



Preservation COMPASS

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APVMA release final report

The national agricultural chemical regulator, the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is moving to reclassify some end-use applications for timber treated with copper chrome arsenate (CCA). The re-classification is one of the conclusions contained in the final report of the APVMA's review of arsenic timber treatments.

The Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P) welcomed the findings of the review, noting that no evidence had been found that CCA treated timber posed an unacceptable risk to human health and that there was no cause for alarm.

In commenting on the review, A3P's chief executive Belinda Robinson, said the industry supported most of the review's findings. "In particular, the industry supports the APVMA decision to introduce requirements for improving some treatment plant practices, as well as product labelling and handling information."

"This review has confirmed that used correctly, CCA, is a safe, practical and inexpensive timber treatment," she said.

She indicated that despite CCA having been in use world-wide for more than 70 years without evidence of harm to human or environmental health, the APVMA took a precautionary position on the use of CCA as a timber treatment for "frequent and intimate" contact products, such as children's play equipment, decking and outdoor furniture.

"These restrictions could create an impression that CCA treated products

are unsafe, yet neither the APVMA or a series of reviews conducted in the USA, Canada, the EU and New Zealand have found any evidence that CCA treated timber has adverse human health impacts provided, of course, it is appropriately handled and managed," Ms Robinson said.

"Stringent manufacturing and handling procedures are already in place, and distributors provide extensive factual information to customers about treated timber products."



A precautionary approach will see CCA treated products phased out for 'frequent and intimate' human use applications.

"This decision has effectively reversed the onus of proof. The same precautionary arguments put by the APVMA could apply equally to many of the products that we all have under the kitchen sink and in the garden shed," she said.

Osmose, has indicated that it supports many of the changes prescribed by the APVMA, but is not supportive of the restriction on the use of CCA treated products for a small number of applications.

Continued overleaf ►

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Preservation Technology at Work

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Pat Farmer MP for Macarthur, Ripper White, Osmose, Anthony Hayter, Elias Akle, Osmose, General Manager Australia and Kim Hayter: Celebrating the Hayter Osmose partnership.

New plant for old family business

The opening of the new CCA and NatureWood® ACQ® treatment facility at LM Hayter & Sons, Werombi, on the south western fringe of Sydney, was a cause for celebration of a long family pioneering tradition, as well as a demonstration of commercial success.

Still occupying and operating on the original land grant this fifth generation Australian family is not only the closest dual treatment plant to the Sydney metropolitan region, it also operates its own fleet of trucks and has significant timber drying capacity.

It all began in the 1800s when Jeremiah Hayter was allocated the land where the LM Hayter & Sons plant is now located. The family farmed the land until 1968 when Richard Hayter, a major supplier of mine props to the local mining industry, decided to build his own hardwood sawmill.

The mill did well until the mining industry declined in the 1990's. It was then converted to saw softwood logs. Initially timber treatment was outsourced, but it became apparent that a treatment facility at Werombi would make logical commercial sense.

At this point managing director Kim Hayter teamed up with Osmose, assessing the feasibility of the site and developing the plant, which now treats product with both CCA and NatureWood ACQ preservatives.

The treatment facility charge cylinder has a 28 cubic metre capacity and the ability to process seven charges per day. This allows treatment of about 20,000 cubic metres of sawn timber a year.

The official opening of the dual treatment plant was performed by popular local Federal Member of Parliament, Pat Farmer MP. In addition to acknowledging the contribution the Hayter family had made to the district, Mr Farmer noted the significant economic and employment benefits the business now provided.



Kim Hayter (left) and Pat Farmer MP officially open state-of-art treatment facility.

Mr Farmer said, "The company operates in a sustainable industry and was a key to the local commercial and building activity"

Mr Hayter said that today their business was a far cry from the family's early sawing activities – cutting mine props from local hardwoods to a focus on modern softwood plantation-based sawmilling and timber treatment.

He paid tribute to his family, many of whom are directly associated with the business, his staff and the technical expertise provided by Osmose that was critical to the construction of the treatment facility.

Osmose's Brisbane-base Ripper White, who supervised the plant's construction said the plant had been designed to meet today's timber treatment needs.

"It's a modern, state of the art facility and built to be versatile to meet today's timber treatment needs. It conforms to all the relevant Australian Standards, and has all the necessary safety measures in place."

Commenting on the state of the business today, Mr Hayter said they were having a tremendous run. "In part we put this down to our location, the increasingly strong demand for treated pine timber and the great support we have received from wholesalers across the greater Sydney metropolitan area and Central coast areas."

In relation to the new dual treatment plant, Mr Hayter said its performance had been fantastic. "It has made a hugely valuable contribution to their strong business growth."

"The savings in transport, compared with having to have timber treated off-site are substantial and the treatment facility means we can be absolutely reliable in terms of treatment requirements and deliveries to customers."

In terms of the company's future plans, acquiring more timber to treat was a goal. "We just can't cut enough to meet demand though our own sawmill and a substantial sawmill upgrade is still down-the-track, so we are looking, where we can, to buy in sawn timber for treatment and drying."

Planning extra kiln drying capacity and an additional chemical storage tank when the demand for ACQ treated lines increases sufficiently, are on the business growth agenda.

"We are finding that the demand for ACQ treated lines is expanding, especially from local councils who are now frequently using ACQ treated produces for outdoor applications."

CCA will continue to be used in the majority of applications

Osmose Australia's general manager Elias Akle says, "It should be noted that the use of CCA for most other products, such as bearers and joists, fencing, other structural, landscaping and agricultural uses is not impacted by the APVMA decision."

