

Guideline for the collection of samples for preservative compliance testing

Introduction

The specifications in Australian and New Zealand standard AS/NZS1604.2:2021 *Preservative-treated wood-based products Part 2 Verification requirements*, must be used to be able to claim compliance with Part 1 (*Products and treatment*) of the Standard.

The verification requirements provide informative (could do) *Guidance on sampling* (Appendix F) and normative (must do) *Sampling and preparation of test specimens* (Appendix H). The purpose of this Code of Practice is to provide the timber preservation operation with more detail on the collection of material for testing.

Collection of Timber Samples:

Timber samples should be representative of the charge and conform to the following:

- Be taken a minimum of 450 mm from end of board.
- Be the complete cross section
- A minimum length of 200 mm.
- A matching 100 mm long 'B' sample retained on-site.
- Be clear sound wood not nearer than 150mm from a knot and clear of defect.
- If sample is hardwood, contain more than 20% sapwood.
- If adding sacrificial sample boards to charge,
 - They should be a minimum of 1,800 mm long and
 - Be a minimum of 200 (+100) mm removed midway along the length.

Number of Samples per Charge:

- To claim compliance with the Standard, the number of samples must comply with the *Verification* (Part 2) of the Standard
- To monitor the process, 3 samples per charge.

Information to accompany samples submitted for testing

- Company name and address
- The preservation plant number.
- A unique identifier for the sample(s) usually Charge and replicate number e.g. Chg 1234/3
- Site contact details
- Treatment type and Hazard level
- Any other information required from the laboratory.

Chain of Custody/Record Keeping:

Once samples are collected from a charge, they are to be:

- Labelled with preservation plant number
- The unique identifier used on each sample
- The date of preservation
- The matching 'B' sample is to be labelled as above and stored on site for at least 6 years
- A spreadsheet is to be completed with at least the following information:
 - The unique sample identifier
 - Date of preservation
 - Relevant charge information
 - Solution strength
 - Preservation cycle applied
 - Target absorption/uptake
 - Achieved absorption/uptake
 - Name of test laboratory
 - Date submitted to the testing laboratory
 - Test/analysis results once returned from the testing laboratory.
- Timbers samples are to be sent to – Insert list of treatment testing Laboratory names here

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