

**AMERICAN LUMBER STANDARD COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED®**

**TREATED WOOD ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1. INTRODUCTION..... 3**

**2. STANDARDS AND TEST PROCEDURES ..... 3**

**3. TREATING PLANT QUALIFICATION ..... 6**

**4. INSPECTION AGENCY ACCREDITATION ..... 6**

**5. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW ..... 14**

**6. LABORATORY ACCREDITATION..... 15**

**7. INTERPRETATIONS ..... 18**

**8. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES ..... 19**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

**1.1.1** This program is intended to establish a common basis for uniform, industry-wide inspection and quality marking procedures for each piece of preservatively treated wood product produced in accordance with the provisions hereof. This program is not intended for use as a purchase specification. This program shall not include fire retardants.

### **1.2 Covered Products**

**1.2.1** Round piles, building poles and posts. Includes products such as marine, foundation, land/fresh water use, and agricultural.

**1.2.2** Sawn timber products. Includes products such as sawn piles, lumber, boards, structural timbers and landscape timbers.

**1.2.3** Plywood

**1.2.4** Laminates and other composites. Includes products such as glue laminated timbers, structural composite lumber, and oriented strand board (sheathing, siding, and exterior trims).

**1.2.5** Remanufactured products. Includes lattice, spindles, railings, etc.

## **2. STANDARDS AND TEST PROCEDURES**

**2.1** The allowable species, processes, preservatives, commodities and test methods to be used in this program shall be those referenced in the American Wood Protection Association standards or the standards developed by another entity, if included in this program.

**2.2** Regular verification of the quality of treated wood produced by a treating plant shall be carried out by an inspection agency accredited by the Board of Review of the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC).

**2.3** The detailed procedures by which the agency shall monitor the above standards shall be those approved by the Board of Review.

**2.4** Board of Review activities involve verification of the inspection agencies' abilities and

performance.

### **2.5 Definitions**

**Above Ground Use** - Preservatively treated products intended for use where the product does not come into contact with the ground or where proximity to the ground or environmental surroundings does not require the use of products intended for ground contact use.

**Accreditation Criteria** - A set of requirements used by the Board of Review which an agency or a laboratory must meet to be accredited.

**ADAT** - Air dried after treatment to a maximum moisture content of 19 percent for lumber under 5-inch nominal thickness or if 5" or more in nominal thickness the maximum moisture content may be specified as provided for in lumber grading rules certified by the Board of Review.

**American Wood Protection Association (AWPA)** - an industry technical society that has standards writing authority for preservatively treated wood; mailing address is P.O. Box 361784, Birmingham, AL 35236-1784; [www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com); publishers of the AWPA "Book of Standards." AWPA standards referenced in that publication refer to the latest standards published by AWPA unless otherwise noted.

**Assay Zone** - The portion of a treated wood item in which the minimum quantity of preservative is specified and is to be determined by extraction or by chemical assay.

**Board of Review** - The Board of Review of the American Lumber Standard Committee as established by Section 10 of PS-20.

**Borings** - Wood cores extracted from treated products used for the determination of penetration, retention and sapwood/heartwood.

**Brush Treatment** - See Field Treatment

**Dating Nail** - A nail with a date or symbol on its head to indicate the year of treatment, or the date of installation.

**Decay Resistance** - Resistance to attack by wood destroying fungi under conditions favorable to their growth.

Density - Weight per unit volume. In these regulations, density is measured as the number of annual rings per inch.

Dry - Lumber that has been seasoned or dried to a maximum moisture content of 19 percent for nominal thickness less than 5" or if 5" or more in nominal thickness the maximum moisture content may be specified as provided for in lumber grading rules certified by the Board of Review. Plywood that has been dried to a maximum moisture content of 18 percent.

Field Treatment - Application of approved preservatives without pressure treatment to cut ends, drilled holes, or other newly exposed surfaces of preservatively treated wood.

Fixation - The process by which waterborne preservatives react within the wood to become insoluble or fixed.

Foundation Use - Forest products intended for use in Permanent Wood Foundations in commercial or residential construction.

Grade Marked Lumber - Lumber that has been graded for quality and/or specific use and marked with certain symbols signifying that quality or intended use.

Grade Stamp - The impression made upon lumber by an official grade stamp of a grading agency. A grade stamp is owned by the grading agency and is applied to lumber that conforms to the requirements of a designated grading rules book. Except for stamps used in connection with the Certificates of Inspection or Reinspection, all grade stamps shall bear the following: 1) mill number, name or abbreviation; 2) the agency symbol; 3) the species or combination of species of the lumber; 4) if thinner than 5-inches nominal must state whether the lumber was dry or green when dressed; and 5) the appropriate grade. Grade stamps may also denote rule paragraphs under which the lumber was graded or other useful information. A stamp indicating conformance of untreated plywood to plywood grade description contained in current issue of Construction and Industrial Plywood PS 1.

Green - Lumber less than 5" in thickness that has a moisture content in excess of 19 percent. When 5" or more in thickness the moisture content may be in excess of 19 percent if provided for in lum-

ber grading rules certified by the Board of Review.

Ground Contact Use - Pressure treated forest products intended for use in, or in contact with, the ground, soil or fresh water.

Hardwood - Wood produced from one of the botanical group of trees that, in most cases, shed leaves yearly. The term has no relevance to the actual hardness of the wood.

Heart Face - Any face of a wood item having exposed heartwood.

Increment Borer - An auger-like instrument with a hollow bit and equipped with an extractor used to sample wood internally without destroying the piece by removing a core.

KDAT - Kiln dried after treatment to a maximum moisture content of 19 percent for lumber under 5-inch nominal thickness or if 5" or more in nominal thickness the maximum moisture content may be specified as provided for in lumber grading rules certified by the Board of Review.

KD-15 - Indicates lumber that has been kiln dried to 15% or less moisture content at time of dressing (appears on grade stamp).

Kilogram per cubic meter - Kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Kiln Dried After Treatment - See KDAT.

Laboratory - Any laboratory, not owned or operated by a treating company or chemical supplier, that is affiliated with or contracted by one or more inspection agencies to perform analyses on one or more AWPA approved wood preservatives for monitoring purposes.

Laboratory Assessment - The on-site examination of a laboratory to evaluate its compliance with specified criteria.

Laboratory Accreditation - A formal recognition that a laboratory is competent to carry out specific tests.

