

Canadian
Wood
Council

Conseil
canadien
du bois



Introducing the Canadian National System for Certification of Pressure Treated Wood

A national program is now in place for the treatment, inspection and application of a certification mark for pressure treated wood produced to Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards as specified in the National Building Code of Canada. Accreditation of the program is provided by the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board (CLSAB). The CLSAB in its long-standing role of accrediting lumber grading agencies across Canada is well respected for upholding and applying standards in the forest products industry.

Pressure treated wood produced under the national certification program will be marked with an end tag* showing the preservative used, the use category, the product group and a plant identification number. It will also show the certification mark of a CLSAB accredited inspection agency, verifying that the wood has been treated in compliance to the applicable CSA treatment standard and that all quality assurance inspection procedures have been followed.

Facsimile of End Tag Certification Marks



Product Group

Preservative / Use Category



Product Group

Preservative / Use Category

*Pressure treated wood used in permanent wood foundations will be marked with an ink stamp.

The Building Code requires that structural wood used in residential construction be treated where:

- Wood is in ground contact,
- Wood is within 450 mm of the ground in localities known to have termites,
- Wood supported on moisture permeable materials is within 150 mm of the ground,
- Wood is subject to prolonged exposure to moisture in locations where the moisture index is greater than 1.00,
- Wood is used in permanent wood foundations, and
- Wood is used in retaining walls or cribbing that contributes to the stability of the foundation or where retaining walls or cribbing are greater than 1.2 m in height.

The national certification program has been developed based on the CSA O80 Series of Standards - Wood Preservation - published in 2008. Processing and treating requirements in the Standards are based on the exposure conditions which pressure treated wood will be subjected to in service considering the size and use of the product. The Standards specify four *Use Categories (UC)* for treated wood used in residential applications:

- UC1 covers wood used in dry interior construction,
- UC2 covers wood used in interior construction that is not in contact with the ground but can be exposed to dampness,
- UC3 covers wood used in exterior construction that is not in ground contact, and
- UC4 covers wood used in exterior construction that is in ground contact or within 150 mm of the ground and supported on moisture permeable materials.

There are four residential *Product Groups*:

- A - members 25 mm or thinner used where the potential for decay is low.
- B - members between 25 mm and 40 mm thick and less than 150 mm wide used where the potential for decay is low or where the member does not provide structural support for another member.
- C - structural lumber thinner than 40 mm used as supporting members in UC3 exterior applications.
- D – posts and timbers used in UC4 applications.

The attached table provides typical examples of use categories and product groups for pressure treated wood products used in residential applications. The table illustrates the relationship between the treatment standards referenced in the CSA O80-97 series of Wood Preservation Standards and the Use Categories used in the CSA O80-08 series of Wood Preservation Standards.

Simplified CSA Use Categories for Residential Pressure Treated Wood Products Used in and Around Homes


		Typical Applications	Nominal Lumber Sizes (Typical)	CSA O80-97 Treatment Standards	CSA O80-08 Use Category	Residential Product Group	Preservative Type	Service Conditions*
Above Ground	Interior	Interior Construction Millwork, Trim, (Lumber and Plywood)	2x4, 2x6, 2x8	O80.34	UC1	N/A	Borate	Interior Construction Dry
		Interior Construction Sill-plate, Floor and Roof Trusses (Lumber and Plywood)	2x4, 2x6, 2x8	O80.34 O80.2	UC2	N/A	Borate, ACQ-C, ACQ-D, CA-B	Interior Construction Damp
	Exterior	Deck Boards Railing Components	2x2, 5/4x6 2x4, 2x6	O80.36	UC3.2	B	ACQ-C, ACQ-D, CA-B	Exterior Construction Exposed to all Weather Subject to Prolonged Wetting
		Deck Joists, Beams	2x8 and Deeper	O80.2	UC3.2	C		
Ground Contact Or Fresh Water Contact	Deck Support and Guardrail Posts (Sawn Wood)	4x4, 4x6, 6x6, 8x8	O80.2	UC4.1	D	ACQ-C, ACQ-D, CA-B	Exterior Construction Ground Contact**	
	Permanent Wood Foundations (Lumber and Plywood)	2x6, 2x8, 2x10, 2x12	O80.15***	UC4.2	N/A	CCA	Ground Contact Critical Components	
	Retaining Walls and Cribbing: • Over 1.2 m, or • Supporting foundations	2x6, 2x8, 2x10, 2x12, 4x4, 4x6, 6x6, 8x8	O80.2	UC4.2	N/A	ACQ-C, ACQ-D, CA-B		

* For protection from decay fungi and insects (includes subterranean termites)

** Also applies to wood supported on moisture permeable materials within 150 mm of the ground

*** The ink stamp on wood used in permanent wood foundations includes “O322”; a reference to the CSA O322 Standard under which the material is certified.

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The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) is the national association representing manufacturers of Canadian wood products used in construction.

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Wood Preservation Canada (WPC) is the trade association that represents the treated wood industry in Canada. WPC operates under Federal Charter and serves as a forum for those concerned with all phases of the pressure treated wood industry, including research, production, handling and use and the environment.



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The Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board (CLSAB) is the body overseeing performance of the Canadian lumber grading system through:

- establishing policy and controlling the identification, assessment, grading, and stamping or certification of lumber in Canada, and
- accreditation and supervision of lumber grading agencies, including performance audits at mills and treatment facilities