

# Ted's News

January 2024

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[What do the Numbers on a Treatment Tag Mean?](#)



You have all seen the tags on the end of treated timber but do you know what they mean? AS/NZS 1604.1-2021 *Preservative-treated wood-based products Products and treatment*, requires that each piece of treated timber carry, as a minimum, an identifier that has the hazard level, the treatment chemical used, and the company that did the treating. The tag above reads "200 64 H3." Let's go ahead and unpack that. The H3 part should not need explaining. 200 is the treater and you can find a list on the [Timber Preservers Association of Australia](#) website showing what companies own which number. You can then check on that entry to determine what certificates the association has recorded as viewed e.g., *TPAA has sighted an annual verification check that has been completed as required under AS/NZS1604.1.*

The number 64 is not so easy. It is the chemical used and I can't find a list on the web that explains that. To save you spending \$135 purchasing the standard, here are a few of the common ones from the 75 chemicals registered.

Number	Chemical	Visible
1-3, 14, 15, 31-4, 38, 40, 43, 46-7, 51, 55, 61	Different formulations of CCA	Yes

20-1	Creosote	Yes
63	IPBC + permethrin	No
64	Propiconazole + tebuconazole,+ permethrin	No
68	Copper + tebuconazole + propiconazole	Yes
70	Permethrin	
74	Permethrin for H2 F	No
88	Micronized copper azole	Yes
90	Alkaline copper quaternary	Yes

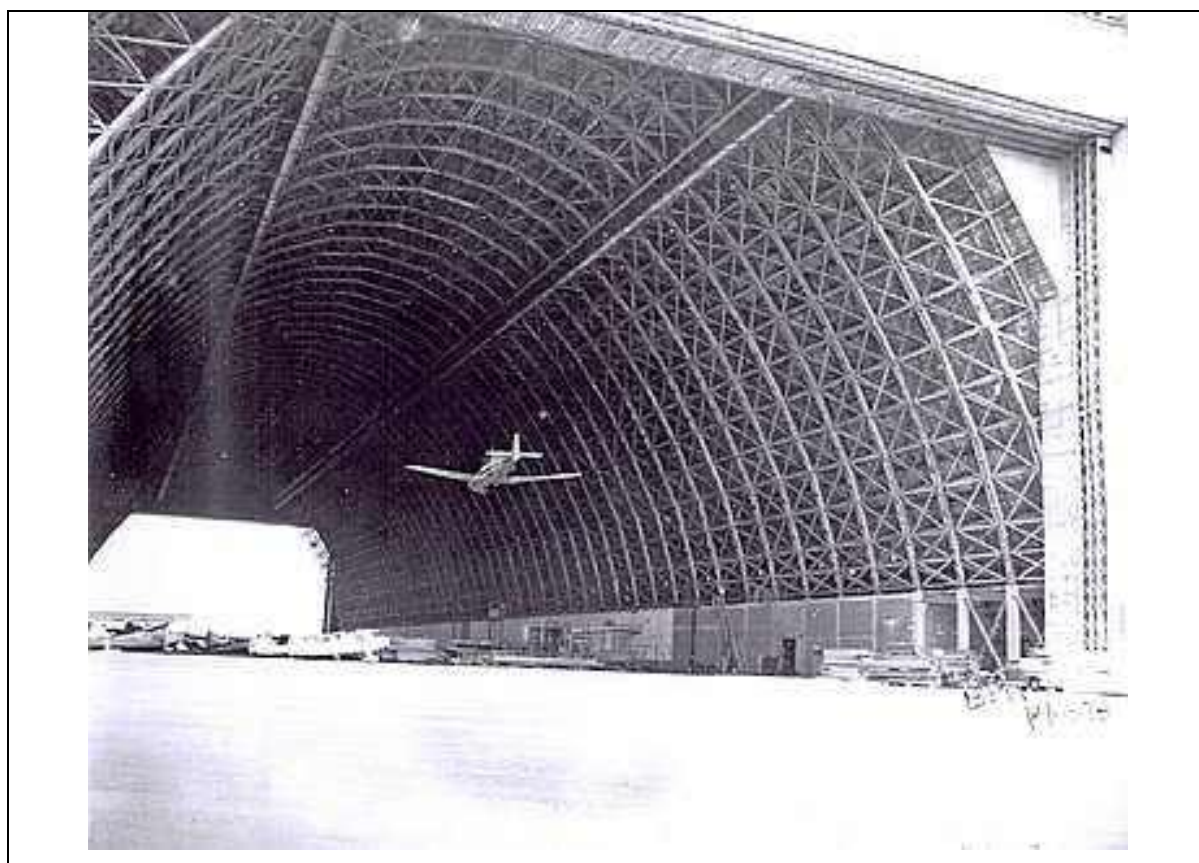
Of course, the first thing that happens is that the tag is cut off which is why the pieces in the image above are double-branded but that is not compulsory. A certificate can be more useful as it can go into the project files.