Landscape Timber - A product generally manufactured from plywood peeler cores having two opposed sawn faces.

Logo (Agency) - A symbol, certification mark, or

trade mark which identifies an inspection agency. This, or the agency name, is always a component of the quality mark or grade stamp.

Lot (at plant) - A lot for inspection shall consist of material from one charge, one species or species group, one Use Category and one retention. If a lot contains multiple sizes then samples shall be divided into two groups, smaller than 4" in thickness and 4" thickness and larger. A lot shall not exceed 30,000 board feet or equivalent volume.

Lot and Lot Inspection - A lot for inspection at plant storage yards, at sales yards, in transit or at job sites will be that material available at the time and place of inspection which contains products from only one treating plant and will contain only one preservative treatment for one Use Category and one date of treatment stamp; a lot shall not exceed 30,000 board feet of lumber or an equivalent volume of plywood. Lumber and plywood will not be mixed in one inspection lot.

Permanent Wood Foundation - A foundation built of pressure treated wood treated in accordance with AWWPA Standard U1, Use Category 4B (UC4B) including Commodity Specifications A and F, and constructed in accordance with AF&PA Report No. 7. See Foundation Use.

Pitch - Is an accumulation of resinous material.

Pitch Pocket - A well-defined opening between the rings of annual growth which develops during the growth of the tree. It usually contains pitch or bark.

Proficiency Testing - Methods of checking laboratory testing performance by means of interlaboratory tests.

PWF - See Permanent Wood Foundation.

Quality Control Agency - an organization accredited by the Board of Review to sample and test quality marked products treated in accordance with quality control and inspection procedures. The quality control agency shall have no financial interest in any company producing any portion of the products inspected and tested. The quality control agency shall not be owned, operated or controlled by any such company.

Quality Mark - The mark of an agency accredited by the Board of Review indicating conformance to

treatment processing and treated products rules. A mark which when affixed to preservatively treated wood products, certifies that all of the actions and quality certification requirements under the agency's quality control and inspection procedures have been met by both the treater and the quality control agency which licenses the use of the mark by treating plants.

Resident Quality Supervisor - An individual designated by the treater and approved by the quality control agency who performs the functions and meets the requirements of the accredited inspection agency. The quality control agency shall initially and continuously thereafter determine that the resident quality supervisor can demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of all manufacturing, sampling and testing requirements.

S-Dry - Lumber thinner than 5-inch nominal which has been surfaced and seasoned or dried to a moisture content of 19 percent or less. In sizes 5-inch or more in thickness other moisture content limits may be specified as provided for in lumber grading rules certified by the Board of Review.

S-Green - Lumber thinner than 5-inch nominal which has been surfaced to a moisture content in excess of 19 percent. In sizes 5-inch or more in thickness other moisture content limits may be specified as provided for in lumber grading rules certified by the Board of Review.

Seasoning - Evaporation or extraction of moisture from green or partially dried wood.

Softwoods - One of the group of trees which have needle-like or scale-like leaves. The term has no specific reference to the softness of the wood.

Soil Contact - See "Ground Contact".

Sticker Stain - A brown or blue stain, caused by fungi, that occurs in air-seasoning of lumber where the stickers rest on the faces of the items; also a brown chemical stain occurring on and beneath the surface of portions of a piece that are in contact with stickers.

Timber - Lumber five (5) inches or larger in its least nominal dimension.

Traceability of the Accuracy of Measuring Instruments - A documented chain of comparison connecting the accuracy of a measuring instrument

to other measuring instruments of higher accuracy and ultimately to a primary standard.

Treating Service Only (TSO) - When the letters "TSO" appear with the quality mark they indicate that the treater has provided treating service only to the wood being treated, and is not responsible for the grade or physical quality.

Treatment, Brush - See Field Treatment.

TSO - See Treating Service Only.

### **3. TREATING PLANT QUALIFICATION**

**3.1 Plant Equipment**--The following are both the initial and continuing plant equipment requirements:

**3.1.1** The plant shall have a pressure treating cylinder capable of being operated at the minimum pressure and vacuum required by the relevant AWWPA treatment and processing standard.

**3.1.2** The plant shall have instruments that indicate and record accurately pressure, temperature where applicable and vacuum used at all stages of the treatment as required by AWWPA standards.

**3.1.3** The plant shall have tanks for mixing and storing preservative solutions and equipment to accurately measure the volume and strength of preservative solutions where applicable.

**3.1.4** The plant shall be equipped with a laboratory capable of performing all required tests or shall make arrangements with a laboratory approved by its agency to make such test.

### **3.2 Plant Records**

**3.2.1** Each plant shall maintain a systematic method of keeping records and in-plant quality control procedures approved by its agency which shall provide a consecutive number system for each charge and which shall include where applicable:

- Charge number and date
- size and piece count of materials
- volume of wood
- solution absorbed
- solution concentration
- calculated retention of preservative, pcf.

preservative penetration results  
applicable assay result

### **3.3 Preservatives**

**3.3.1** Only wood preservatives approved by the American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) as referenced in the ALSC Treated Wood Policy shall be used.

### **3.4 Treatment**

**3.4.1** Only preservative processes described in the standards of the American Wood Protection Association as referenced in the ALSC Treated Wood Policy shall be used.

### **3.5 Internal Quality Control**

**3.5.1** Maintaining quality is the responsibility of the plant management. Internal quality control procedures shall be performed to a degree that assures compliance of the product to AWWPA quality control standards and product treatment. Charges or lots found non-conforming for either preservative penetration or retention shall be retreated and conformance verified, or the quality mark shall be removed from the material.

**3.5.2** Management shall appoint an adequately trained employee as plant quality control supervisor. He shall be vested with the authority to correct any condition causing a non-conformance, to remove the quality mark from any material that does not conform to AWWPA standards, and to stop shipments of quality marked non-conforming material.

## **4. INSPECTION AGENCY ACCREDITATION**

### **4.1 Approval**

**4.1.1** The initial and continuing accreditation of an agency to provide inspection services under these regulations is contingent upon providing reliable and adequate inspection services in accordance with current and applicable AWWPA standards. The Board of Review will use these regulations to judge the competency, reliability and adequacy of preservative treatment quality control agencies.

### **4.2 Participation in this program**

**4.2.1** Any agency is eligible to participate in this program established herein if that agency:

(a) Formulates, publishes and maintains quality control and inspection procedures for the specific preservative treated wood commodities, which it inspects, and which are covered by AWWPA standards.

