

**SOUTH AFRICAN WOOD PRESERVERS
ASSOCIATION
(SAWPA)**

**PROTOCOL FOR THE PRESERVATIVE
TREATMENT OF TIMBER IMPORTED
INTO SOUTH AFRICA**

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1. TIMBER TREATMENT AND THE LAW

Legislation requires that if preservative treated timber is sold in South Africa, it must comply with the NRCS compulsory specification for preservative treated timber, VC 9092 and the National Standards (SANS). For details of this legislation and other regulations in force, please refer to Appendix 1. Specifically, all the requirements are directed to compliance with National Standard SANS 10005. Preservative treated timber is required to bear a quality mark of a product certification body accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

The Standard (SANS 10005) contains the following provisions:-

- details of allowable timber preservatives.
- hazard conditions for timber.
- solvents used for timber preservatives.
- the preparation of timber for treatment.
- the various treatment processes.
- the use of preservative-treated timber.
- handling and safety of preservative-treated timber.
- treatment plant conformity requirements.
- normative references, including preservatives and preservative treated products.

2. STRUCTURAL TIMBER

In addition, SANS 10005 lays down the requirements for the preservative treatment of softwoods and hardwoods for use in structures in specific municipal areas throughout South Africa as follows:

12. The use of preservative-treated timber in specific areas in South Africa

To qualify as being adequate for its purpose, structural timber of the two main species used in a permanent building in the areas given in 12.1 and 12.2 shall be preservative treated in terms of clause 12.3

12.1 Gymnospermae (coniferous species)

Sawn timber (including planed and profiled timber) and poles or logs (round or partly round) of the softwood species shall be treated in terms of 12.3 when used in the following municipal areas or towns in South Africa:

Amahlathi, Berg Rivier, Bitou, Breede Valley, Breede River/Winlands, Buffalo City, Cape Agulhas, Cederberg, City of Cape Town, Drakenstein, eNdongakusuka, eThekweni Metropolitan (Durban), Ezingoleni, George, Great Kei, Hibiscus, Hlabisa, Impendle, Jozini, Kamiesberg, King Sabata Dalindyebo, Knysna, Kouga, Kou-Kamma, KwaDukuza, Langeberg,

Makana, Maphumulo, Matzikama, Mbonambi, Mbhashe, Mbizana, Mkhambathini, Mnquma, Mooi Mpofana, Mossel Bay, Mthonjaneni, Mtubatuba, Mzunduzi, Nama Khoi, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan, Ndlamble, Ndwedwe, Nkonkobe Ngqushwa, Ntambanana, Nyandeni, Overstrand, Port St Johns, Qaukeni, Richmond, Richtersveldt, Saldanha Bay, Stellenbosch, Sunday's River Valley, Swartland, Swellendam, The Big 5 False Bay, Theewaterskloof, Ubuhlebezwe, Umdoni, uMngeni, uMhlathuze, Umhlabuyalingana, uMlalazi, uMshwati, uMuziwabantu, Umvoti, Umzumbe, Vulamehlo, Witzenberg.

12.2 Angiospermae (broadleaved species)

All sawn timber, planed timber (excluding laminated timber, block and strip flooring, ceilings, panelling, mouldings and joinery, garden furniture and outdoor decking boards) and poles or logs (round or partly round) of the hardwood species shall be treated in terms of 12.3 when used within the borders of South Africa.

12.3 Preservative treatment

The preservative treatment of timber shall comply with the provisions of SANS 457-2, SANS 457-3, SANS 753, SANS 754 or SANS 1288 as relevant.

3. IMPORTING PRESERVATIVE TREATED TIMBER INTO SOUTH AFRICA

If preservative treated timber is to be imported into South Africa the preservation of that timber shall comply with the following conditions :-

- only preservatives which are prescribed in SANS 10005 shall be used,
- the preservative used shall conform with the requirements of the relevant South African National Standard for that preservative. Compliance of that preservative with the standard shall be verified by a SANAS accredited authority or its duly authorized agent,
- the preservative treatment shall be in accordance with the minimum retention and penetration requirements as set out in the hazard classification of SANS 10005.
- the importer or agent shall be approved by the NRCS to import preservative treated timber,
- the preservative treated timber shall be marked in the case of sawn timber or bear the required plate in the case of round timber, with the following information:
 - o an identification code for the treatment plant where the timber was treated. Such an identification is may be obtained from a SANAS accredited authority
 - o the calendar year in which the timber was treated.
 - o the hazard classification (in terms of SANS 10005) in terms of which the timber was treated.
 - o a quality verification mark of an SANAS accredited authority which may be applied by a duly authorized agent of such an authority.