"We will work closely with our customers in the next twelve months to ensure that the industry is able to make any recommended changes and to ensure that a sensible approach to the continued use of CCA in a wide range of applications is taken," Mr Akle said.

He also noted that the APVMA decision allows CCA treated timber to continue to be used in the vast majority of applications

Mr Akle confirmed that scientific data from the EU, United States and New Zealand concludes that if used correctly and relevant occupational health and safety requirements are followed, CCA timber treatment continues to represent a viable alternative to the use of plastic, metal and concrete."

APVMA principle scientist David Loschke said, "Other key outcomes of the review include the requirement that CCA treated timbers be clearly labeled to improve consumer awareness and the introduction of greater controls on the availability and use of CCA by timber treatment plants," said Dr Loschke.



CCA use for structural, fencing, landscaping and agricultural applications is not affected

reinforcing its status as a safe, durable and inexpensive way to preserve wood for outdoor uses, when used as recommended.

"Osmose has already embraced many of the recommendations contained in the APVMA report. We had already moved on labeling and handling changes well before the APVMA review was completed. We saw this as a sensible approach to ensure that the public is aware of how CCA treated timber is to be used and urge users to read this type of information when they carry out building projects," Mr Akle said.

"The APVMA has no regulatory authority over existing CCA treated structures. We are making our report available to other relevant authorities for them to consider. However, no other countries that have examined this issue, and that includes those that have phased out the use of CCA, are recommending the dismantling of existing structures."



New product update - TimberSaver®

A boron-based product that has been in development in New Zealand for many years may become the most favoured option for H1.2 internal framing applications.

TimberSaver® is a specially formulated boron-based spray or dip applied preservative that provides resistance to decay fungi and borer.

Osmose's New Zealand Technical Sales Manager Terry Smith says, "Timbersaver is a remarkable development for the industry because it offers the proven efficacy and durability of boron, combined with ease of application."

"This is a ready to use solution which requires no mixing on site," says Terry.

"Osmose has developed a simple and robust application system by way of a straightforward spray system. The liquid is directly sprayed on to the timber. You control the amount by adjusting the pressure and the spray or the roller speed. We provide spray nozzles that are customised to each site to ensure the correct uptake of preservative."

TimberSaver was developed in New Zealand by the Osmose Development Team, including Terry Smith, Steve Crimp and Bruce McCullough. It has been proven in stringent testing alongside other H1.2 products. "We know it's good because we have subjected it to demanding, comprehensive testing," says Terry.





Kevin Collison - delighted that Osmose will be seminar's timber preservation technology company sponsor.

Osmose to support CCA seminar

Osmose is putting its support behind a seminar being organised to examine matters related to the APVMA decision on CCA treated timber products. The seminar will be held at the Rydges Hotel, Rose Hill in Sydney on Thursday, 23 June 2005.

The one day seminar is being held in response to the level of interest in the future of CCA timber treatment and will examine matters related to the APVMA decision about the future use of CCA treated products.

TABMA's chief executive officer Kevin Collison, said he was delighted that Osmose had agreed to be the seminar's timber preservation technology company sponsor, and for their assistance with seminar planning.

"The seminar will provide details of the APVMA decision, its interpretation by the timber industry, and others, and the future implications for timber treatment industry."

The seminar will also examine the consequences of the APVMA decision, its interpretation, implementation and market consequences for the future of CCA treated timber products,

alternative treated products and the treated timber industry generally.

The seminar will also discuss timber preservation technology implications, market perception and reality issues, including the likely future demand for both CCA treated products, other timber products and alternative non-timber products.

The day will conclude by endeavouring to formulate an action agenda to assist future industry strategic planning and decision-making in relation to the CCA decision and its consequences.

It is anticipated that the seminar will be of interest to:

- Timber wholesalers and distributors
- Timber merchants
- Forest management companies
- Timber treatment companies and sawmillers
- Timber products marketing companies
- Public and local government authorities
- Timber industry research and development agencies

Enquiries about the seminar and attendance should be directed to: Tel: +61 2 9983 9330, or Email: fft@forestsandtimber.com

Staff additions expand customer service capacity

Osmose is adding to its staffing complement with three new key appointments, two in Australia and one in New Zealand.

Osmose Group Marketing Manager Dave Airey, said that because of an expanding customer base and service levels, plus the need to maintain our existing high levels of customer service, additional staff appointments have now been finalised.

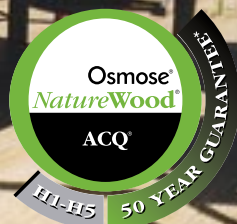
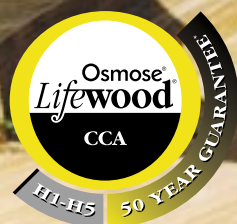
"We have been fortunate to find two very experienced field staff to support our customers in achieving optimal use of our products and technology," he said.

"Also, because our marketing department is experiencing a higher demand for assistance in developing and implementing support packages for our customers, we have employed the services of Guy Sardisco as a full time graphic designer and marketing assistant in our Sydney office.

Osmose's customer support in NSW will be strengthened by the appointment of Paul Downey as Regional Manager for NSW. Paul was formerly plant manager for PacPine and has 13 years experience in sawmilling, treating timber, steaming and processing.

Bevan Lake has just taken up his appointment as Territory Manager for Southland in New Zealand. Bevan has an impressive practical background in the timber industry and is a highly experienced plant operator, having worked for three companies in that capacity.

Based in Invercargill, Bevan will strengthen technical and service support for Osmose customers in the lower part of the South Island.



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Lifewood, NatureWood and PROTIM treated timber products are produced by independently owned and operated wood preserving facilities.

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