(b) Demonstrates initial and continuing competency and reliability in the field of the wood preservative treatment inspection.

(c) Agrees to pay charges and fees assessed by the ALSC.

**4.2.2** Any agency desiring to participate in this program shall apply in writing to the Manager of the Board of Review in such form as may be prescribed by the Manager. If the application is in proper order, the Manager shall promptly forward the application to the Board of Review for its consideration and the Manager shall undertake any further investigations of the applicant as may be requested by the Board of Review. The applying agency shall be responsible for the fees established to cover expenses incurred in conducting the qualification, including the cost of accreditation of quality control laboratories. Such fees to be paid in advance.

### **4.3 Accreditation Requirements**

Before accrediting the inspection services of any agency, the Board of Review shall require evidence that the agency conforms to the following requirements:

**4.3.1** It shall not be controlled by any person or firm whose own products are subject to its inspection and certification nor shall its inspectors be employed by any lumber manufacturer or producer of treated products or by any buyer of lumber, or engaged in any other undertaking which might conflict with their independent position as inspectors.

**4.3.2** It shall maintain the practice of having all inspections done only by properly supervised and qualified inspectors all of whom shall be under the direct control of the agency. Each inspector shall be thoroughly competent in the inspection of treated commodities of the species and preservatives he inspects. Inspectors shall be directed by a chief inspector, supervisor or man-

ager who is thoroughly experienced in the inspection of treated products and who shall be held responsible for the proper functioning of the members of the inspection staff.

**4.3.3** It shall maintain a bona fide treating plant audit service for the purpose of assuring the uniform application of the AWWPA standards and agency quality control and inspection procedures. The agency shall perform sampling and testing of a plant's qualified production at a minimum rate equivalent to 4 samples per 80 charges of treatment. The agency's samples shall be representative of a plant's production for the period elapsed between inspections. Written reports of each inspection shall be made to the treating plant and copies shall be kept available by the agency for examination by the Board of Review or its representative upon request. The agency shall also have available conforming assay reports from an ALSC accredited laboratory for each charge of Permanent Wood Foundation material bearing the agency's mark. These records shall be kept for a minimum of two years.

**4.3.3.1** It is the obligation of the agency to audit the treating plant on a regular basis, and the obligation of the treating plant to produce a properly labeled treated wood product. Samples of previously treated wood product shall be inspected as part of the agency supervision. At the minimum rate as prescribed in 4.3.3, the agency shall sample a sufficient number of charges representative of the treatment levels and sizes produced by the treating plant to adequately evaluate the proficiency of the treating plant. When a sample of a charge of treated wood product indicates the treated wood is not properly labeled the charge shall be held for correction. The agency shall verify that the charge has been corrected by either removal of the quality mark or by retreatment of the charge. The agency shall take whatever steps necessary to prevent recurrence. Each month the agency headquarters personnel shall review the performance of each treating plant and take whatever action is warranted. In addition, the review shall include the assessment of the agency sample results for penetration and retention for each inspection. If the inspection results for penetration or retention fail to meet the following criteria, the agency shall increase inspections until such time as the penetration and retention results are within the following specified criteria at which

time the frequency of inspections may return to normal.

- A. Individual inspection that involves at least 4 charges inspected for:
- 1) Penetration:
    - (a) The maximum number of failing cores or samples in the case of non-pressure composites for any one charge shall not exceed 8 cores or samples in the case of non-pressure composites for any one inspection; or,
    - (b) The average percent core or samples in the case of non-pressure composites failure shall not exceed 20% for all charges inspected.
  - 2) Retention:
    - (a) The average retention value for all charges assayed shall be 95% of the required average retention value for all charges; or,
    - (b) The individual retention value for any charge shall be 75% of the required retention value of the particular charge; or,
    - (c) The average retention value for each preservative component for all charges assayed shall be 95% of the minimum retention value for individual components as specified in the AWPA standards.
    - (d) In both 2(a) and 2(c), the average retention values shall limit any individual numbers to a maximum of the minimum total retention value and the required minimum component values for the preservative, respectively.
- B. Individual inspection that involves less than 4 charges inspected for:
- 1) Penetration:
    - (a) The maximum number of failing cores or samples in the case of non-pressure composites for any one charge shall not exceed 8 cores or samples in the case of non-pressure composites for any one inspection; or
    - (b) The rolling average percent core or samples in the case of non-pressure composites failure for the most recent three inspections shall not exceed 20%.
  - 2) Retention:

- (a) The average retention value for all charges assayed shall be 95% of the required average retention value for all charges for the most recent three inspections; or,
- (b) The individual retention value for any charge of the inspection shall be 75% of the required value of the particular charge; or,
- (c) The average retention value for each preservative component for all charges assayed for the most recent three inspections shall be 95% of the minimum retention value for individual components as specified in the AWPA standards.
- (d) In both 2(a) and 2(c), the average retention values shall limit any individual numbers to a maximum of the minimum total retention value and the required minimum component values for the preservative, respectively.

**4.3.4** It shall conduct all audit and inspection activities in a manner which complies with all requirements of these Enforcement Regulations and its quality control and inspection procedures as approved by the Board of Review.

**4.3.5** It shall adhere to the policy of uniformly requiring its inspectors to determine conformance to all applicable specifications before issuing a certificate thereon or marking the treated product with the agency symbol.

**4.3.6** It shall uphold the standards of the industry through proper inspection procedures and shall maintain sufficient checks of its inspection staff to assure not only the continuing honesty and competency of its members, but consistency on their part in the proper application of treated products specifications.

**4.3.7** Regardless of production each treating plant shall be inspected a minimum of twelve times per year at approximately monthly intervals, except in those cases where a plant is inactive in excess of 2 months in any 12 month period in which case an inspection is required for each month the plant actually produces treated wood.

**4.3.8** All accredited agencies shall provide at all times an adequate, competent and reliable inspection service according to the requirements

of these Enforcement Regulations. At least 3 percent of all samples taken by an agency shall be representative destination samples. All samples shall be analyzed by a laboratory accredited by the Board of Review.

**4.3.9** All quality control and inspection procedures submitted for approval shall conform to the minimum requirements of the applicable standards of the AWWA and to the requirements of these Enforcement Regulations. If deficiencies are found in the review of an agency's quality control and inspection procedures, the deficiencies shall be brought to the attention of the agency. The agency shall have the option of amending the procedures to conform or requesting a hearing before the Board of Review.