If the treated timber is not in compliance with the above, it shall not be sold into South Africa.

In addition to the above, treated sawn timber shall conform with the requirements of SANS 1288 and treated poles shall conform to the requirements of Clause 4.

4. IMPORTING TREATED POLES

In addition to the requirements set out in clause 3, treated poles are required to conform with either of the following:-

4.1 SANS 1288:

This specification lays down the preservatives that may be used, the retention and penetration that must be obtained and seasoning requirements. Because no underlying strength characteristics are required in this specification, these poles are not suitable for use in any circumstance where inherent strength is a requirement.

Or

4.2 PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS which give underlying typical strength properties and which lay down the preservatives which may be used, the retention and penetration requirements and the species of timber which is allowed.

The pole product specifications are for building, fencing and agricultural purposes:

SANS 457-2 Wooden poles, droppers, guardrail posts and spacer blocks Part 2: Softwood species;

SANS 457-3 Wooden poles, droppers, guardrail posts and spacer blocks – part 3 Hardwood species for building, fencing and guardrail purposes;

And for power distribution and telephone poles:

SANS 753 – Pine Poles, Cross-arms and spacers for power distribution, telephone systems and street lighting

SANS 754 – Eucalyptus Poles, Cross arms and spacers for power distribution and communication systems.

5. IMPORTING UNTREATED TIMBER

If untreated timber is to be imported into South Africa, it may be preservative treated in South Africa in a plant which is certified and complies with the requirements of SANS 10005. In order to obtain the required retention and penetration, the timber species shall need to be sufficiently permeable.

To determine whether the species is permeable, a sample of at least 50 specimens, of each species, taken from representative geographical areas where the supplying organisation sources its logs, shall be provided to the SANAS accredited certification body in South Africa. This sample will then be treated in a certified preservative treatment plant in accordance with SANS 10005 and SANS 1288 and evaluated to determine whether the species has the necessary permeability as required.

6. AUTHORITIES

6.1 Regulatory

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)

6.2 Product certification

At the time of preparation of this protocol the following product certification bodies were accredited by SANAS:-

South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)
(Timber Division)
Private Bag X191
0001. PRETORIA
South Africa
Tel: +27 12 428 7911
Fax: +27 12 428 6986

South African Technical Auditing Services (SATAS)
PO Box 4443
0174 Rietvalleirand
South Africa
Tel: +27 83 632 3416
Fax: +27 12 345 6646

For a current list or contact details of the responsible person at the authorities, please contact SAWPA.

7. SAWPA

For clarification of this protocol or information relating thereto, please contact the South African Wood Preservers Association (SAWPA) at:-

Tel: +27 11 974 1061

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Email: sawpa@global.co.za

Address: PO Box 686, Isando, 1600 South Africa

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APPENDIX 1

Compulsory requirements for the treatment of timber in South Africa, are contained in the following regulations and legislation:-

a) National Building Regulations
Clause A13 – Building Materials and tests

1. (a) Material used in the erection of a building shall be of a quality adequate for the purpose for which it is to be used.

(b) All timber shall be treated against termite and wood borer attack and fungal decay, and treatment shall be in accordance with a recognised method and the local authority may require proof of such treatment; and

