



Quality scheme for wood treated with FR Build chemicals (“the Scheme”)

SCHEME DOCUMENT

SCOPE

The WPA FR *Build* quality scheme relates specifically to compliance with Structural Timber Association (STA) requirements for wood and wood-based materials treated with an STA approved FR *Build* chemical. To comply with STA requirements an approved FR *Build* chemical must be applied by a factory-controlled process that has been quality assessed under the WPA FR *Build* quality assurance scheme set out in this document

Requirements relating to the visual quality/grade of wood and wood-based materials, machining, preservative treatment and moisture content at the time of delivery/collection are not covered and, if relevant to the application of the treated commodity, should be specified separately by the customer.

1. PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHEME

1.1 Confidence in performance

Wood and wood-based materials treated with FR *Build* chemicals in compliance with the STA FRBuild Product Approval Scheme and incorporated into elements of timber frame constructions in accordance with STA requirements deliver the required construction phase protection against fire.

1.2 Marking

1.2.1 Traceability

Wood and wood-based materials treated in accordance with the Scheme must be traceable to treatment plant records at pack level by marking, pack labeling or accompanying documents complying with clause 2.5.

1.2.2 Identification

Wood and wood-based materials treated in accordance with the Scheme must be visibly marked to identify them as FR *Build*

1.4 Scheme name and visual identity

The Scheme shall be known as the **WPA FR Build** treated wood quality scheme and this will be represented visually by the design (“Scheme logo”) in Figure 1.

The Benchmark name and logo are the property of the WPA and shall not be used without the prior written consent of the WPA. Colour and black only versions of the logo may be used by treaters certificated under this scheme. Artwork versions of the logo designs will be supplied by the WPA to Scheme members who may use the logo only in accordance with the Scheme rules published by WPA from time to time.

Figure 1. WPAFR Build scheme logo



Fig 1(a). Colour version



Fig.1(b) Black, single colour, version

2. OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

2.1 Eligible treaters

Organisations that operate industrial wood treatment plants using vacuum/pressure impregnation or other factory-controlled application processes (the “Treater”) are eligible to apply to join the Scheme.

2.2 Requirements for FR *Build* product application plants/processes

The application equipment must be:

- a) equipped with devices to measure and record the process.
- b) equipped with systems to measure, record and maintain the correct FR *Build* chemical strength and application consistency.
- c) maintained and tested regularly and records kept of the work undertaken

2.3 Requirements for plant operatives

Plant operatives must:

- a) Be competent to operate the plant or equipment they are employed to operate.
- b) Be competent to implement FR *Build* treatment appropriate to the wood/wood material type and condition, dimensions, end use.
- c) Be competent to operate relevant equipment and record results from tests of wood moisture content and FR *Build* treatment quality control systems.
- d) Have written evidence of refresher training at intervals of no more than five years.

Notes:

Requirements 2.3 a), b) and c) are deemed to be satisfied by either:

- 1. Operative(s) having written evidence of training in the operation of the application plant/process provided by a person or organisation approved by WPA with a statement by the employer that he is satisfied the named operative is competent or*
- 2. Impregnation plant operative(s) holding the NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Wood Preserving – Industrial Pre-treatment and registered with the WPA.*

2.4 Treatment

2.4.1 The treatment must comply with the chemical manufacturer’s FR *Build* specification for each wood type relevant to each charge of wood or wood-based materials being treated by achieving the minimum charge loading of solution as demonstrated by written records of analysis of samples from each charge.

2.4.2 Where application is by vacuum pressure impregnation this shall be carried out in compliance with the current edition of WPA Quality Guidance Note FR *Build* including a written quality system with records.

2.4.3 FR *Build* chemicals incorporating preservative effect must be approved under the Control of Pesticides Regulations or authorised under the Biocidal Products Regulations.

2.4.4 The FR *Build* chemical used must be listed in the Structural Timber Association (STA) approved products list* (valid for the date of WPA FR *Build* audit). All requirements of STA Product Paper 1* (valid at date of audit) must be complied with.

Particular attention is drawn to clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Product Paper 1. Where engineered timber products are being treated or produced the treater must state if the chemical manufacturer has issued instructions relating to strength of components after treatment. The audit report must include a note on this and any actions taken if such instructions have been issued.

*Current versions of these papers are available on request from the WPA office or the Chief Auditor.

2.5 Identification of wood treated under the Scheme (traceability and identification)

Wood treated with FR *Build* chemicals under the Scheme must be identified with the Scheme logo (see Figure 1 and 2 in this document) and the Treater's name.

The Treater may add additional information as may be commercially relevant.

Notes:

1. Traceability: FR Build marking may be applied to individual pieces or pack. Examples of pack marking include labels attached to batch packs or accompanying documents. Additional information may be added to piece labels or markings and/or be included in batch markings.

2. Identification: Units of wood and wood-based materials treated with FR Build chemicals must be visibly identifiable as such at panel construction phase.

2.6 Audit

The following site verification audits shall be carried out by a WPA or WPA-appointed expert:

- a) An initial verification audit to establish if an applicant meets the criteria for membership of the Scheme.
- b) After admission, Scheme members will be required to demonstrate compliance by surveillance audit or other procedure approved by the WPA at intervals of no greater than 12 months.
- c) An extraordinary audit, at the sole discretion of the WPA, in the event of a complaint or if considered necessary for any other reason.

