



## Southern Pine Inspection Bureau

Quality. Together

### AWPA STANDARDIZATION UPDATE

Modifications to the current AWPA Standards that were proposed and passed in the 2015 meetings will become effective upon the release of the 2016 Book of Standards. The Executive Committee met in San Juan, Puerto Rico on January 26<sup>th</sup> to review and approve several proposals that were passed in the most recent General Ballots. The following is an attempt to summarize a couple of those proposals that may be of specific interest to you:

#### T2 Committee Proposal -

Due to concerns with misapplication, a proposal was submitted in the Spring 2015 meeting to move all 2x8 and wider to Ground Contact. This proposal failed, but the T2 Committee approved a similar proposal that delineated certain scenarios where otherwise above ground products should be treated to Ground Contact (close proximity to the ground, poor ventilation, continuous wetting, etc.).

During the Fall 2015 meeting, language was modified in U1 Table 2-1 and U1 Table 3-1 that listed deck joists and joists for fresh water docks and beams in both UC3B and UC4A with a footnote that read, "Joists and beams shall be treated to requirements for UC4A when they are difficult to maintain, repair or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system/construction".

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The following are excerpts from the modified language as it will appear in the Standards:

#### Modifications (highlighted in blue) to U1 Section 2:

UC3B ABOVE GROUND Exposed -- Wood and wood based materials used in exterior construction and not in contact with the ground. Materials do not require an exterior coating, but may be finished to achieve a desired aesthetic appearance. Materials are used for a variety of applications in either horizontal and vertical positions such as decking, sills, walkways, railings and fence pickets.

Note: Retentions above the minimum specified for materials in this use category may be required for products such as crossarms where the individual components are difficult to maintain, repair or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system. See Note 1 under UC4A GROUND CONTACT for components that may be physically above ground but that are required to be treated for ground contact. This includes components that are difficult to replace and critical to the structure or that may be exposed to ground contact type hazards due to climate, artificial or natural processes or construction.

UC4 GROUND CONTACT UC4A GROUND CONTACT General Use -- Wood and wood-based materials used (1) in contact with the ground, fresh water, or other situations favorable to deterioration; (2) used above ground but are difficult to maintain, repair or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system /construction; or (3) used above ground but may end up in ground contact or are subject to hazards comparable to ground contact due to climate, artificial or natural processes or construction.

Examples are fence posts, deck posts, guardrail posts, structural lumber, joists and beams for decks and freshwater docks, timbers and utility poles located in regions of low natural potential for wood decay and insect attack.

Note 1: The following components for exterior above ground use shall be treated to Ground Contact UC4A or higher requirements:

- a) When there is a reasonable expectation that soil, vegetation, leaf litter or other debris may build up and remain in contact with the component.
- b) When the construction itself, other structures or anticipated vegetation growth will not allow air to circulate underneath the construction and between decking boards.
- c) When components are installed less than six inches above ground (final grade after landscaping) and supported on permeable building materials (e.g. treated wood or concrete).
- d) When components are in direct contact with non-durable untreated wood, or any older construction with any evidence of decay.
- e) When components are wetted on a frequent or recurrent basis (e.g., on a freshwater floating dock or by a watering system).
- f) When components are used in tropical climates

Modifications (highlighted in blue) to Table 2-1 Service Conditions for Use Category Designations:

| USE CATEGORY                           | SERVICE CONDITIONS   | USE ENVIRONMENT   | COMMON AGENTS OF DETERIORATION  | TYPICAL APPLICATIONS   |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| UC3A<br>ABOVE GROUND<br>PROTECTED      | EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION ABOVE GROUND COATED & RAPID WATER RUNOFF   | EXPOSED TO ALL WEATHER CYCLES INCLUDING INTERMITTENT WETTING  | DECAY FUNGI AND INSECTS   | COATED MILLWORK, SIDING AND TRIM   |
| UC3B<br>ABOVE GROUND<br>EXPOSED        | EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION ABOVE GROUND UNCOATED OR POOR WATER RUNOFF<br>EXCLUDES ABOVE GROUND APPLICATIONS WITH GROUND CONTACT TYPE HAZARDS (SEE SECTION 2 UC4 NOTE 1) | EXPOSED TO ALL WEATHER CYCLES INCLUDING INTERMITTENT WETTING BUT WITH SUFFICIENT AIR CIRCULATION SO WOOD CAN READILY DRY  | DECAY FUNGI AND INSECTS   | DECKING, RAILINGS, JOISTS AND BEAMS FOR DECKS AND FRESHWATER DOCKS <sup>1</sup><br>FENCE PICKETS, UNCOATED MILLWORK                          |
| UC4A<br>GROUND CONTACT<br>GENERAL USE  | GROUND CONTACT OF FRESH WATER NON-CRITICAL COMPONENTS INCLUDES ABOVE GROUND APPLICATIONS WITH GROUND CONTACT TYPE HAZARDS OR THAT ARE CRITICAL OR HARD TO REPLACE  | EXPOSED TO ALL WEATHER CYCLES INCLUDING CONTINUOUS OR PROLONGED WETTING   | DECAY FUNGI AND INSECTS   | FENCE, DECK, AND GUARDRAIL POSTS, JOISTS AND BEAMS FOR DECKS AND FRESHWATER DOCKS <sup>1</sup> , CROSSTIES & UTILITY POLES (LOW DECAY AREAS) |
| UC4B<br>GROUND CONTACT<br>HEAVY DUTY   | GROUND CONTACT OR FRESH WATER CRITICAL COMPONENTS OR DIFFICULT REPLACEMENT   | EXPOSED TO ALL WEATHER CYCLES, INCLUDING CONTINUOUS OR PROLONGED WETTING, HIGH DECAY POTENTIAL INCLUDES SALT WATER SPLASH | DECAY FUNGI AND INSECTS WITH INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR BIODETERIORATION | PERMANENT WOOD FOUNDATIONS, BUILDING POLES, HORTICULTURAL POSTS, CROSSTIES & UTILITY POLES (HIGH DECAY AREAS)                                |
| UC4C<br>GROUND CONTACT<br>EXTREME DUTY | GROUND CONTACT OR FRESH WATER CRITICAL STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS   | EXPOSED TO ALL WEATHER CYCLES, INCLUDING CONTINUOUS OR PROLONGED WETTING, SEVERE ENVIRONMENTS EXTREME DECAY POTENTIAL     | DECAY FUNGI AND INSECTS WITH EXTREME POTENTIAL FOR BIODETERIORATION   | LAND & FRESHWATER PILING, FOUNDATION PILING, CROSSTIES & UTILITY POLES (SEVERE DECAY AREAS)  |

