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Development of an International Use Classification System

P. I. Morris

Chronology

1980± Hazard class systems in Australia and Nordics

1990 ± Europe, America, S Africa adopt similar systems

1992 Archer highlights trend to unification at CWPA

1994 Morris proposes Int'l Standard at IRG

1994 CEN TC 38 proposes fast track EN → ISO

1995 IRG sets up Working Party 2.5

1996 Morris proposes compromise use classes at IRG

Potential Conflicts Among Sytsems in 1996

Hazard Class/Use Category 2

- Australasia Inside house with termites
- S. Africa Inside house with termites
- Europe Inside house with moisture
- USA (original) Outside house with coating
- USA (revised) Inside house with moisture
- Japan Inside house, cool regions

Chronology

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1994 CEN TC 38 proposes fast track EN → ISO

1995 IRG sets up WP 2.5 International Standardization

1996 Morris proposes compromise use classes at IRG

1996 ISO TC 165 votes to approve EN use classes
Several countries express concern

1997 ISO sets up TC 165 Subcommittee 1
Wood Materials: Durability and Preservation

Chronology Continued

1997	ISO TC 165 sets up Subcommittee 1
1998 Feb.	1st unofficial meeting
1998 Dec.	1st official meeting
1998-1999	Development of compromise use classes
1999-2001	Refinement of system, drafting of text
2001-2003	Attempt to fast track table and follow up with text later: Two draft standards developed
2003-2005	Drafting local roadmaps to standardization
2005	Negative votes and comments on ‘final’ drafts
2005-2006	Revisions made, roadmaps abandoned, two standards recombined
2007 Nov.	ISO 21887 published

Basic ISO Use Classes

Class	Service Conditions
1	Interior, dry
2	Interior, damp
3	Exterior, above ground
4	In ground
5	Marine

Use Classes 1-2 and Subdivisions for Organisms

Class	Service Conditions	Biological Agents		
1	Interior, dry	Wood boring beetles, termites	A	Wood boring beetles
			B	Wood boring beetles + termites
2	Interior, damp	Beetles, Stain fungi, Decay fungi, termites	A	Decay fungi
			B	Decay fungi + termites

ISO Use Classes 3-4 and Subclasses of Exposure

Class	Subclass	Service Condition
3	3.1	Exterior, above ground, protected from weather.
	3.2	Exterior, above ground, un protected from weather.
4	4.1	In ground
	4.2	In ground, severe, fresh water

Use Class 5 and Subdivisions for Organisms

Class	Service Condition	Biological Agents		
5	Marine	Beetles, Stain fungi, Decay fungi, + Marine borers	A	Teredinids + Limnoria
			B	Teredinids + creosote tolerant Limnoria
			C	Teredinids, creosote tolerant Limnoria + Pholads

Important Footnotes to the Table

- A higher use class may be assigned if it is anticipated that service conditions can arise that result in a higher risk to the timber than that normally experienced by the typical uses listed.
- It might not be necessary to protect against all biological agents listed as they may not be present or economically significant in all service conditions in all geographic regions.

Impact

- Canada's revised standards, using the ISO system were published in March 2008
- Discussions are underway in Europe and Japan around adoption of the ISO system
- Other parts of the world – not so much
- Adoption of the ISO system would reduce confusion in trade between regions.
- The scale of trade does not warrant a complete set of international standards

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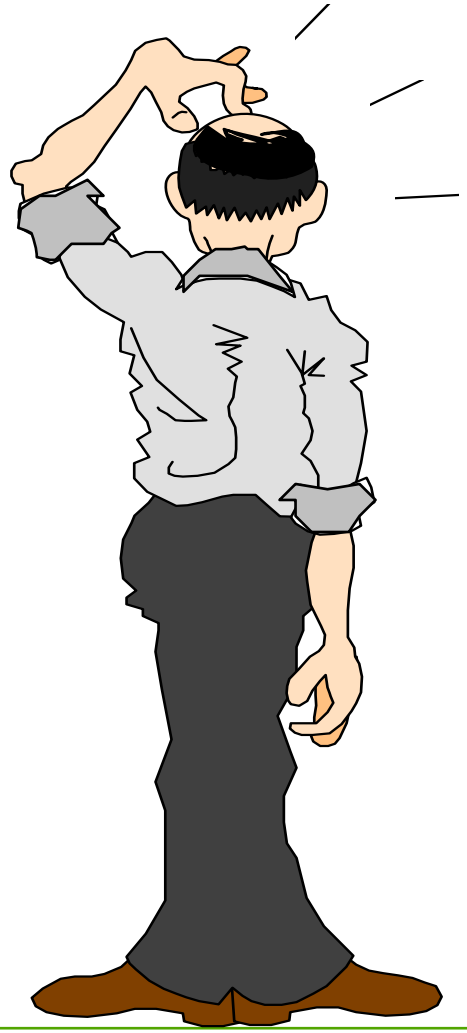
Any Questions



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