Wood Protection in France.

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Market and type of wood preservation

FCBA = institute to promote wood :

-With the right quality for the right use according to the needs of the market

- in respect of environmental and safety concerns

IT IS WHAT FCBA WANT and NOT :

Market and type of wood preservation

Market and type of wood preservation

Or :

Market and type of wood preservation

Durability and wood preservation are key issues for that goal and represent roughly 40 % of the activities in our Bordeaux location.

Market and type of wood preservation

FRANCE =

France mainland

+

tropical territories, Guadeloupe, Martinique, La Reunion, French Guyana. Wood is widely employed in those islands, but with specific concerns due to the climatic conditions and the pressure of termites.

Many specifications exist due to the needs of those territories, that could apply even in France mainland (difficult to control the trade).

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Preventive :

•By wood preservatives products

-UC 1, 2, 3a : mainly micro emulsions (high technology) used by, brush (DIY and Laminated beams), short dipping, spraying. High technology, no specific concern for performances. Based on combinations of cypermethrin, permethrin, propiconazole, tebuconazole, quats, IPBC mainly. Market : = to ↑

-UC 3b and 4 : Vacuum and pressure autoclave. Double vacuum : very rare. A few CC, some creosote for railway sleepers and poles, mainly coppers organics. Market : = to ↑

-Blue stain (temporary protection) : a few remaining products (combinations of IPBC, quats, propiconazole mainly). Market : ↓

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Preventive :

•By other technologies (Heat Treated Wood, wood polymers,

-very limited in quantities. Main drawbacks : no real evaluation of the performances of the technologies and their ability for the uses, confirmed by practical experiences.

•By natural durability,

-limited in volumes, but wish to extend. Not easy (due to the performances and the availability)

Market and type of wood preservation

Remedial :

-decreasing market. More and more water based products in replacement of solvent based technologies.

-injection and spaying or only spraying by new technologies under a gel form (high penetration level, even in refractory species).

Termite control :

-preventive : due to a law in France : the use of barriers increases (physical and physical-chemical).

- Curative : baits replaces more and more chemical barriers.

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Strengths :

- environmental concerns to enhance the use of wood in buildings. Encouraged by government policy.

-Positive image of wood

-Positive images of certification schemes + quality of deliveries

-A modern wood preservation.

-The BPD : positive list of substances instead of restrictions.

$\Rightarrow$ all give confidence in the use of wood. No major claim when wood is used according to state of art, but concerns for importations for specific markets (DIY, chalets, …)

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Weaknesses :

-Wood preservation is complicate : high number of wood species (± 30 wood species used in France significantly), high number of standards (80 ?).

-Language difficult to be transferred / understood by the specifiers and the wood industry

-Confusions between use classes, “treatment classes”, service classes, natural durabilty classes. Enhanced by specifications different from one country to an other one (cultural question).

-Communication is difficult and antagonist (Institutes, trades, associations, wood industry itself…)

-Poor image of chemistry

Market and type of wood preservation

Weaknesses :

-BPD : restrictions on the availability of biocides, of products, lack of products for some market.

Wood preservative market = Σ small markets, even niches.

Solutions to cover all the needs ?

Kills innovation in a way.

-Esthetic concerns (Mould, maintenance of coatings) for outdoor applications ⇒ restrictions for the use of wood in buildings, pallets ?

-More and more regulations (BPD, REACH, on treatment sites, …)

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Needs for the future :

- Service life prediction. No way; responses must be given for commodities mainly for building applications. Difficult to implement the concept and to standardize it. Step by step.

. Development of tools

. Selection of reference products

. Long service life for UC 4.

. Communication simple and understood. True language. Targets : engineer schools, universities, specifiers, wood industry, technical institutes,

- To solve the question of performances of commodities in UC 4 in a copper tolerant environment (otherwise traditional markets (poles, vineyard stakes,…) could be lost)

Market and type of wood preservation

Needs for the future :

- To find alternatives to creosote.

-To solve the question of performances of commodities in UC 4 in a copper tolerant environment (otherwise traditional markets (poles, vineyard stakes,… will be lost)

-Cov's for remedial treatments (quality indoor atmosphere)

-To qualify the technologies of physical modification of wood in order to evaluate the suitable applications associated with the right communication (not against treated wood).

-Wastes and re use of wood end of life to be a modern material. If not : restrictions will apply.

Market and type of wood preservation

Needs for the future :

- To continue to work on design in order to :

    . Reduce the UC

    . Increase service life

-To change the cultures ? To accept % of defects in case of performances can not be achieved for the full production and in order to limit the quantities of biocides ? Response ?