



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

SCHEME DOCUMENT

SCOPE

This quality scheme relates specifically to the compliance with UKTFA requirements of wood and wood-based materials treated with FR *Build* chemicals by a process in factory-controlled conditions.

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 UKTFA Approval Scheme and incorporated in elements of timber frame constructions in accordance with UKTFA 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 **Benchmark 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. Benchmark FR 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 methods (the “Treater”) are eligible to apply to join the Scheme.

2.2 Requirements for wood preservation plants

Plants and application equipment must:

- a) Be capable of maintaining (where appropriate) positive and negative pressure sufficient to ensure treatment of wood to the FR *Build* standard.
- b) Be equipped with devices to measure and record the process.
- c) Be equipped with systems to measure, record and maintain the correct FR *Build* solution strength.
- d) Be maintained and tested in accordance with WPA Quality Guidance Note FR *Build*.

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 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 plant operation 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. Operative(s) holding the NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Wood Preserving – Industrial Pre-treatment (Edexcel ref 500/9393/9) 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 Be carried out in compliance with 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 approved products list* (valid for the date of 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* under the Scheme must be identified with the Scheme logo and the Treater's name.

Scheme members may add additional information.

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 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 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: Treaters 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 scheme 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 a stated time limit.

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 treated 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.

Notes: 1. An independent person is a person with knowledge of industrial wood preservation practice 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 date notice was given shall be paid in full

3. SCHEME SUPERVISION AND COSTS

3.1 Supervision

The Scheme shall be supervised by the WPA Treated Wood Quality Committee (TWQC) which operates under Terms of Reference approved at the meeting of the TWQC on 27 April 2010.

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 base fee for audits is set by, and is subject to, the approval of the TWQC.

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

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