<sup>1</sup> Joists and beams shall be treated to requirements for UC4A when they are difficult to maintain, repair or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system /construction.

Modifications (highlighted in blue) to Table 3-1 Guide to commodity specifications for treated wood end uses, arranged by use:

| Commodity | Use | Exposure | Use Category | Commodity Spec |           |
|-----------|-----|----------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
|           |     |          |              | Section        | Spec Req. |

|                    |  |   |    |   |
|--------------------|--|---|----|---|
| Decks, Residential | Decking (Painted/Unpainted)<br>Joists and Beams <sup>1</sup><br>Railing Components | Above Ground, Exterior                                  | 3B | A |
|                    | Joists and Beams <sup>1</sup><br>Joists and Beams<br>Support Posts (Sawn)          | Above Ground, Exterior<br>Ground Contact or Fresh Water | 4A | A |

|        |                                    |                             |        |       |
|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Joists | Above Ground, Interior             | Insect Only                 | 1      | A 4.1 |
|        | Above Ground, Interior             | Above Ground, Damp          | 2      | A 4.1 |
|        | Building Construction <sup>1</sup> | Above Ground, Exterior      | 3B, 4A | A     |
|        | Building Construction              | Ground Contact, Fresh Water | 4A     | A     |

|                         |   |                                  |        |       |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Lumber/Timbers          | Above Ground, Interior                              | Insect Only                      | 1      | A 4.1 |
|                         | Above Ground, Interior                              | Wood Exposed to Dampness         | 2      | A 4.1 |
|                         | Above Ground, Exterior,<br>Coated/Painted           | All Applications                 | 3A     |       |
|                         | Above Ground, Exterior,<br>Joists and Beams         | Above Ground, Exterior           | 3B, 4A | A     |
|                         | General, Including<br>Agriculture/Farms             | Above Ground, Exterior, Uncoated | 3B     | A     |
|                         | Docks, freshwater, joists and<br>beams <sup>1</sup> | Above Ground, Exterior           | 3B     |       |
| Lumber/Timbers<br>Cont. | Docks, freshwater, joists and<br>Beams <sup>1</sup> | Above Ground or Fresh Water      | 4A     | A     |

<sup>1</sup> Joists and beams shall be treated to requirements for UC 4A when they are difficult to maintain, repair or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system /construction. Refer to the Section 2 description of UC4 Ground Contact for any provisions that may also be applicable to joists and beams.

As you can see, the language in U1 Section 2 and Section 3 acknowledges that there are scenarios where joists and beams, as well as fresh water joists and beams, may fall under both Above Ground and Ground Contact applications. The footnote, however, should be considered by the contractor or end-user for the intended application and end use(s). We strongly recommend that you check with your chemical suppliers to determine warranty guidelines and implications. Also, please keep in mind that SPIB's role in this matter, as always, is to audit treated wood products according to the End Use that is represented in the plant's records and/or its Treated Wood Quality Mark.

Other Proposals accepted by AWPA Committees this Fall include:

Revisions to A9:

- The option of using a 20 mesh sieve was added for sample milling.
- New procedures were added for XRF Calibrations using NIST traceable solution standards (the SPIB Laboratory will be working closely with our Subscribers and Chemical Manufacturers in the near future to implement the new calibration requirements).

Revisions to A68 and A78 (Determination of Penetration of Boron-Containing Preservatives):

- Revision allows only the spray application of indicator.

This notice is intended to keep you informed of changes that may affect you directly. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like more information and detail about any or all of the changes.

You can find a complete online Summary of Fall 2015 Proposals on AWPA's Standards Activity Page at <http://www.awpa.com/standards/activity.asp>.

Thank you for your continued support!!