Note: The operators of impregnation plant who hold BS EN ISO 9001 (or other WPA-approved third party quality assurance) certification for their treatment operations, which includes *WPA Quality Guidance Note FR Build* as a controlled document in their quality manual shall be eligible for reduced audit requirements under the Scheme, subject to prior agreement with the WPA in consultation with the WPA FR *Build* auditor.

2.7 Non-compliance

The Scheme member is responsible for the treated wood and wood-based materials they produce. If a non-conformance is identified during an audit, the non-conformance shall be notified to the Treater with corrective measures. Corrections shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the auditor, within time limit stated in the audit report.

If, following an investigation by a panel including an independent person, a Scheme member is found to have:

- a) Misused the Scheme logo;
- b) Supplied wood and wood-based materials under the Scheme that is improperly treated;
- c) Refused to implement corrective action for audit non-conformances;
- d) Acted in any other way that brings the Scheme and/or the WPA into disrepute;

then the WPA may exclude or suspend a Treater from the Scheme. In all cases the Treater will be invited to provide reasons for such non-compliances. Treaters will have the right of appeal against exclusion from the Scheme.

Notes: 1. An independent person is a person with knowledge of the factory application process but free of a commercial interest in the matter under consideration.

2. If an appeal against exclusion is made, a panel with an independent person, different from the investigating panel, will be convened by WPA. The decision of the appeal panel will be final and binding on the WPA and the scheme member.

2.8 Withdrawal from the Scheme

A Treater may withdraw from the Scheme by giving 60 days notice by letter or e-mail to the WPA. All fees due to the WPA or any Scheme operator appointed by the WPA up to the end of the notice period must be paid in full

3. SCHEME SUPERVISION AND COSTS

3.1 Supervision

Operation of the Scheme is the responsibility of the Wood Protection Association, 5C Flemming Court, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 5HW.

3.2 Costs

All costs associated with membership of the Scheme, verification and surveillance audits, identification of components etc shall be borne by the Treater. Scheme membership costs may be varied depending on the time involved in travel or in compliance related activities in agreement with the individual member.

The standard fee structure payable each year for FR *Build* treaters operating within mainland UK is set out in the table on page 5 of this document. WPA members are eligible for the concessions set out in the Notes under the table. The fees include the visit to site, completion of an audit report, including all discussions relating to compliance with the treater, chemical supplier or other third party nominated by the treater. For audits conducted outside of mainland UK or where the site involves considerable travel time over and above

the 7 hours included in the fee then the rate below applies but additional travelling time and expenses incurred by the auditor will be charged at cost.

Fees may be adjusted from time to time depending on prevailing circumstances and site locations but for wood treaters joining the WPA FR Build quality scheme in the Table below are applicable. The fees are subject to VAT at the prevailing rate.

Table of WPA FR *Build* Certification Costs

	Standard fee	WPA member fee
Scheme Membership ^{Note 1}	£1,500	£ 0
Verification audit ^{Note 2}	£1,800	£ 900
Surveillance audit	£1,500	£ 800
Auditor expenses– charged at cost	£ variable	£ variable

Discounted costs for treaters who are Members of the WPA

1. Benchmark Scheme membership fees are deemed to be included within the current annual subscription paid for WPA membership.

2. WPA members benefit from a 50% discount on purchases of WPA owned products and services therefore the base fee applicable for verification and surveillance audit visits is £900 and £800 respectively for audits carried out in mainland UK. Where an applicant is outside of England, Wales or Scotland then a supplementary fee will be agreed to cover additional travelling time.

4. LIABILITY

The WPA FR Build quality scheme provides assurance that a component will be produced by a manufacturer in compliance with the scheme requirements set out in this scheme document.

WPA FR *Build* certification of a process is based on an initial verification audit of the treatment plant/application procedures and data established by the treater and the FR *Build* chemical supplier used to produce the commodity. Surveillance of scheme membership compliance is carried out on an annual basis.

Neither the WPA, nor any agent acting on its behalf, can accept any liability for the accuracy of data provided to achieve WPA FR *Build* certification or for any variation in the manufacturing or application process outside of those approved and monitored annually under the Scheme

Any director or officer of the WPA or appointed agent thereof:

- 4.1 have and accept no liability whatsoever for any failure of the Scheme or any system or systems assessed under this document or for the quality, fitness for purpose, or safety of any product or service which is subject of such assessment,
- 4.2 do not provide any representation or warranty as to the Scheme or any aspect of any such system, product or service, and
- 4.3 hereby expressly exclude all and any liability or responsibility (however alleged to arise) for or in connection with the provision of any service or product or any use of any product, all and any such, liability or responsibility attaching exclusively to the producer (or user as the case may be) thereof.

The Scheme member has sole responsibility for the treated wood they produce and market under the Scheme.

A failure of those using treated wood produced by a WPA FR Build certificated process to follow good practice design, installation and maintenance and/or the manufacturer's recommendations may compromise the performance of the product.

END

WPA FR *Build* Treated Wood Quality Scheme
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