

Growing the Market for Preserved Wood Products

The Wood Protection Association, the British Wood Preserving & Damp proofing Association's new division for the pre-treatment industry, was launched at a special event at Haydock Park Racecourse on 29 May. Focussing on growing the market for preserved wood products, the event featured speakers from wood.for good and the Timber Decking Association.

Welcoming delegates to the event, BWPDA President Mike Connell emphasised the importance of the WPA as a voice for the industry at a time of increasing regulation. At the same time the environmental credentials of preserved wood products need to be emphasised.

Gordon Ewbank (Osrose UK), who is to lead the Wood Protection Association in its initial phase said "Wood Protection will encompass all means of enhancing durability of wood products. The new WPA publication 'Preserving Confidence in Timber' shows what can be achieved. The Association will focus on delivery of quality in wood protection without compromising health, safety and environmental protection. A key element will be close involvement with other organisations representing the supply chain for timber and timber products. To this end the WPA will be working with, for example, TRA, UKTFA, BWF, TDA, UKFPA, TTF and FCA."

The WPA launch also saw the publication of the new Code of Practice for Timber Treatment Installations. This WPA code was developed with the three UK environment agencies, the Health & Safety Executive and the Chief Fire Officers Association. The code was sponsored by the Environment Agency and is a model for co-operation between industry and regulators. Launching the code, the Environment Agency's head of waste management policy Martin Brocklehurst said *"Voluntary Codes of Practice are an important vehicle for securing improvement in environmental and safety performance by translating complicated legislative and technical requirements into an accessible form."*

“This information, combined with details of current best practice, enables industry to adopt an informed and proactive approach to the management of environmental, health and safety issues. In essence it is about applying the principle of ‘prevention is better than a cure’”

Copies of ‘Preserving Confidence in Timber’ and the Code of Practice for Timber Treatment Installations are available from the Wood Protection Association.



Mike Connell (Arch Timber & President of the BWPDA), Tony Traynor (wood.for good), Steve Young (Timber Decking Association) and Gordon Ewbank (Osmose UK).



Gordon Ewbank (Osmose UK) and Martin Brocklehurst (Environment Agency) with the new Code of Practice for Timber Treatment Installations

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