You can learn more from my [guide to timber preservation](#) (Cost \$55). [See the table of contents.](#)

### [What's the Best Platform for Online CPD Courses?](#)

I want to put all my one-hour and full-day CPD courses along with my guides on a platform so there is easy access to them nationwide. I would appreciate any feedback you have as to what is an appropriate platform. [Email me.](#)

### [Inspecting The World's Largest Timber Structure](#)







the timber industry has "shot itself in the foot" by often selling garden and retaining wall material that is not fit for purpose. (See the [June 2023 newsletter](#) and [July 2016](#) editions.) It should be said that correctly treated pine for retaining walls is an excellent product and will probably last as long as a steel post without additional corrosion protection at the base see my article in the [September 2023 newsletter](#) for more on this. The thorny issue is, what is correctly treated?

Pine sleepers may be cut with their cross-section being substantially or even totally heartwood. [Construction Timbers in Queensland](#), a Queensland Government publication that is part of my state's variation to the NCC (and excellent advice for the states down south and west) says very clearly that the heartwood of hardwood and some pines cannot be treated to H3 or above (see extract below).

#### **H level**

A number prefixed by the letter 'H' identifying the biological hazards to which the timber is to be exposed and the appropriate conditions of use—the 'H level' (e.g. H1 and H2) is used to prescribe the extent of preservative treatment (retention and penetration) required when combined with the timber's natural durability to protect the wood against the biological hazard/s identified. ***N.B. Currently, the heartwood of most hardwood timbers and some softwood timbers cannot be treated to H3, H4 or H5 level of protection. The timber treater is to ensure that their process has achieved the required level of penetration to meet the stated H level specification.***

The sapwood is easy to treat but for the heartwood, I stress the words above, "cannot be treated." Now, look at the image of the badly treated sleepers above. They are virtually all untreated heartwood. You can tell that because the presence of copper-based preservatives shows up as significantly darker areas. *AS/NZS 1604.1 Preservative-treated wood-based products - Part 1: Products and treatment* states that there must be 10 mm penetration of the heartwood or otherwise not contain more than 20% of the cross-section untreated. The second image (from Europe) shows very well-treated softwood and you can see the preservative going right through every piece. Quite simply, do not accept pine sleepers if you cannot clearly see the treatment throughout every piece. Don't take my word for it, check out "Jack's Rant" in this [newsletter from 2017](#) Give me a call if you have concerns.



Image courtesy Karl Baker, Dyna Group.

There is a workaround and that is by incising. All sleepers should be incised in my opinion but only three companies are doing it to my knowledge. In Queensland, it is [Dyna Group](#). Incising should be just a cost of doing business.

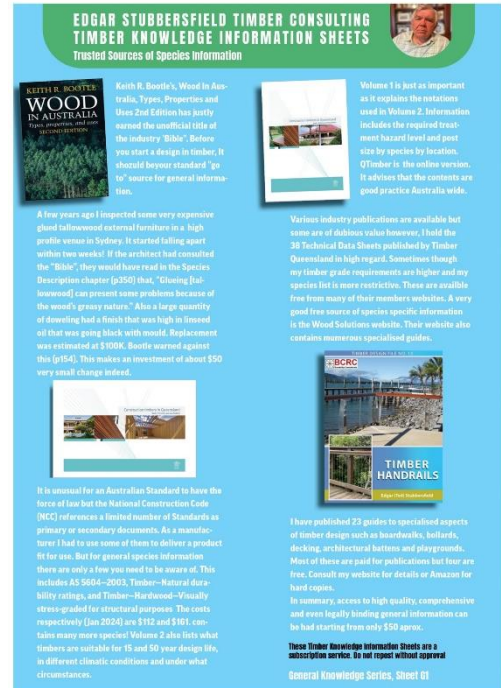
Give me a call if you have any concerns.

## Proposed Timber Information Sheets

I have been giving some thought to writing some single-page information sheets covering a wide range of timber-related subjects. I have drafted a proposed list of subjects and also the first sheet *Trusted Sources of Species Information*. I would love your feedback as to whether this would be of value to you. I am proposing to make them a weekly or fortnightly subscription service

[Here is a link to the proposed subjects](#) and

[Here is a link to a PDF of the first sheet.](#)



## New CPD Course - Domestic Decks

### Three Very Different Decking Applications



Weather exposed and potential for slipping



Fully covered and low likelihood of slipping

This is one of the opening slides to my new CPD course, Domestic Decks. The observant among you will notice that there are two images, yet I talk of three main different deck types. The third is on the next slide, decks close to or in the ground. This course covers:

- Resources needed
- Factors affecting deck specification including
- Factors affecting joist specification
- Alternate joist material
- Deck Construction
- Finishing
- Decks close to the ground

If you are in Brisbane or surrounds, book your free seminar through Outdoor Structures Australia/Wilson Timber. Contact Stuart Madill 0403 385 707. Interstate or further afield, contact Fiona at BCRC the durability specialists at 0416 326 366 to obtain a quote.

### [Index to Past Issues](#)

If you are a new reader or just want to find details on a particular topic such as 150x150 mm posts, here is a link to an [index of articles back to 2015](#).

### [Signup for One of my Twelve CPD Courses](#)



Learn from my four decades of experience with these CPD training sessions, some of which are available in eClassroom.

