

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

(PARTIAL AGREEMENT IN THE SOCIAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH FIELD)

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### RESOLUTION AP (85) 3

#### ON WOOD PROTECTION PRODUCTS

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 1985  
at the 387th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Representatives on the Committee of Ministers of Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, these states being parties to the Partial Agreement in the social and public health field, and the Representatives of Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland, states which have participated in the public health activities pursued within the above-mentioned Partial Agreement since 1 October 1974, 2 April 1968, 23 September 1969 and 5 May 1964, respectively,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued by common action in the social and public health field ;

Having regard to the provisions of the Brussels Treaty, signed on 17 March 1948, by virtue of which Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland declared themselves resolved to strengthen the social ties by which they were already united ;

Having regard to the Protocol modifying and completing the Brussels Treaty, signed on 23 October 1954 by the signatory states of the Brussels Treaty, on the one hand, and the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy, on the other hand ;

Observing that the seven states parties to the Partial Agreement which have continued, within the Council of Europe, the social work hitherto undertaken by the Brussels Treaty Organisation and then by Western European Union, which derived from the Brussels Treaty as modified by the Protocol mentioned in the fourth paragraph above, as well as Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland, which participate in Partial Agreement activities in the field of public health, have always endeavoured to be in the forefront of progress in social matters and also in the associated field of public health, and have for many years undertaken action towards the harmonisation of their legislation ;

Noting :

- a. the very widespread use of products designed to protect or treat wood against insects and lignivorous fungi ;
- b. that such products are used by industry, craftsmen and in the home ;
- c. that the pesticides available for this use differ greatly in toxicity, intended uses and methods of application<sup>1</sup> ;
- d. that the pesticide formulations employed are often prepared using volatile petroleum-based solvents ;

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1. See lists 1 to 3 in the appendix hereafter.

Considering :

- i. the diversity of existing regulations in the different states on pesticides used for wood protection ;
- ii. the potential risk to the user of certain of these pesticides ;
- iii. the potential risk to inhabitants of dwellings where treated wood has been installed ;
- iv. the potential risk to the environment from the use of these pesticides due to the wide spectrum of biocidal properties of some of them and the quantities used ;
- v. the potential risk associated with the possible use of treated wood (toys, beehives, furniture, receptacles for drinking water, foodstuffs and stored animal feeding stuffs) and of the waste from treated wood, that is, shavings and sawdust,

Recommend that the Governments of the seven states parties to the Partial Agreement and of Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland take into account in their national legislation the guidelines outlined in the appendix to this resolution.

#### Appendix to Resolution AP (85) 3

##### Guidelines

- I. Pesticides for wood protection should be registered before marketing in order to evaluate their toxicity for the user and the environment, as for agricultural pesticides. Such risk evaluation should particularly take into account :
  - the exposure of users and third parties ;
  - the purpose for which the treated wood is to be used ;
  - the possible contamination of stored food or feeding stuffs ;
  - the risks of long-term exposure through inhalation and dermal contact arising from the presence of treated wood in the home or other premises ;
  - the risks to the environment, including the disposal of the treated wood after use.
- II. Pesticides for wood protection should be subject, in view of their toxicity, to the classification, packaging and labelling rules in force for pesticides for agricultural and non-agricultural use.
- III. 1. As far as possible, only wood protection pesticides in class III of the classification system adopted by the 28th World Health Assembly of the WHO (as outlined in Chapter IX of the 6th edition of the Council of Europe booklet *Pesticides*) should be marketed for domestic use ;
  2. Pesticides marketed for domestic use should bear labels specifying the method of use, precautions to be taken and the method of disposal and, as far as is reasonably practicable, should be supplied in child-proof containers ;
  3. For products based on organic solvents, the label should show the need for efficient ventilation during and after application in closed areas.
- IV. The conditions for professional use of wood protection products should be suitably controlled and, in cases where this is indicated, the health of the workers should be regularly monitored.
- V. Treated wood or wood waste should not come into direct contact with man or animals (notably birds or bees) or with food or feeding stuffs, unless the use of a preservative has been specifically cleared.
- VI. Surplus pesticides should be disposed of in such a way as to avoid contamination of water, soil and air.