**4.3.10** An agency shall agree to have its quality control and inspection procedures carry a specific reference to the approval by the Board of Review and that these procedures conform to applicable AWWA standards.

**4.3.11** Agencies shall agree to permit republication of their quality control and inspection procedures in whole or in part without charge with all quoted parts clearly so indicated. The republication shall carry a reference to the source of the procedures and their effective date, and when they are revised to conform with any subsequent changes in the quality control and inspection procedures they shall show the effective date.

**4.3.12** When quality control and inspection procedures have been approved by the Board of Review, subsequent revisions shall be proposed by the promulgating agency to the Board of Review for approval.

**4.3.13** Security and Contracts. The Board of Review shall require as a condition to its accreditation of any agency the payment when due of all charges and fees assessed by the ALSC to cover the cost of carrying out its functions and the reimbursement to the ALSC for all costs and expenses incurred by the ALSC or its Board of Review in any investigation of the activities or practices of the agency, whether or not the investigation is initiated by the ALSC or its Board of Review or upon complaint. The Board of Review shall require that each accredited agency execute a contract with the ALSC in such form and containing such provisions as the ALSC may from time to time decide, and that each such agency observe

and act in a manner consistent with the provisions of the contract.

**4.3.14** The Board of Review shall require each accredited agency to prepare and submit to it for approval, a form of contract which each agency shall require the subscribing treating plant to execute. Accredited agencies shall maintain copies of contracts executed with each treating plant receiving their services for a period of not less than two years after termination of such contracts.

**4.3.15** Agency Policy Changes. If at any time there should be any change in any policies of an agency relative to matters that are required under the Enforcement Regulations, the agency shall immediately notify the Board of Review in writing.

#### **4.4 Agency Accreditation for Plant Supervisory Service and/or Lot Inspection Service**

**4.4.1** The Board of Review shall require an applicant to submit complete information as to its form or organization, the length of time it has functioned, the experience of its management as well as the individual inspection personnel and the supervision of its inspection staff. The applicant shall also submit, as applicable to the service(s) offered, complete information about the plants under its supervision, the production volume of the plants, programs for which supervision will be offered, programs for which lot inspection services will be offered, procedures for handling requests for lot inspection, the preservatives involved, the species involved, the commodity or commodities to be treated, adequate provisions for supervision of in-plant quality control, supervision of treating plant performance, authority to apply the agency's quality mark and evidence that all applicable requirements of the AWWA standards are being met by the agency and its plants.

**4.4.2** Before accrediting the inspection service(s) of any agency, the Board of Review shall require evidence that it conforms to all the requirements of Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of these Enforcement Regulations in the conduct of its plant supervision and/or lot inspection services and that the agency conforms to its own approved quality control and inspection procedures, these Enforcement Regulations and all applicable AWWA standards.

## **4.5 Application of the Quality Mark and Certificates of Inspection**

**4.5.1** The application of the quality mark shall be accomplished by one of two methods: by facility employees under the supervision of an accredited agency or by employees or qualified agents of the accredited agency, as specified herein. Application of the quality mark of agencies approved to conduct supervisory services will be conducted under the requirements of these Enforcement Regulations, the agency's quality control and inspection procedures and approved procedures for the withdrawal of services for unsatisfactory performance. When an employee or qualified agent of any agency is regularly stationed at a point of production, he will be checked at the same intervals in the same manner as a facility employee would be checked by a supervisory agency.

**4.5.2** Lot inspections and certificate of inspection shall be permitted at any point where there is good and sufficient reason for them and shall be performed only by qualified agency personnel or qualified agents of an accredited agency.

**4.5.3** Treated wood accepted by the Inspector on a certificate inspection shall be identified by the Inspector's hammerbrand or other identifying mark and the identifying mark shall be shown on the certificate.

## **4.6 Marking**

**4.6.1** An accredited agency is permitted to license the use and application of its quality mark to complying treated wood products by any treating plant which subscribes through the agency to this program.

**4.6.2** Continued use of the quality mark is subject to continued conformance to AWPA standards as determined by sampling and testing in accordance with these Enforcement Regulations.

**4.6.3** Application of the quality mark to products covered by AWPA standards by a treating plant licensed by an accredited agency constitutes verification that the product has been produced under the agency quality control program.

**4.6.4** A quality mark shall not be applied to

any material where the material is misrepresented by a deceptive grade mark, label, brand or certificate.

**4.6.5** Except as provided below when the quality mark of an accredited agency is used each piece shall be marked and treated wood products bearing a quality mark shall not be mixed with non-marked products. When the size of individual pieces (e.g. lumber less than 1" in nominal thickness, or lumber less than nominal 1x5 or 2x4, or lumber 36" and shorter except that 5/4 x 4 shall be quality marked) prevents application of full legible marks, the quality mark shall be applied by stamping the faces of exterior pieces or by end labeling not less than 25% of the pieces of a bundled unit.

**4.6.6** The following minimum information is required to be on a quality mark whether stamped, labeled or branded:

- Company name and location of home office; or company name and number; or company number.
- AWPA Use Category (e.g. UC3B Above Ground Exposed, UC4A Ground Contact General Use, UC4B Permanent Wood Foundation, etc.).
- Preservative used, which may be abbreviated.
- Preservative retention.
- Year of treatment if required by AWPA standards.
- Applicable AWPA Use Category System standard (e.g. U1).
- The identifying symbol, logo or name of the accredited agency.
- If applicable, moisture content after treatment.
- If applicable, length and/or class.

**4.6.7** Quality marks of accredited agencies shall be uniform in providing the required information and shall be legible when placed on a treated product.

**4.6.8** A representative facsimile of an agency's quality mark shall be on file with the Board of Review.

**4.6.9** It is the policy of the Committee that treating plant or facility quality marks, grade marks, grade stamps, labels, brands, certificates or other product description shall not be confusingly or deceptively similar to the quality marks

of any ALSC accredited agency, including, but not limited to, reference to AWPAs standards directly or indirectly by treatment standard, retention level or AWPAs Use Category.

**4.6.10** It is the policy of the Committee that treating plant or facility quality marks, grade marks, grade stamps, labels, brands, certificates or other product description shall not misrepresent treated products, including, but not limited to, reference to AWPAs standards directly or indirectly by treatment standard, retention level or AWPAs Use Category. The term "treated to refusal" can only be used on treated material within the ALSC program when appropriate under applicable AWPAs standards.