Topic 1	Timber Preservation	
Topic 2	Hardwood Grading	
Topic 3	Timber Decks - Designing for Durability	
Topic 4	Utilising Small Diameter Hardwood	
Topic 5	The Seven Deadly Sins of Timber Design	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 6	Timber Joints	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 7	Architectural Timber Battens	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 8	Timber 101	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 9	Boardwalk Design (recommend delivered with Timber 101)	
Topic 10	Timber Handrail Design	
Topic 11	Timber Bollards	
Topic 12	Domestic Timber Decks	

[Click here to learn more about these courses](#)

Are you aware that [Wilson Timbers/Outdoor Structures](#), who I am affiliated with and are suppliers of quality timber, will have me come to your office (in person or remotely) and deliver one or two of my CPD sessions for free? The only condition for in-person presentations is that, with travel,



we can do it in a day from Brisbane in Queensland. [Contact Stuart Madill by email to arrange a time](#) or call his mobile 0403 385 707.

## Full-Day Courses

 <p><b>Footbridge Course</b></p> <p>The Footbridge Purchasing and Inspection Course run by Edgar (Ted) Stubbersfield is intended for those responsible for the specification, purchasing and ongoing maintenance of footbridges. The course will enable participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an appropriate specification</li> <li>• Assess suitable product to purchase</li> <li>• Recognise where corners are cut</li> <li>• Ensure value in purchasing</li> <li>• Know quickly where to inspect</li> <li>• Recognise suitable timber for bridges</li> </ul> <p>I can offer valuable assistance to your organisation by empowering your people to recognise an appropriate low maintenance footbridge from one that requires expensive rectification over a shorter life span.</p> <p>On retiring from Outdoor Structures Australia, a company I founded in 1997, I have been concentrating on publishing guides on external timber and steel use and educating professionals in that field. You can now take advantage of my experience gained building low maintenance steel and timber bridges.</p> <p>I have extensive expertise in exposed timber applications. This knowledge was developed initially through a number of formal research projects followed by years of observation. I acquired a deep understanding of the issues relating to designing, supplying and constructing fully weather exposed timber and steel structures including bridges.</p> <p>With over 40 years experience of supplying timber and timber and steel products, I have supplied some outstanding low maintenance footbridges. Conversely I have also witnessed many structures that simply should never have been purchased.</p> <p>This course is centred on a checklist that can be used as a specification and also a confirmation that common shortcuts that affect longevity have been addressed. Through hundreds of images the importance of each line of the check list is explained. Participants will recognise what good practice is and how important it is to ensure it is used.</p> <p><b>Contact Details</b>          Mobile: 0414 770 261          Email: edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com</p>	 <p><b>Coastal Deck Course</b></p> <p>The Coastal Deck Design Course run by Edgar (Ted) Stubbersfield is intended for those responsible for the specification, purchasing and ongoing maintenance of boardwalks and decks with emphasis given to the more difficult coastal environment. The course will enable participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an appropriate specification</li> <li>• Assess suitable product to purchase</li> <li>• Recognise where corners are cut</li> <li>• Ensure value in purchasing</li> <li>• Know quickly where to inspect</li> <li>• Recognise suitable timber for decks</li> </ul> <p>I can offer valuable assistance to your organisation by empowering your people to recognise an appropriate low maintenance deck or boardwalk from one that requires expensive rectification over a shorter life span.</p> <p>On retiring from Outdoor Structures Australia, a company I founded in 1997, I have been concentrating on publishing guides on external timber and steel use and educating professionals in that field. You can now take advantage of my experience gained building low maintenance steel and timber bridges.</p> <p>I have extensive expertise in exposed timber applications. This knowledge was developed initially through a number of formal research projects followed by years of observation. I acquired a deep understanding of the issues relating to designing, supplying and constructing fully weather exposed timber and steel structures including decks.</p> <p>With over 40 years experience of supplying timber and timber and steel products, I have supplied some outstanding low maintenance decks and boardwalks. Conversely I have also witnessed many structures that simply should never have been purchased.</p> <p>This course is centred on a checklist that can be used as a specification and also a confirmation that common shortcuts that affect longevity have been addressed. Through hundreds of images the importance of each line of the check list is explained. Participants will recognise what good practice is and how important it is to ensure it is used.</p> <p><b>Contact Details</b>          Mobile: 0414 770 261          Email: edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com</p>
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Don't embark on any major footbridge or coastal deck project before you do my full-day courses. These are serious courses run through [BCRC](#), the durability experts, that are unmatched in the value you will extract from them by delivering expensive infrastructure that ages gracefully and with little maintenance. They both start by going through a design checklist and explaining, line by line, why you must attend to that point. They then look at a number of case studies, showing good and bad practice.

[Click here for the footbridge course brochure](#)

[Click here for the coastal decks brochure](#)

Call me to discuss your training needs. These courses, which are eligible for CPD points, will give you an incredible understanding of good timber use. Call 0414 770 261 or [email me](#).

<b><a href="#">Contact Me</a></b>	
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	<b>Phone:</b> 0414 770 261



Web: [www.deckwood.com.au](http://www.deckwood.com.au)

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