



TIMBER TREATMENT AND THE LAW

In South Africa there are two regulations applicable to preservative treated timber.

- I) The Compulsory specification for the Preservative Treatment, Government Notice No. 308 (Government Gazette No. 32067) of 3 April 2009 - VC 9091.

The compulsory specification is regulated by the NRCS through the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act (Act 5 of 2008)

VC 9091 specifies that:

- Preserved timber shall comply with the requirements of SANS 10005 (with the exclusion of clauses 9.2, 9.4, 13 and annexes D and E which all relate to environmental and occupational health and safety requirements which lies within the jurisdiction of other government or regulatory bodies);
- the producer or importer of treated timber shall appoint a certification body recognized by the NRCS in terms of its conformity assessment policy to verify the initial compliance and ongoing conformity of production of preserved timber with the requirements of the compulsory specification (only the SABS and SATAS or currently recognized by the NRCS);
- the manufacturing facility for the preservative treatment of timber shall be pre-approved by the NRCS for conformity of production requirements as prescribed in Annex A of VC 9091;
- the manufacturer or importer shall provide the NRCS with satisfactory evidence of conformity of production on request; and
- preserved timber shall be marked in accordance with the requirements of the relevant product specification referred to in SANS 10005, including the mark of conformity of the certification body.

II) Regulation A.13 (1) b of the Building Regulations

- All timber used in the erection of a building shall be treated against termite and wood borer attack and fungal decay in accordance with the requirements of SANS 10005 and shall bear the product certification mark of a body certified by the South African National Accreditation Systems.

In both cases reference is made to National Standard SANS 10005, *The preservative treatment of timber*, which covers the classification of timber preservatives, the hazard conditions (H classes) for timber, the various treatment processes, penetration and retention tables as well the requirements for the use of preservative-treated timber in specific areas in South Africa.

For more information please contact