**4.6.11** Each accredited agency shall be responsible for the control of its quality marks. Quality marks shall only be used at plants or by personnel authorized by accredited agencies. Accredited agencies shall require a participating plant to provide care and security of the agency quality marks. An accredited agency shall retain on file a facsimile of each quality mark issued, require worn out or discarded quality marks to be destroyed, and require missing or stolen quality marks be reported to the agency. The agency shall report missing, stolen, or misuse of its quality marks to the Board as soon as the agency is aware of such.

4.6.11.1 Except by prior written arrangement with the agency, the quality marks issued by an agency to a specific plant location are to be used only at that location.

**4.6.12** To obliterate means to render the approved mark or stamp unreadable or clearly inapplicable. Examples of obliteration of the approved mark or stamp include, but are not limited to removal by sanding or abrasion, over-stamping with opaque indelible ink or paint applied in a solid block, multiple 'X' stamp or other means of over-marking with opaque indelible ink or paint. Marking through the approved mark or stamp with a semi-transparent ink, paint, or crayon which allows full, though possible reduced visibility of the approved mark or stamp does not constitute obliteration.

#### **4.7 Warnings, Suspensions and Withdrawals**

**4.7.1** Accredited agencies shall withdraw

quality marks from any plant utilizing their services when an inspection or a series of inspections reveal serious non-conformances. An agency will immediately notify the Manager of the Board of Review by letter when it warns, suspends or withdraws the quality marking services at any plant for cause, supplying all pertinent details. Upon receipt of such notice, the Manager of the Board of Review shall immediately notify by letter all other accredited agencies extending services in the area. No other agency shall extend supervisory service or any other quality marking services to the plant for a period of 180 days in the case of a suspension or withdrawal notice, or 60 days in the case of a warning notice, after the date of the letter of the agency's notification, unless the treating plant has been reinstated by the agency which warned, suspended or withdrew its service, when the services of the other agency result in evading the warning, suspension or withdrawal. The agency may reinstate quality marking supervisory services only after the plant involved demonstrates the ability and willingness to maintain the applicable requirements of the agency's quality control and inspection procedures, these Enforcement Regulations and AWPAs standards. The agency shall file a complete report with the Board of Review outlining all corrective steps taken.

#### **4.8 Reinspection**

**4.8.1** Reinspection by agencies accredited by the Board of Review shall be available to both buyer and seller upon request for the purpose of determining compliance with purchase specifications and effecting settlement of complaints and invoices.

**4.8.2** Product compliance with the requirements of the applicable AWPAs standards and other purchase specifications is the responsibility of the treater for 90 days after shipment provided the material is not in use. Partial use of a shipment shall not prejudice the right to reinspection as long as the unused portion is in the form in which it was shipped.

**4.8.3** It is permitted to file a complaint for excess moisture when material is marked, certified or invoiced as "DRY", "KDAT" or "ADAT. Product compliance to the requirement for drying after treatment is the responsibility of the treater for 72 hours after receipt of shipment provided the material is not in use and has been continuously

protected in shipment and in storage.

**4.8.4** When lumber treated with a water-borne preservative is represented as "DRY", "KDAT" or "ADAT" by a quality mark, certificate or invoice, dry is defined as lumber that has been seasoned or dried to a maximum moisture content of 19 percent for nominal thickness less than 5" or if 5" or more in nominal thickness the maximum moisture content may be specified as provided for in lumber grading rules certified by the Board of Review.

**4.8.5** Plywood treated with a waterborne preservative and marked, certified or invoiced as "DRY" after treatment shall be dried to a moisture content of 18 percent or less.

**4.8.6** A reinspection involving a complaint on moisture content shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the quality control and inspection procedures of the applicable agency. Each piece shall be tested for moisture content. All pieces conforming to the maximum allowable shall be separated from those exceeding that maximum.

**4.8.7** Each lot of a shipment shall be considered conforming if 95 percent of the specified preservative retention is present and all other treatment standards are met.

**4.8.8** The expense of reinspection shall be borne in accordance with the provisions of the quality control and inspection procedures of the applicable agency, but the person calling for the reinspection shall be responsible to the agency for the costs thereof.

#### **4.9 Agency Reports**

The Board of Review shall require reports to be rendered at such times it determines necessary. The reports shall include, among other things, information as follows:

**4.9.1** The number of lot inspections performed during a particular period and the volume of treated material involved.

**4.9.2** Reinspection of treated material originally certified by the agency or marked with an agency's quality mark during a particular period with details on each, including the name of the original inspector and the date of the original

inspection if certification is involved, the point of origin, name and location of the consignee, date of reinspection, item(s) and quantities involved and results of the reinspection.

**4.9.3** A summary report on the agency's own plant inspections and analytical results during a given time which generally shall coincide with the random sample survey conducted by the Board of Review.

#### **4.10 Record Retention**

**4.10.1** As a condition for accreditation, an agency shall maintain for a period of at least 2 years records of all inspections made. These records shall be available for examination by a representative of the Board of Review at any time during normal working hours. Any employee of any agency whose principal job is inspecting any plant's treated product shall be supervised by the agency and reports of the supervision kept in the agency's files for a period of two years.

#### **4.11 Field Examination**

**4.11.1** Each agency shall agree to permit the staff representatives of the Board of Review to examine any treated commodity certified and/or quality marked by the agency or under the agency's supervisory service at plants or destination points, for the purpose of checking the performance of the agency, its inspectors and the general reliability of its service.

**4.11.2** Board of Review staff personnel shall have the right to examine unmarked material at plants and at destination points.

**4.11.3** The agency shall agree that if any treated commodity which it has certified or quality marked or is produced under its supervisory service whether quality marked or not, is found to be deficient, the agency shall cooperate fully in taking such steps as shall be necessary to eliminate the risk of recurrence of such deficiencies by the same inspector or plant. Each agency shall also agree that serious deficiencies, when found, shall require complete reinspection of the shipment or lot.

#### **4.12 Random Sample Survey**

**4.12.1** The Board of Review shall conduct on a random sampling basis, check inspections on

treated commodities produced by each accredited agency's plants. The plants included in each survey shall be selected at random and shall be of sufficient number to be deemed representative of the total quantity of treated material produced under an accredited agency's authority. The results of the random sample survey shall be used by the Board of Review as one measure of determining the continuing competency and reliability of an accredited agency.

