

New AWPA Standards for Treated Wood



Effective July 2016, the AWPA U1 Standard was revised establishing new guidelines for wood treated to UC4A Ground Contact General Use.

Ground Contact UC4A treated wood should be used in situations that simulate ground contact conditions such as:

✓ Ground Level Decks and Walkways

- Treated wood when installed less than 6" above the ground.
- When treated wood is used in an application that does not permit air circulation or water drainage underneath the structure.
- When treated wood is used in an application where vegetation, leaf litter, or other debris will build up and remain in contact with the treated wood product.

✓ Decks and Fresh Water Docks

- When treated wood is used in an above ground application where the treated wood component would be considered difficult to maintain, repair or replace and that component is critical to the performance and safety of the structure. This standard change will affect joists and beams used in above ground decks and fresh water docks, including floating docks.
- When treated wood is wetted on a frequent or recurring basis such as wind and wave action (such as fresh water docks and walkways) or watering systems, swimming pools and hot tubs.

✓ Export Products - Exterior Use

- When treated wood is used in tropical climates.

AWPA U1 Standard

- The American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) has changed the U1 standards for treated wood used in residential, agricultural and commercial applications. The AWPA Book of Standards states, "Standard U1 is the primary standard for specifiers, such as architects and engineers, but also for end users and building code officials. This Standard contains the information needed by specifiers in order to select a product that best suits their needs."
- One of the new revisions to the AWPA U1 Standard states, "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."

Reason for the Standard Change

The new Standard change will help address the misuse of Above Ground treated wood products.

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