(c) The requirements of subregulation (1)(a) and (1)(b) shall be deemed to be satisfied if -
 - (i) such material complies with the standard prescribed for it in the relevant standard specification, or
 - (ii) such treatment is in accordance with SABS 05, as the case may be.
2. The local authority may test or cause to be tested any material or component used or to be used in the erection of any building in order to determine whether such material or component complies with the requirements of these regulations, and any officer of such local authority duly authorised for that purpose may, at any time after consultation with the person erecting such building, remove from the building site concerned so much of such material or component as is reasonably necessary to serve as a sample for the purpose of such test: Provided that the authorised officer may not exercise his powers in such a way that work of such erection is stopped when such material or component is being so removed and tested.
3. If any material or component tested in terms of subregulation (2) does not comply with these regulations the local authority may serve a notice on such person, stating the respects in which such material or component does not comply and prohibiting such person from making further use of such material or component for the purpose for which it was or is to be used in the erection of such building.
4. Except in the case where in such notice the local authority permits the use of such material or component in the erection of such building for some different purpose permitted in terms of these regulations, such person shall forthwith on receipt of such notice remove such material or component from such building or building site or from both, as the case may be.
5. If any material or component contemplated in subregulation (2) is tested and has failed to comply with these regulations the local authority may recover the cost of such test from the owner of the building concerned.
6. Where the owner of any building desires to use for a particular purpose any material or component which is not permitted or prescribed by these regulations to be used for that purpose, and he satisfies the local authority that such material or component is at least as suitable for that purpose as the material or component permitted or prescribed to be used by these regulations, then the local authority shall permit the use of such material or component for the purpose concerned.

b) National Home Builders Registration Council Clause 2.2.1.1 of Part 1 Section 2 of the Home Builders Manual states:-

"All timber to be used in a building shall comply with the requirements of SABS 05 and shall bear the certification mark of SABS or the certification mark of any other standards authorities"

c) Compulsory Specifications

The NRCS VC 9092 compulsory specification for preservative treated timbers contains the following requirements.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Preserved timber shall comply with the requirements SANS 10005: *The preservative treatment of timber.*

3.2 The following requirements are excluded

3.2.1 The requirements for occupational health and safety of Clause 9.2;

3.2.2 The environmental protection requirements of Clause 9.4;

3.2.3 The requirements for occupational health and safety of Clause 13;

3.2.4 The requirements for occupational health and safety of Annexes D and E.

3.3 The producer or importer shall appoint a certification body recognized by the Regulator in terms of its conformity assessment policy to verify the initial compliance and on-going conformity of production of preserved timber with the requirements of the compulsory specification.

3.4 The Regulator shall only recognize conformity assessment bodies or evidence of conformity meeting its requirements.

3.5 The manufacturing facility for the preservative treatment of timber shall be pre-approved by the Regulator for conformity of production requirements as prescribed in Annex, attached

3.6 Preserved timber that complies with the requirements of this compulsory specification shall be marked as prescribed in Annex B, attached.

3.7 The manufacturer or importer shall provide the Regulator with satisfactory evidence of conformity of production on request.

3.8 The manufacturer and/or importer shall immediately report any failure to conform to the requirements of the compulsory specification, of whatever nature, to the Regulator.

ANNEX A

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF PRESERVED TIMBER

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

The applicant shall apply to the Regulator for approval of the manufacturing facility for preserved timber. The application shall include the following:

a) details of the type of preserved timber for which approval is sought and the *standard/s* to which it is claimed to conform;

- b) details of the manufacturing plant/s for which approval is sought.
- c) description of the manufacturing process/s;
- d) details of the control measures in place in the manufacturing facility to ensure ongoing conformity with the requirements of the compulsory specification;
- e) authentic current certificates of conformity with all the requirements of the relevant compulsory specification including standards and test methods referred to, issued by a certification body recognised by the Regulator;
- f) markings and other information to be placed on the preserved timber, with a breakdown of codes used where applicable;
- g) details of chemicals used in the preservative treatment, their specifications and derivation;
- h) any reasonable additional information requested by the Regulator.

A.2 APPROVAL

- a) The Regulator shall issue a Certificate of Approval to the manufacturer or importer when all the requirements have been met to its satisfaction.
- b) The Regulator shall assign a unique number to each Certificate Approval.
- c) The Certificate of Approval shall be the sole proof of approval the Regulator.

A.3 WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL

The approval granted in respect of preserved timber pursuant to the Specification may be withdrawn at any time without warning if compliance with the requirements of this Specification has not been maintained.

ANNEX B MARKING

Preserved timber shall be marked

- a) in accordance with the appropriate product specification Standard referred to in SANS 10005; and
- b) with the mark of conformity of the certification body.