



Re-evaluation Note

REV2002-03

Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA)

The manufacturers of wood treatment chemicals have agreed to make a transition away from the use of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) in treated lumber destined for the non-industrial market by December 31, 2003. This agreement is identical to the voluntary label changes for CCA-treated wood that were recently proposed in the United States.

As part of this agreement, wood treaters will no longer use CCA to treat wood for non-industrial uses such as play-structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios, walkways and boardwalks. Remaining stocks of wood treated prior to December 31, 2003 can still be sold in stores and be used for residential construction in Canada. Already-built structures containing CCA-treated wood are not affected by this action. CCA will continue to be used for industrial applications such as highway construction, utility poles and pilings. PMRA has not concluded that CCA-treated wood poses any unreasonable risk to the public or the environment.

The transition to non-CCA-treated wood has been facilitated by the PMRA's completion of priority reviews of the two alternative wood treatment products, ACQ (amine) and Copper Azole.

The PMRA and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will continue with their Joint Re-evaluation of CCA. The next steps in this cooperative effort are being discussed with the EPA. The results of the re-evaluation will be announced in a future PMRA publication.

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**Publications Coordinator
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6605C
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9**

Internet: pmra_publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or (613) 736-3799
Facsimile: (613) 736-3798



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