### *List 1*

#### *Active ingredients generally acceptable for use in wood protection in the states participating in Partial Agreement public health activities<sup>1</sup>*

##### *I. Industrial use*

A. Active ingredients for industrial treatment of timber not to be used for buildings intended for permanent occupation and not for wood that comes into contact with drinking water, food or feeding stuffs :

silicon fluoride (F-I)<sup>2</sup>  
bifluoride (F-I)  
fluoride (F-I)

and mixtures of these salts.

The industrial application of formulations with these active ingredients can be made by immersion or pressure impregnation with a 10% aqueous dilution of these salts.

B. Active ingredients for industrial treatment of wood to be used for buildings intended for permanent occupation but not for wood coming into contact with drinking water, food or feeding stuffs :

the salts of copper, dichromates, borates (F-I) and mixtures of these salts.

An aqueous dilution of these salts can be applied by pressure impregnation.

##### *II. Industrial, in situ or remedial use*

A. Active ingredient for use on internal timber :

— dichlofluanid (anti-stain fungicide)

B. Active ingredients for use on external timber :

— tributyltin oxide (F)  
— creosote (F-I)  
— carbendazim (anti-stain fungicide)

### *List 2*

#### *Active ingredients acceptable by some, but not by all states participating in Partial Agreement public health activities*

##### *I. Industrial use*

A. Active ingredient for treatment of structural timbers only :

— mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one.

B. Active ingredients for treatment of internal and external timbers :

— methylene-bis-thiocyanate (algicide and fungicide also against sapstain)  
— tributyltin nonylphenyl polyethoxylate (F)  
— arseniate (F-I).

C. Active ingredient used in combination with arseniates and fluorides for re-impregnation of electric wire poles :

— dinitrophenol (F).

##### *II. Industrial, in situ or remedial use*

A. Active ingredients exclusively used for protection of internal timbers :

boric acid (anti-stain fungicide and insecticide)  
borates : disodium tetra borate and disodium octa borate (F-I)  
dichlorvos (I) slow release strips  
lindane (I).

1. The term "generally acceptable" is intended to mean "acceptable for use in a majority of the member states participating in Partial Agreement public health activities".

2. (F) = fungicide (I) = insecticide.

- B. Active ingredients exclusively for use on external timbers or internal timbers of outbuildings :
- carbolineum (F)
  - coal tar creosote (F-I)
  - boron esters : refers to tri (2-methylpentane-2, 4-diol) biborate
  - tar column bottoms (TC oil)
- C. Active ingredients used in some participating countries on internal, on external timber or on both :
- azaconazole (F)
  - captafol (F)
  - carbendazim (anti-stain)
  - chlorothalonil (anti-stain)
  - cypermethrin
  - deltamethrin
  - dieldrin (I)
  - endosulfan (I)
  - folpet (anti-stain)
  - furmecyclox (F)
  - lindane (I)
  - naphthenates of copper and zinc (F)
  - parathion (I)
  - pentachlorophenol (F)
  - pentachlorophenol laurate (F)
  - pentachlorophenol sodium salt (F)
  - permethrin (I)
  - phenyl mercury oleate (anti-stain)
  - 2-phenyl-phenol (F)
  - 2-phenyl-phenol sodium salt (F)
  - phoxim (I)
  - pirimiphos-methyl (I)
  - pyrethrum (I)
  - quaternary ammonium compounds (F) :
    - alkylbenzyl trimethyl ammonium chloride
    - alkylpyridinium bromide
    - benzalkonium chloride
    - benzethonium chloride
  - thiram (anti-stain)
  - tributyltin<sup>1</sup>oxide (F)
  - tributyltin naphthenate (F)
  - tributyltin phosphate (F)
  - xylogen Al (F) (Al-salt of N-nitroso-N-cyclohexyl hydroxylamine)

### *List 3*

*Active ingredients prohibited for use as wood protection products  
in some states participating in Partial Agreement public health activities*

DDT  
 aldrin  
 endrin  
 chlordane  
 δ-Hexachlorocyclohexane with less than 99% gamma isomer  
 dieldrin  
 endosulfan  
 xylogen Al (F) (Al-salt of N-nitroso-N-cyclohexyl hydroxylamine)