



## **NEW 2006 FLAME RETARDANT MANUAL**

The Wood Protection Association (WPA) has issued a new Manual which provides a comprehensive guide to the industrial pre-treatment of solid timber and panel products with flame retardant products. The document was prepared with the help of industry experts consisting of WPA Fire Retardant Group members Arch Timber Protection, Montague L Meyer and Weyerhaeuser Products Limited, advised by independent experts from Warrington Fire Research and Chiltern International Fire.

Dr Andrew Hughes, Technical Director at Arch Timber Protection and chairman of the WPA Fire Retardant Committee commented, 'Many changes have taken place in recent years in particular through the introduction and harmonisation of standards across Europe. As the leading flame retardant treatment service provider in the UK, we welcome the release of this up to date guidance document. WPA Fire Retardant Group members' product ranges are listed within the manual including our Dricon® impregnation treatment which is the only product on the market carrying *WPA Approved* status.'

Incorporating traditional and new European fire testing standards, the new manual includes five model specifications designed to cover most uses for solid timber and panel products where protection against fire is required. To avoid confusion with the new Euroclass classifications under the Construction Products Directive, the Manual introduces new coding for previous flame retardant product types A, B and C; these are now described as Type DI (dry interior), HR (humidity resistant) and LR (leach resistant). These product types and the model specifications can only be used in relation to products listed in the Manual.

Dr Chris Coggins Director of the WPA said 'This Manual is the first in a new series of publications from the association in electronic format making it possible to create a new user-friendly style with links that take readers quickly to the sections they need.

A new leaflet is also being released alongside the Manual which gives a brief introduction to flame retardant products and their specification and acts as an introduction to the Manual. Both documents are available to industry professionals and WPA members as free downloads from our website at [www.wood-protection.org](http://www.wood-protection.org) or can be ordered on CD. We are certain that the Manual will prove invaluable to users and specifiers of flame retardant products'.

#### **Editor's notes**

The previous version of this Manual was included in the BWPDA Manual 1999 which also included a section on wood preservatives. Each section will now be issued separately and the flame retardant one has been completed and published first.

The Wood Protection Association is a Division of the BWPDA – the British Wood Preserving and Damp-proofing Association. The BWPDA has in the last three years supported its members in the two sectors it serves under two divisions – Property Care Association (including remedial timber and damp treatment, basement waterproofing and wall-tie replacement) and Wood Protection Association (products and treatment services to enhance the durability and fire performance of timber in a wide range of uses). A restructuring planned for implementation at the association's AGM in May 2006 will see these divisions become separate trade associations under their own management.

Further information is available from:

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