

Introduction

The Wood Protection Association (WPA) has a strategic objective to raise UK market confidence in the performance of preservative treated wood. To this end, in 2011, the association established the 'Benchmark' scheme, a third-party quality certification scheme to verify that a named timber commodity has been treated correctly for its intended use and desired service life. To provide confidence in preservative efficacy, the WPA has established an independent approval scheme for wood preservatives. The preservative products and retentions approved under this scheme are set out in Table 1 of this document.

About the WPA's Wood Preservative Approval Scheme

The WPA Wood Preservative Approval Scheme (WPAS) breaks new ground by providing the UK treatment industry with an expert, independent assessment of the laboratory and field test data used by manufacturers to give their customers guidance in the use of a preservative. The WPAS was developed for the WPA by a task group comprising WPA technical consultants, all the major suppliers of preservatives in the UK and independent research consultants. A copy of the WPAS is available from the WPA on request – contact info@wood-protection.org

The main features of the WPAS are:

- a) it is for preservatives applied by penetrating processes, typically vacuum-pressure or double-vacuum;
- b) it is specifically for preservatives for use class 4 direct ground and freshwater contact;
- c) manufacturers applying for WPA approval of a preservative must provide the laboratory and field test data as prescribed in the scheme document for the service life combinations for which approval is requested;
- d) approval is based on the **minimum** retention to be found in the analytical zone after treatment to meet BS 8417 requirements for use class and service life (15 or 30 years) combinations;
- e) assessment of data is carried out by a panel made up of leading independent experts drawn from the industry including organisations such as BRE;
- f) the independent panel reports to the WPA and its decision is final;
- g) a manufacturers participation in the scheme is voluntary.

Preserving confidence in treated wood

The WPA Benchmark quality scheme is available to all operators of industrial impregnation plant who wish to benefit from third-party verification that a specific product such as a fence post has been treated in accordance with WPA recommendations for achieving BS 8417 standards.



Table 1: Wood Preservatives and Retentions Approved by the WPA

PRESERVATIVE NAME	WPA Approved Retention ¹ kg/m ³	
	BS8417 Use Class 4 (Permanent ground contact)	
	Service life 15 yrs ²	Service life 30 yrs ²
Impra ACQ 2200D	21.5	32.3
Tanalith E 8000 ³	17.5	26.3
Wolmanit CX-8	17.0	25.5
Wolmanit CX-8F	17.0	25.5
Wolmanit CX-8WB	17.0	25.5
Wolmanit CX-10	13.6	20.4
The following product has been assessed by the independent panel and will be included in the list of WPA approved products when HSE approval for use in the UK is granted		
Celcure C4	14.7	22.1

Table 1 Notes

1. The approved retention is considered by the WPA to be the minimum amount of preservative to be found in the analytical zone of softwood species after treatment (in accordance with use class 4 desired service life specification in British Standard BS 8417). No variation below the retentions approved by the WPA is permitted if performance in accordance with BS8417 has been specified or is expected by the buyer of the treated commodity.
2. 'Service life' has the same meaning as 'Desired service life' in the WPA Manual *Industrial Wood Preservation* and BS 8417.
3. Evidence of effectiveness in hardwood species has been presented and accepted. The approved retentions therefore also confer protection to treated hardwood species in use class 4 applications and service life combination (unless a different hardwood retention is indicated).

Approval relates exclusively to protection against biological organisms. Physical, chemical and environmental factors of the preservative are not considered. Approval is valid in the UK. The approval holder must inform WPA if the formulation of the preservative is changed or if information on the efficacy of a product that might affect the WPA approval comes into its possession. An independent panel will then consider if the information requires a re-assessment of the approval. WPA may withdraw an approval, after consulting the approval holder, if the preservative's biological efficacy fails in service. Such circumstances will trigger a review of the products approval.

Disclaimer

Approved retentions are derived from data provided by an applicant on that applicant's responsibility. Each applicant remains responsible for the performance of its product both in laboratory and field trials and in wood treated with the product. Neither the WPA nor any agent thereof have or accept liability for the efficacy of approved product(s) or the performance of wood treated with those products. Sole responsibility for fitness for purpose of a treated commodity rests with the business that places that commodity on the market.



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