

***GUIDANCE DOCUMENT I: REAFFIRMATION GUIDELINES***

Jurisdiction: Technical Committee P-1

Adoption: Previously Appendix I to the AWPA Technical Committee Regulations, this document was converted to a Guidance Document by the AWPA Executive Committee in January 2013.

Revised: January 2024

This Guidance Document is not an AWPA Standard. It does not have any regulatory authority, as it is not included in AWPA's accredited procedures. These are nonmandatory guidelines presented for information only to aid the user in understanding the information needed for reaffirming wood protection system standards and analytical method standards. Nothing in this document shall be construed as having authority in AWPA's standardization procedures. The testing of products in accordance with this Guidance Document does not constitute conformance to any AWPA Standard. No product can be considered to conform to 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.

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**INTRODUCTION**

All AWPA Standards in the Book of Standards shall be reviewed, revised when appropriate, and reaffirmed by normal Committee Balloting Procedures in accordance with the Technical Committee Regulations. The Technical Committee(s) identified as having jurisdiction over a Standard shall be responsible to assign, carry out, and complete the review process as described herein.

The objective of the reaffirmation process is to provide a consistent procedure by which all the preservatives, preservative systems, or analytical methods for preservative solutions and treated wood, presently in use, can be evaluated and reviewed on a regular basis. It is not intended to be an entire re-evaluation process levied on existing and commercially used systems similar to those required for new preservative systems or analytical methods.

This Guideline will be presented in two parts. Part I will address the preservative chemicals and systems in existence and presently being commercially used. Part II provides guidelines specific to the analytical methods and assessment standards.

**PART I: EXISTING WOOD PRESERVATIVES**

This reaffirmation process has several basic requirements:

1. Review the existing Standard as printed in AWPA Book of Standards for revisions, editorial corrections, and other necessary modifications.
2. Compile and report on laboratory, field data, or inspection reports since the last reaffirmation.
3. Report performance records of products treated and in service using the preservative or system.
4. Review the present EPA registration or restrictions that may affect the continued use of this material.
5. Determine if new information will be required for future use due to changes in service exposure requirements.

**REVIEW EXISTING STANDARD**

The existing Standard shall be reviewed to ensure the description of the product, biocide concentration levels, component listing (when applicable) including acceptable minimum and maximum concentrations are accurate. All standard references for analytical procedures or methods shall be included in the Standard, where appropriate. These analytical Standards, although not normally under the jurisdiction of the same Committee, should also be reviewed to verify the use and accuracy of the methods as published.

**EFFICACY TEST DATA AND REPORTS**

Updates of any ongoing or continuing laboratory, field tests or inspection results for products in service and available since the initial adoption or last reaffirmation of the Standard shall be assembled. The reaffirmation data package shall include a summary list of all field tests in the original data package and indication whether each test is ongoing or has terminated. If ongoing, it shall provide the most current update; if terminated, it shall indicate why the test was terminated and if there is an update for the last inspection prior to termination. It is imperative that no pertinent data be knowingly or purposefully withheld from the Committee(s) during the reaffirmation process. Testing or evaluation for properties in addition to those submitted in the initial new preservative proposal data package or in past reaffirmation procedures which have been completed shall be made available as a part of the reaffirmation procedure data and reports.

## PRODUCT PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Reaffirmation proposals shall report or provide documented records of the performance of products treated with the preservative or preservative systems being considered for reaffirmation when such information is available. Suitable forms of documentation may include: a) User or Consumer verification or affirmation of successful service performance, and/or b) Inspection reports from authorized third-party entities with experience in the use of the treated products, applications, and installations using the preservative system.

Negative reports or documents which exhibit non-characteristic or unsatisfactory preservative performance shall not be withheld or intentionally altered. Negative claims may be addressed with supplementary information defining the reason for such performance along with recommendations to modify or correct the application or procedural malfunctions determined to be the cause. These recommendations, when presented, shall be based on sound scientific evidence or data. The determination of supporting material's acceptability shall be assessed by the Committee(s) having jurisdiction of the Standard. All pertinent information should be thoroughly reviewed by the Task Group working on the reaffirmation process before it is presented to the entire Committee(s) for consideration.

## MSDS AND EPA REGISTRATIONS

Preservative reaffirmation information shall include the most current Material Safety Data Sheet for the preservative and / or wood products treated with the preservative system. The reaffirmation Task Group or Committee is encouraged to provide information having current review or revision status indicated within the five-year reaffirmation period, but shall not allow an MSDS to be accepted if its revision and review date exceeds ten (10) years.

The status of the registration of the preservative with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and any individual State requirements for acceptance and use shall also be provided with the reaffirmation proposal data package. Of particular interest would be any changes or modifications that have occurred since the last reaffirmation or approval of the preservative. These should be clearly indicated and supported by information or data to verify the change.

## EXTENSION OF EXPOSURE CONDITIONS

There may be occasions when an additional service exposure condition is desirable following the initial Standard proposal, or when natural conditions in an exposure environment alter the performance of treated wood products in use exposure categories previously approved for the preservative or system. An example is the Formosan termite attack on wood structures where no previous efficacy data is available on the existing preservatives for this insect.

Under these circumstances, data may be presented a) in response to a specific instruction from the Executive Committee to the Technical Committee(s) having jurisdiction of the Standard involved, or b) at the option of the Task Group or proponent of the preservative reaffirmation proposal, to extend the use category classifications under which the preservative can be utilized. Guidelines for the information and testing in these applications can be found in AWPAs Guidance Document A: Data Requirement Guidelines for Listing Wood Preservatives in the AWPAs Standards.

Only those specific areas applicable to the exposure conditions being studied shall be requested.

## PART II: ANALYTICAL STANDARDS REAFFIRMATION

The General Preservatives Committee also has jurisdiction over the Analytical or A-Standards in the Book of Standards. The reaffirmation requirements for these Standards shall be considered separately from the guidelines for the existing Preservative Chemicals and Systems given under Part I. Jurisdiction of the A Standards may be held by Committee P-5, Methods of Chemical Analysis of Preservatives, by an individual P-Committee directly associated with the analytical methods contained in that Standard, or a combination of P Committees. This information is given at the beginning of each of the Analytical Standards.

The basic areas of interest in the reaffirmation process of the A Standards will be as follows:

1. Review the existing Standard as printed in the AWPAs Book of Standards for revisions, editorial corrections, and modifications that are necessary.
2. Examine the content of the Standard to determine if a reorganization of multiple test methods is appropriate.
3. Revise and update as necessary the reagents, apparatus listing, or equipment to be used.
4. Report and address any request for changes or clarification of the procedure or text of the Standard.

5. Review references to other Standard Methods for accuracy, availability, and latest revisions.
6. Report on new methods and procedures that have been developed to analyze the preservative or product.
7. Confirm the method includes an acceptable precision and bias statement.

The information shall be presented to P Committee(s) having jurisdiction over the proposed Standard for reaffirmation. Standards being considered for reaffirmation which require major or substantive change shall be accompanied by a data submission to satisfy the requirements of the Technical Committee(s) having jurisdiction.