#### **4.13 Agency Follow-up**

##### **4.13.1 Unsatisfactory Reports**

On each occasion when a field report by a Board of Review inspector reveals a serious infraction, the Board of Review or its staff shall promptly notify the agency of the infraction, send the agency a copy of the inspector's report, and request the agency to take corrective action with the plant or agency employee involved to prevent a recurrence of the infraction. The agency shall reply stating in detail the corrective actions taken, and shall continue to make such reports until such time as it is satisfied that a recurrence of the infraction is unlikely and it notifies the Board of Review that it is satisfied. Appropriate documentation shall accompany all reports.

The Board of Review shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of an agency's follow-up. The Board of Review shall to the extent possible confirm that the agency did in fact take all action as reported to the Board of Review.

The Board of Review shall maintain records of the agency's follow-up performance. These records shall be used by the Board of Review as one measure of the continuing competence and reliability of an agency.

##### **4.13.2 Board of Review Requested Reinspection**

(a) Destination: Upon finding that a given shipment of a treated commodity that is quality marked and/or certified appears to contain serious infractions, the Board of Review inspector without divulging detailed information to the customer shall request the material be held for reinspection. The inspector shall immediately notify his office with full details of the infraction. The office of the Board of Review shall immediately notify the agency whose quality mark appears on

the material and the agency in turn shall immediately advise the customer holding the material that a prompt reinspection is to be made by the agency at no cost to the customer provided the customer agrees to hold the stock and furnish labor if necessary (for which he shall be reimbursed by the agency) and further agrees to assess no holding charges for the treated material held for reinspection.

The agency shall furnish results of the reinspection to all parties of the transaction. Costs of such reinspection shall be funded by the ALS except when the treated material is found to be non-conforming according to the reinspection provisions shown in Section 4.8 of these Enforcement Regulations, the shipping plant shall be responsible to the agency for the cost of the reinspection.

(b) Origin: Upon finding quality marked and/or certified material at the point of origin which contains serious infractions, the Board of Review inspector shall request the plant to hold the material for review by the agency and notify his office immediately of the infraction giving full details. The office of the Board of Review shall immediately notify the agency whose quality mark appears on the material. The agency shall immediately notify the plant management and confirm that the material is to be held for review by the agency. The agency shall review the material being held and determine the appropriate action and shall promptly report the actions taken to the Board of Review. Any plant failing to hold the material for corrective action shall be suspended immediately by the agency.

**4.13.3** If the agency disagrees with the ALS field representative's finding as to the labeling of the treated wood product, the agency shall notify the ALS office and give the ALS an opportunity to review the treated wood product with an agency representative if necessary. If this procedure is not followed, the ALS report stands.

#### **4.14 Board of Review Destination Inspections**

**4.14.1** The results of destination inspections may be used by the Board of Review as one means of determining the agency's performance.

#### **4.15 Board of Review Enforcement Actions**

**4.15.1** Probation, Suspension or Revocation of Agency Accreditation: The Board of Review shall judge the continued competency, reliability, adequacy and integrity of accredited agencies under these Enforcement Regulations. The Board of Review, after reviewing the competency, adequacy, integrity and performance of an agency, shall take any of the following actions as in the judgment of the Board of Review is necessary to maintain the integrity of this program.

- (a) Take no action.
- (b) Place an agency on probation.
- (c) Suspend the approval of an agency.
- (d) Revoke the approval of an agency.

In arriving at its decision to take any of the above actions, the Board of Review shall consider any information at its disposal, including, but not necessarily limited to, the information contained in agency reports to the Board, results of the random sample survey inspection, destination inspections and follow-up performance of an agency in specific instances. Actions of probation, suspension or revocation by the Board of Review shall be made public.

**4.15.2** Board of Review Procedures: Before any agency is placed on probation or its accreditation is suspended or revoked by the Board of Review, the Board shall notify the agency that enforcement actions against the agency may be taken by the Board and the agency shall be afforded opportunity to appear before the Board in person and by counsel in connection with such pending action by the Board. A Board of Review action placing an agency on probation, suspending or revoking the accreditation of an agency shall be taken on the basis of evidence introduced on the record in a hearing held by the Board with opportunity on the part of the agency concerned to examine the evidence of record and to cross examine witnesses testifying before the Board and the opportunity on the part of the agency concerned to submit its own evidence in the hearing.

#### **4.16 Lapse of Accreditation**

**4.16.1** If an accredited agency shall not have inspected any treated wood for a period of two years, the accreditation of that agency shall thereupon lapse and terminate, unless the agency shall establish grounds for continuance of its ac-

creditation. Lapse and termination of accreditation shall not prejudice later application for accreditation.

## **5. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW**

### **5.1 Inspection Visits**

Inspections shall be performed by the field staff of the Board of Review for the purpose of monitoring agency performance. Four types shall be made. They are as follows:

- (a) Random Sample Survey Inspections
- (b) General Inspections
- (c) Destination Inspections
- (d) Recall Inspections

The purpose for each type of inspection is:

**5.1.1** Random Sample Survey: Inspections shall be made at a specific number of an agency's treating plants chosen at random. The number of plants chosen for inspection from each agency shall be determined by the number of plants an agency supervises. Samples from randomly selected commodities shall be obtained at each plant and the number of samples taken at any plant included in a survey shall be dependent on the plant's annual production.

**5.1.2** General Inspections: Inspections shall be made at plants on a general basis. Samples taken at these inspections shall be from any material present at the plant at the time of inspection.

**5.1.3** Destination Inspections: Destination inspections shall be made in chosen market areas.

**5.1.4** Recall Inspections: Where serious deficiencies are found at a plant during a random sample survey inspection, at a destination inspection, or a general inspection, recall inspections shall be made to determine that the deficiencies have been corrected.

### **5.2 Testing**

**5.2.1** Items that shall be checked for each type inspection include:

- Preservative penetration where applicable.
- Preservative retention.
- Drying after treatment where applicable.

- Heartwood restriction where applicable.
- Incising where applicable.
- Correct use of quality mark.
- Correctness and legibility of quality marks.

**5.2.2** When material bearing an agency's quality mark is found to be non-conforming during any Board of Review inspection, the agency shall be notified immediately. It shall be the obligation of the agency to take immediate corrective actions and report such actions to the Board of Review.

