



2600SEG223

HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF CHEMICAL WOOD PRESERVATIVES AND WOOD PRODUCTS TREATED WITH CHEMICAL PRESERVATIVES STANDARD

1.0 PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) to protect its employees from health problems related to handling treated wood. Inhalation, ingestion, or contact with treated wood, chemical wood preservatives, and saw dust from treated wood are a clear hazard to the health of exposed workers. The following chemical wood preservatives are associated with nervous system disorders, chemical dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and cancer: Chromated Copper (CCA); Green, and type A Copper Nafenate; Pentachlorophenol (PCP); Technical grade Creosote; and, Chlorpyrifos.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This Standard replaces the safety policy and procedures contained in Appendix L of the Panama Canal Commission Personnel Manual (PCPM), Chapter 790.

3.0 SCOPE

This Standard applies to all ACP employees, contractors, and third parties located within the facilities, industrial shops, and areas under ACP responsibility that regulate and occasionally unload, store, use, treat or work with sawed wood that has been treated with chemical wood preservative.

4.0 LEGAL FOUNDATION

This Standard is established pursuant to Agreement No. 12 of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority, Risk Control and Occupational Health Regulations, Chapter I, Articles 8 and 16.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

At the time of drafting this Standard, all words and terms were known by users.

6.0 GENERAL

6.1 WORKING PROCEDURES

6.1.1 Necessary Personal Protection Measures

6.1.1.1 Chemically preserved woods, and chemical preservatives must be handled with care. When handling, cutting and using a wood lathe, the employee must use the appropriate personal protective equipment. This equipment includes the following:

6.1.1.1.1 When handling treated wood: a long sleeve overall, safety glasses or goggles, gloves, and safety boots.

6.1.1.1.2 When working with wood preservative liquid solutions: safety goggles that prevent chemical material splashes and a protective face mask, butyl or neoprene rubber gloves, TYVEK (or better) disposable overalls, and rubber boots.

6.1.1.1.3 To handle both treated woods and to work with wood preservatives: air-purifying respirators with organic vapor cartridge, and dust, vapor, and gas pre-filtering.

6.1.1.2 Street clothes must not be worn under protective clothing or equipment.



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6.1.1.3 Employees may not eat, drink liquids, or smoke while in areas where they may be potentially exposed at work.

6.1.1.4 Sinks, showers and eye wash facilities must be easily accessible.

6.1.1.5 Employees must thoroughly wash their skin as soon as it has been in contact with treated wood or chemical wood preservatives, especially before eating, drinking liquids, smoking or using the toilet.

6.1.1.6 If while working with treated woods any part of the body is in contact with chemical substances, the affected part must be thoroughly washed with soap and abundant water. If the eyes come into contact with the chemicals, they must be washed with water for at least 15 minutes; immediately after this, the worker must receive treatment by an ophthalmologist.

6.1.2 Storage

6.1.2.1 Chemical preservatives must be stored in hermetically sealed containers, protected against physical damage. The storage sites must be isolated from other work areas and they must be designed to contain spills within the surrounding barrier; if the container is indoors, then the ventilation must undergo six air-changes per hour and the walls must be rated to withstand a two-hour fire.

6.1.2.2 The containers must be appropriately labeled according to ACP guidelines for hazardous warnings.

6.1.2.3 Treated wood must be stored in dry and well ventilated areas, away from direct contact with sunlight and other combustion sources.

6.1.2.4 The respective operating units must carry out inspection and maintenance of storage areas.

6.1.3 Liquid Preservative Spill Response Procedures:

6.1.3.1 All non-essential personnel must be immediately evacuated from the spill or leak area.

6.1.3.2 Only personnel with the appropriate protective equipment and trained in emergency procedures will be allowed to clean the spills and control or repair the leaks.

6.1.3.3 Each user unit is responsible for cleanup of the area.

6.1.3.4 In case of major spills, consult with a Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RHSH) industrial hygienist to obtain additional information on the various types of breathers and protective equipment.

6.1.3.5 Liquid chemical preservatives must be collected or absorbed with industrial products intended for this purpose. Vermiculite, dry sand, earth, or similar non-reactive materials are among authorized optional substances.

6.1.4 Waste

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6.1.4.1 All wood waste must be disposed of at a landfill. All sawdust, rags, clothing, or other materials contaminated with chemical wood preservatives must be placed in bags at the point of origin and transported to the landfill to be buried appropriately.

6.1.4.2 Prior coordination with the Sanitation, Control of Vectors and Vegetation Unit (OPEM-S), is required.

6.1.4.3 Burning treated wood is prohibited.

6.1.4.4 If there is an urgent need to eliminate concentrated substances from any of the five wood preservatives listed in paragraph one, the Sales and Disposal of Excess Goods Unit (FAAD) must be contacted. Due to their highly toxic content, liquid wood preservatives must not be poured into the sanitary or rainwater system, shop waste containers, or landfill.

6.2 TRAINING

6.2.1 Divisions are responsible for training their personnel under these guidelines. Employees must be aware of hazards present when they work with treated wood and the necessary protective equipment. The RSHS Supervisor shall provide technical assistance for the training. Contractor shall provide training for their own employees.

6.3 FILE MAINTENANCE AND DATA ACCESS.

6.3.1 The Health, Wellness and Labor Welfare Unit (RHSS) shall maintain the records of the tests and analysis.

6.3.2 Units must maintain the records of the training provided to their employees. These may be available to employees according to ACP regulations.

6.3.3 RSHS shall maintain level monitoring records.

6.4 ASSISTANCE FROM INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

6.4.1 Questions on the application of this Standard must be referred to an Industrial Hygienist.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities for ensuring compliance with this Standard are described in the Occupational Health and Safety Management Standard 2600SEG101.

8.0 INQUIRIES

Any information or clarifications of the content or application of this Standard must be requested in writing to RSHS.

9.0 EXCEPTIONS

Any requests for changes or temporary exceptions to this Standard must be made in writing to RSHS.

10.0 TERM



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This Standard shall remain in force until amended or revised.

11.0 REFERENCES

11.2 File Retention Tables, File Management Section, ACP.