CULPEPER
TREATED LUMBER

USE CATEGORY STANDARDS WITH CHEMICAL AND RETENTION

Selection Guide

COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS	
A	Sawn Products
A	Permanent Wood Foundations
B	Posts
B	Playground Material
B	Round Building Poles
C	Crossties
D	Utility Poles
E	Round Timber Piling
F	Wood Composites
G	Marine Application (salt water)
H	Fire Retardants
I	Non-Pressure Applications

The American Wood Preservers' Association (AWPA) developed the Use Category System to provide a simple way to use AWPA Standards. The UCS defines a series of different exposures for treated wood products. Each exposure has a different degree of biodegradation hazard and/or product service life expectation. All treated wood commodities can be placed into one of the Use Categories (see table.) There are five Use Categories based on exposures and expected product performance, ranging from weather protected to salt water marine. A separate Use Category is provided for fire retardant applications. The Use Category number relates to the hazard associated with certain use environments, while the letter following the number (if present) relates to the risk. In general, as the Use Category number increases, there is a consequent increase in the required preservative retention. The depth of penetration requirements may also increase.

Use Category	Chemical/ Use Retention	Service Conditions	Use Environment	Common Agents of Deterioration	Typical Applications
UC1	MCA .06	Interior Construction, Above Ground Dry	Continuously protected from weather or other sources of moisture	Insects only	Interior construction and furnishings
UC2	MCA .06	Interior Construction, Above Ground Damp	Protected from weather but may be subject to sources of moisture	Decay, fungi and insects	Interior construction
UC3A	MCA .06	Exterior Construction, Above Ground Coated & Rapid Run Off	Exposed to all weather cycles, not exposed to prolonged wetting	Decay, fungi and insects	Coated millwork, siding and trim
UC3B	MCA .06	Exterior Construction, Above Ground Uncoated or Poor Water Run Off	Exposed to all weather cycles, including prolonged wetting	Decay, fungi and insects	Decking, deck joists, railings, fence pickets, sill plates, uncoated millwork
UC4A	MCA .15	Ground Contact or Fresh Water, Non-Critical Components	Exposed to all weather cycles, normal exposure conditions	Decay, fungi and insects	Fence, deck and guardrail posts, crossties and utility poles (low decay areas)
UC4B	MCA .23/ CCA .60	Ground Contact or Fresh Water, Critical Components or Difficult Replacement	Exposed to all weather cycles, high decay potential including salt water splash	Decay, fungi and insects with increased potential for biodeterioration	Permanent wood foundations, building poles, horticultural posts, crossties and utility poles (high decay areas)
UC4C	MCA .23/.31 CCA 1.5	Ground Contact or Fresh Water, Critical Structural Components	Exposed to all weather cycles, severe environments, extreme decay potential	Decay, fungi and insects with extreme potential for biodeterioration	Land and fresh water piling, foundation piling, crossties and utility poles (severe decay areas)
UC5A	CCA 1.5	Salt or Brackish Water and Adjacent Mud Zone, North of San Francisco and New Jersey	Continuous marine exposure (salt water)	Salt water organisms	Piling, bulkheads, bracing
UC5B	CCA 2.5	Salt or Brackish Water and Adjacent Mud Zone, South of San Francisco on West Coast, New Jersey through Georgia on East Coast	Continuous marine exposure (salt water)	Salt water organisms including Limnoria Tripunctata	Piling, bulkheads, bracing
UC5C	CCA 2.5	Salt or Brackish Water and Adjacent Mud Zone, South of Georgia and Gulf Coast	Continuous marine exposure (salt water)	Salt water organisms including Martesia Sphaeroma	Piling, bulkheads, bracing
UCFA	FlamePro	Fire Protection as Required by Codes Above Ground, Interior Construction	Continuously protected from weather or other sources of moisture	Fire	Roof sheathing, roof trusses, studs, joists, paneling
UCFB	FlamePro	Fire Protection as Required by Codes Above Ground, Exterior Construction	Subject to wetting	Fire	Vertical exterior walls, inclined roof surfaces or other construction which allows water to quickly drain

It is important to note that CCA treated wood has limited applications for residential use. Wood treated with CCA can still be used for some commercial, industrial, salt water marine and agricultural purposes, within certain dimensional guidelines. CCA treated wood cannot be used for freshwater applications.