### **5.3 Record Review**

The records of each accredited agency shall be checked at least annually by staff personnel of the Board of Review.

The following groups of records shall be among those checked:

**5.3.1** Records pertaining to agency supervision of its own inspection staff, including records of initial inspector training and continuing inspector training, records of the correction of deficiencies in individual inspectors, records showing specific qualifications of individual inspectors and records showing assignments of individual inspectors.

**5.3.2** Records pertaining to plant inspections including penetration and retention results of samples taken during plant inspections, records of checks made for drying after treatment and/or heartwood limitations where applicable. Records of procedures for application of the quality mark. Records of frequency of plant inspections.

**5.3.3** Records pertaining to the correction of deficiencies, found by agency inspection at plants and destination sites and their satisfactory correction and records of reinspection generated by customer complaint and the settlement of claims.

**5.3.4** Records pertaining to enforcement, including records of plant qualification, of warnings issued, suspensions, and revocations.

### **5.4 Findings**

**5.4.1 Records**--The result of the Board of Review's staff review of the agency's records shall be reported to the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall use this information and

all other information available to the Board in its evaluation of an agency's adequacy, competency and reliability.

### **5.5 Board of Review**

**5.5.1** The Board of Review shall judge the performance, efficiency, reliability, and integrity of agencies based on reports of the Board of Review's staff using the procedures in Section 4 and all other information available to it.

### **5.6 Quality Control Laboratory Accreditation**

**5.6.1** The Board of Review shall accredit agency quality control laboratories or quality control laboratories under contract to an agency using procedures in Section 6.

## **6. LABORATORY ACCREDITATION**

### **6.1 General Information**

**6.1.1** The purpose of this section is to set forth procedures for the Board of Review accreditation of laboratories that provide service to inspection agencies under this program.

**6.1.2** Laboratory accreditation is a voluntary system for accrediting a laboratory's competence to perform specific tests. Competence is defined as the ability of a laboratory to meet the program conditions and to conform to the criteria.

**6.1.3** The Board of Review or its representative shall have the right to visit the laboratory, unannounced, during the normal working hours for the purpose of inspecting the laboratory and its record.

### **6.2 Definitions--See Section 2.5**

### **6.3 General Conditions for Accreditation**

**6.3.1** To become accredited and maintain accreditation, a laboratory shall agree in writing to:

- Be assessed and evaluated initially and on a periodic basis;
- Participate in proficiency testing as required.
- Be capable of performing the tests for which

it is accredited according to the latest version of the AWWPA test methods and any other methods, as applicable;

- Limit the representation of the scope of its accreditation to only those tests for which accreditation is granted;
- Maintain records of all analysis for a minimum of two (2) years;
- Render all test reports objectively and without bias;
- Report to the Board of Review thirty (30) days prior to any major changes involving the location, ownership, management structure, or facilities of the laboratory; and
- Return to the Board of Review the document of accreditation for possible revision or other action, should it become unable for any reason to conform to any of these conditions.

#### **6.4 Specific Criteria for Accreditation**

**6.4.1** The laboratory shall operate under an internal procedure appropriate to the volume of work performed.

**6.4.2** The laboratory procedures shall be documented in a quality manual or equivalent (e.g., operations notebook), which is available for use by laboratory staff. A person(s) shall be identified as having the responsibility for maintaining the quality manual.

**6.4.3** The quality manual shall include, as appropriate:

- Laboratory procedures for each approved test method.
- Sample control procedures including a system for sample identification.
- Instrument calibration records.
- Specific procedures for each accredited test including use of reference standards and control charts, interlaboratory testing procedures, and procedures for retesting where necessary.
- Procedures for corrective actions for suspected test discrepancies.
- Quality management responsibilities for each procedure in the laboratory.
- Detailed training procedures for new or re-assigned employees.
- Procedures for dealing with disputed tests.

**6.4.4** The laboratory shall periodically review its internal procedures by or on behalf of man-

agement to ensure its continued effectiveness. These reviews shall be recorded with details of any corrective action taken.

#### **6.5 Staff**

**6.5.1** The laboratory shall be staffed by knowledgeable and competent analysts for each of the approved analyses.

**6.5.2** The laboratory shall have a technical manager (or similar title) who has overall responsibility for the technical operations of the laboratory.

**6.5.3** The laboratory shall have one or more signatories to sign test reports. Approved signatories shall be competent to make a critical evaluation of test results; and shall occupy positions within the laboratory's organization which make them responsible for the adequacy of test results.

#### **6.6 Facilities and Equipment**

**6.6.1** The laboratory shall be furnished with all items of equipment and facilities for the correct performance of the tests and measurements for which accreditation is granted.

**6.6.2** All equipment shall be properly maintained to ensure protection from corrosion and other causes of deterioration. Instructions for a proper maintenance procedure for those items of equipment which require periodic maintenance shall be available. Any item of equipment or component thereof which has been subjected to overloading or mishandling, gives suspect results, or has been shown by calibration or otherwise to be defective, shall be taken out of service and clearly labeled until it has been repaired. When placed back in service, this equipment shall be shown by test or calibration to be performing satisfactorily.

**6.6.3** Records of each analytical instrument shall be maintained. Each record shall include:

- The name of the analytical instrument.
- The manufacturers' name and type, identification, and serial number.
- Date received and date placed in service.
- Current location, when appropriate.
- Details of maintenance.
- Date of last calibration, next calibration due date, and calibration report reference.

## **6.7 Calibration**

**6.7.1** All new test and measuring equipment shall be calibrated according to the manufacturer's recommendations before putting it into service.

**6.7.2** Maintain records of all calibrations and recalibrations.

**6.7.3** Document the source of all calibration and reference standards. When the use of standards is not applicable, the laboratory shall provide satisfactory evidence of the accuracy or reliability of test results (e.g., by participation in a suitable program of interlaboratory comparison).

## **6.8 Test Methods and Procedures**

**6.8.1** The laboratory shall perform all tests in accordance with approved AWPA standards.

**6.8.2** The laboratory shall maintain a system of sample identification to ensure that there is no confusion regarding the identity of the samples and the results of the measurements made.

**6.8.3** Laboratories shall retain at least every twentieth sample in numerical order, and in no case less than 10 samples per month, for a period of three months. If the analytical procedure employed results in the destruction of the sample, the sample shall be divided prior to analysis to permit compliance with this section. The samples may be retained in dust or liquid form and shall be made available to the Board of Review upon request.

