

APPENDIX F: GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS PRESERVATIVE TREATED USING NONPRESSURE PROCESSES

Maintained by Subcommittee T-8

This Appendix to AWPA's Technical Committee Regulations is not an AWPA Standard. It is a non-mandatory guidelines document presented to enable the user to understand the basic testing requirements for wood protection systems and to assist the AWPA Technical Committees in the development of AWPA Standards. The testing of products in accordance with this Appendix does not constitute conformance with any AWPA Standard. No product can be considered to conform with an AWPA Standard until it has been subjected to complete technical review and voting by AWPA's Technical Committees, and procedural review and final action by the AWPA Executive Committee pursuant to the AWPA Technical Committee Regulations.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this protocol is to provide a guideline for evaluating composites which have been treated with preservatives using non-pressure processes. This guideline will assist composite manufacturers who engineer composites for specific end uses by identifying evaluation procedures and helping establish Standards jurisdiction. This guide is a complement to AWPA Standard N2.

2. Scope

2.1 Composite wood products can contain various levels of wood fiber. The use of any wood species, species blend, virgin or recycled fiber is permitted. The term "fiber" represents any form of wood material including fibers, particles, wafers, strands or veneer.

2.2 This guideline applies to composites which have been treated by non-pressure means. Treating may occur with the furnish, at blending, as a post treatment, or in some other manner. The treatment method is determined by the composite manufacturer.

2.3 Where appropriate, Use Category System Standards or Nonpressure "N" Standards are to be referenced. If a specific Standard does not apply, Appendix A of the AWPA Technical Committee Regulations may be used as the outline for evaluation.

2.4 Where appropriate, AWPA test methods shall be used. Where existing methods do not apply, non-standard methods may be utilized provided they are based on sound scientific principles.

3. Treatments & Treating

3.1 The active ingredients used shall be those recommended for standardization by the P-2, P-3, P-4 or P-8 Subcommittees. The actives or formulations shall be registered, or have registration pending, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

3.2 The treatment method is selected by the composite manufacturer. Any treatment method is permitted, provided the method can be shown to provide adequate protection for

the application use class. Treatment methods fall into two broad categories: treatment of furnish or introduction of additives prior to composite manufacture, and treatment of the composite after manufacture. For the latter, spraying, dipping and vacuum coating are examples of treatment methods.

3.3 The preparation or manufacture of the end product shall follow all recommendations and instructions of the formulations and additive suppliers. This applies to the use of preservatives, water repellents, adhesives and other additives. Disposal and other related environmental issues should be addressed on the Material Safety Data Sheet.

4. Evaluation Methods

4.1 Where applicable, the nonpressure treated composite (NPTC) shall be evaluated using existing AWPA "A" Analytical and or "E" Evaluation Standards. Examples include AWPA Standard E10 for "Testing Wood Preservatives by Laboratory Soil Block Culture." Careful assessment of the intended end use for the product will ensure the correct evaluation tests are performed.

4.2 If existing Evaluation or Treatment Standards do not apply, non-standard methods can be used. Appendix A to the AWPA Technical Committee Regulations will serve as a general guide for exhibiting adequate performance. The use classification targeted for the composite will determine the appropriate tests. Determining active ingredient distribution or water repellency for composites may require modified or new methods. It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to develop and apply all appropriate tests and Standards.

5. Jurisdiction

5.1 Subcommittee T-8 collaborates with other Subcommittees to determine which composite properties or parameters need to be evaluated for a particular use category.

5.2 Commodities recognized by Subcommittee T-8 are addressed in AWPA Standard N2 – Standard for the Preservative treatment of Composite Wood Products by Nonpressure Processes.