meets AWPA Standard U1 on their projects. Treated wood conforming to AWPA Standards may not be available at every dealer or retailer, so you may have to make a few phone calls and visit several stores in your area to find it.

### How do I build my business?

Companies seeking long-term profitability and commercial viability recognize that they must continue to provide the highest quality products to their customers. When it comes to treated wood, we think it best to specify **AWPA Standards**, which are developed by the single greatest collection of wood protection experts in the world. The best way to determine if products meet AWPA Standard U1 is to look for "AWPA U1" on the end tag.

## How to identify wood treated to AWPA Standards

### Look for "AWPA U1" on the end tag.

Yes, it really is that simple. If "AWPA" is not present, then it probably does not meet AWPA Standards. Another helpful tool to identify wood treated in accordance with AWPA Standard U1 is the "CheckMark" program developed by the Western Wood Preservers Institute. The CheckMark, combined with the logo of an ALSC accredited agency, demonstrates conformance to AWPA Standard U1.

**Other required information.** Wood treated to AWPA Standards must also identify the producer, preservative, retention (amount of preservative) and the AWPA Use Category. While AWPA does not prescribe the design of the end tag, the sample below contains all of the required information. Determining the proper application is also important. For help with preservatives and AWPA Use Categories, see the back of this page.

*(The following end tag is not from a real product—it is presented to help you identify AWPA Standardized products.)*

**ECO-GREEN 9000**

*The Most Excellent Treated Wood On Earth.*



**ABC Wood Treating Corporation, Inc.**  
Anytown, USA (www.website.com)

AWPA U1 UC3B Above Ground, Exposed  
0.27 EWP-A (Excellent Wood Preservative, Type A)

2 X 6 - 12 # 1 SELECT SYP

See back of tag for  
important information

Agency  
Logo  
Here



# AWPA

## WHY SPECIFY AWPA?

- ◆ The **ONLY** treated wood standards directly referenced in the IBC and IRC
- ◆ ANSI accredited consensus-based standards developer
- ◆ Open-membership professional association
- ◆ Expert peer review of wood preservatives
- ◆ Developer of wood protection standards since 1904



## For more information, CONTACT US:

Email: [email@awpa.com](mailto:email@awpa.com)  
Telephone: 205-733-4077  
Facsimile: 205-733-4075  
Internet: [www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com)

### Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 361784  
Birmingham, Alabama 35236

### Office Address:

100 Chase Park South Suite 116  
Birmingham, Alabama 35244

**We're online:**  
[www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com)

## AWPA Use Categories

Use Categories are simply a system of classifying the hazards to which wood products are exposed. The higher the number/letter combination, the greater the potential for fungal decay and insect attack. When using treated wood, make sure it is treated to an AWPA Use Category equal to or higher than the intended application. For example, UC4A is higher than UC3B. Types of products in the three most common Use Categories are as follows:

**UC3B Above Ground, Exposed:** Usually deck boards, rails, siding, joists, etc.

**UC4A Ground Contact, General Use:** Soil, concrete, or fresh water contact items such as deck or fence posts, or some special heavy duty above ground applications like beams or girders.

**UC4B Ground Contact, Heavy Duty:** For structural members that are difficult and/or expensive to replace.

## Currently Standardized Preservatives/Retentions

To help you find products treated in accordance with AWPA Standards, the following table shows the most common retentions for each AWPA Use Category. The listings are specific to Southern pine and Douglas-fir.

Code	Preservative Name	UC3B	UC4A	UC4B
ACQ	Alkaline Copper Quaternary, Types B or C	0.25	0.40	0.60
ACQ	Alkaline Copper Quaternary, Types A or D	0.15	0.40	0.60
CA-B	Copper Azole, Type B	0.10	0.21	0.31
CA-C	Copper Azole, Type C	0.060	0.15	0.31
CuN-W	Copper Naphthenate, Waterborne	0.070	0.11	---
CX-A	Copper HDO	0.206	---	---
EL2	DCOI-Imidicloprid plus stabilizer	0.019	---	---
PTI	Propiconazole-Tebuconazole-Imidicloprid	0.018	---	---
PTI	PTI plus Stabilizer	0.013	---	---

## Verifying Conformance to AWPA Standards

When specifying AWPA Standards for treated wood, it's important to make sure that the products you buy actually conform to AWPA Standards. In addition to AWPA Standard U1, which provides material specifications for treated wood products, AWPA also develops various evaluation and analytical methods, preservative specifications, standardization procedures, data requirements and Technical Committee regulations. While these documents are important for generating

test data and setting forth various procedures, treated wood products cannot possibly conform to these standards. The only standard which contains user specifications for treated wood is AWPA Standard U1. To verify that products meet AWPA Standard U1, read the product literature, ask the dealer if their products meet AWPA Standard U1, and most importantly, check the end tags for "AWPA U1". If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact AWPA.

## Metal Fastener and Connector Compatibility

Even though most wood preservatives are standardized by AWPA, some manufacturers can add chemicals to their preservatives solutions which may affect corrosion properties. Because we cannot know all of the possible types and/or quantities of these additives, we suggest using fasteners that meet the requirements of the major model

building codes, which specifies hot dip galvanized steel, stainless steel, silicon bronze, or copper fasteners. There are literally hundreds of fastener coatings available, so it is important to follow the fastener manufacturers' recommendations regarding compatibility of their fasteners with pressure treated wood.

# AWPA

Standards for Treated  
Wood Since 1904

We couldn't fit it all on one page! To learn more, visit the References and Technical Information page on our website:  
[www.awpa.com/references/index.asp](http://www.awpa.com/references/index.asp)  
or, visit our home page and click through:

[www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com)

## Who can join AWPA?

You....as long as you have an interest in the objects and purposes of the association, which are standards development and education on wood protection technologies. For more information, visit [www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com) and click on the link for membership info.