## **6.9 Records**

**6.9.1** The laboratory shall maintain a record system which contains sufficient information to permit verification of any issued report.

**6.9.2** All laboratory records shall be signed and dated by the operator.

**6.9.3** The laboratory shall retain all original observations, calculations, derived data and calibration records for two (2) years unless a longer period is specified.

**6.9.4** These records shall be made available to the Board of Review on request.

## **6.10 Test Reports**

**6.10.1** The laboratory shall issue test reports of its work including all of the following information:

- Name and address of the laboratory;
- Name and address of the treating plant;
- If destination sample, name and address of the destination;
- Identification of the test report by serial number or other appropriate means;
- The date the sample was received;
- Identification of standard and type of preservative material being analyzed;
- Description of sample, such as number of borings, diameter, length, and penetration results;
- Charge or lot number of samples;
- Description of material such as species, markings, size, and tally;
- Retention results;
- Signature of an approved signatory; and
- Any remarks which are considered to be significant.

**6.10.2** The laboratory shall issue corrections or additions to a test report by a document suitably marked which meets the relevant requirements of Section 6.10.1.

## **6.11 Application Process**

**6.11.1** Any accredited agency is permitted to submit an application for laboratory accreditation to the Board of Review.

**6.11.2** To become accredited, the laboratory shall complete an application for accreditation in one or more analytical procedures and include the following information:

- Legal name and full address of laboratory;
- Ownership of the laboratory;
- Organization chart that is relevant to performing testing covered in the accreditation request;
- General description of the laboratory, including its facilities and scope of operation;
- Name and telephone number of the authorized representative of the laboratory;
- A specific list of equipment relevant to the analysis for which accreditation is being sought;
- Names, titles and qualifications of laboratory

- staff; and
- Other information as required.

**6.11.3** Upon receipt of a laboratory's application, the Board of Review shall:

- Acknowledge receipt of application.
- Request further information, if necessary.
- Specify the next step(s) in the accreditation process.

**6.11.4** Assessing and evaluating a laboratory:

Information used to evaluate a laboratory's compliance with the conditions for accreditation set out in Sections 6.3 - 6.10 and the technical requirements established for the review process shall include:

- A review and confirmation of information.
- On-site assessment of the laboratory.
- Laboratory responses to identified deficiencies, if any.
- Laboratory performance on proficiency tests.
- Any other procedure judged appropriate by the Board of Review.

**6.11.5** In evaluating a laboratory for accreditation and ongoing evaluation of an accredited laboratory, the Board of Review may utilize consultants, third parties or other entities, such expense to be borne by the applicant agency.

## **6.12 Granting Accreditation**

**6.12.1** The Board of Review, after its evaluation of a laboratory, shall grant or propose to deny accreditation of an applicant agency no later than ninety (90) days following the conclusion of the evaluation. If action is not taken within this time limit, the Board of Review shall notify the agency stating the reasons for the delay.

**6.12.2** If accreditation is granted, the Board of Review shall:

- Provide a document of accreditation to the agency; and
- Identify the scope and terms of the laboratory's accreditation.

## **6.13 Denying or Revoking Accreditation**

**6.13.1** If the Board of Review proposes to deny or revoke accreditation of an agency, it shall

inform the agency of the reasons for the proposed denial or revocation and the procedure for appealing such a decision.

**6.13.2** Upon receipt of a proposed denial or revocation, the agency shall have the option to request a hearing by the Board of Review. If a hearing is requested the Board shall have the option to stay the denial or revocation pending the outcome of the hearing.

**6.13.3** The proposed denial or revocation shall become final through the issuance of a written decision to the agency in the event that the laboratory does not correct the deficiency or the agency appeal the proposed denial or revocation.

**6.13.4** An agency whose laboratory accreditation has been denied, revoked or terminated, or which has withdrawn its application before being accredited, may reapply and be accredited if the agency and the laboratory complete the assessment and evaluation process and meet the conditions and criteria for accreditation as set forth in Sections 6.3 - 6.10.

## **7.0 INTERPRETATIONS**

**7.1** The purpose of interpretations is to promote consistency in the application and understanding of the provisions of this document. Interpretations are occasionally needed to add further clarification to the requirements of these regulations. An interpretation of the American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated® (ALSC) Board of Review Enforcement Regulations may be obtained through the submission of a written request to the president.

- (a) The written request shall identify the specific section of the Enforcement Regulations involved.
- (b) The interpretation shall be made by the President or his designated staff person in writing.
- (c) The interpretation of the President shall be distributed to all participants in the ALSC Program.
- (d) If the interpretation is acceptable to the requestor and all participants, the interpretation shall be endorsed by the Enforcement Subcommittee at its next scheduled meeting and made part of the Enforcement Regulations when ratified by the ALSC.
- (e) If the requestor or any participant in the program finds the interpretation of the Presi-

dent/Enforcement Subcommittee unacceptable, the requestor or any participant may submit a written request for an interpretation to be provided by the ALSC. The interpretation approved by the Enforcement Subcommittee shall be subjected to a ballot of the full ALSC within 30 days. If approved by the ALSC, the interpretation shall be distributed to all participants and with copies of the Enforcement Regulations.

(1) Any ALSC members voting negative on the proposed interpretation must provide written justification for their negative vote, together with a recommended revision if possible. All negative ballots shall be considered by the Enforcement Subcommittee.

(2) The Enforcement Subcommittee shall attempt to resolve all negative ballots deemed persuasive. The Enforcement Subcommittee shall make a recommendation for the disposition of all negative ballots to the ALSC in the form of a ballot.

(3) The ballot shall provide three response options:

- Approve the Subcommittee recommendation.
- Disapprove the Subcommittee recommendation.
- Abstain.

(f) If a majority of the ALSC does not approve the recommendation of the Enforcement Subcommittee, the matter shall be referred back to Enforcement Subcommittee for further consideration. If the negative cannot be disposed of, it shall be placed on the Agenda for the next ALSC meeting for resolution.

(g) A complete record of all interpretations and committee actions on interpretations shall be maintained at the offices of the ALSC and shall be fully available upon written request to the ALSC President.

## **8.0 ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES**

**8.1** Additional procedures for this treatment program shall be adopted as needed by the American Lumber Standard Committee.