

InSIGHT

Keeping you informed of the latest Koppers Performance Chemicals and Industry News.



Issue 12 - August 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter.

As I write this, Sydney is in COVID lockdown with no end in sight and many state and territory capitals are in some level of lockdown with the consequent effects on daily life, work and schooling.

The Delta Variant of the COVID 19 virus has proven to be much more transmissible and seems to be affecting younger members of the community so that KPC can only encourage all our industry colleagues to consider being vaccinated as soon as you are able.

What's in this Issue:

- **Timber Products Supply Dynamics**
- **KPC supports New Timber Framing campaign**
- **New AS/NZS 1604 information and rollout**
- **Bushfire Research Support**
- **New Staff Members**

A MESSAGE FROM ELIAS AKLE

At the time of writing all of NSW and Victoria is in lockdown. This is a difficult time for many people.

Melbourne residents are now enduring their sixth lockdown whilst residents in Sydney are now into the ninth week of the current lockdown. Many people are doing it tough, not being able to see and spend time with family and friends and in addition to this there are many businesses and their employees who currently are unable to work with their businesses facing uncertain futures.

We have been very fortunate over the last 18 months. The Koppers manufacturing facilities in Mt Gambier and Geelong have continued to operate with minimal interruption. We have firm COVID safe plans in place as well as contingency plans to allow us to keep operating in the event that one of our staff members either tests positive to COVID or is deemed a close contact of a positive case.

Whilst our Technical Services representatives do have limitations on their travel and may not be able to call on our customers sites, our ability to continue to provide technical support is on-going. Our representatives are only a phone call away and for those who use the Koppers Process Control system our representatives can also get direct access to your system and review treatment data and assist with any required trouble shooting. Our representatives are available and keen to assist our customers in any way possible.

I am very much looking forward for life to return to some semblance of normality and to have the ability to resume travelling and spending time with our customers and see you all again. In the meantime please take care and stay safe.



TIMBER PRODUCTS SUPPLY DYNAMICS

We are all vitally concerned at current and future supply dynamics in our Australian market, in our case, no available wood means no timber treatment.

To assist the timber supply chain, frame and Truss plants and builders, a webinar was hosted by **WoodSolutions** on the 6th of July featuring Christine Briggs, National Marketing Manager AKD representing Australian plantation pine interests, John Halkett General Manager Australian Timber Importers Federation and Gavin Matthew, CEO of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australia.

This excellent webinar gives a great insight into current and future timber and engineered wood products supplies from the perspective of Australian growers and sawmillers as well as imported timber products and local and imported engineered timber products.

If you missed it, you can view it on the following link:

<https://woodsolutions.com.au/webinars-podcasts/woodsolutions-tuesday-webinars/timber-products-supply—current-situation>

KPC Australia has been a long-time supporter of timber framing campaigns with the aim of maintaining the use of timber framing against alternatives such as steel framing.



Why do more Australian home builders and owners choose timber framing?

-  Proven and popular
-  Termite resistant when treated
-  Strong, stable and quiet
-  Fire predictable
-  Low cost flexibility
-  Stores carbon

woodsolutions.com.au/framing



While uniquely sustainable and renewable timber is also a carbon store and is preferred by the vast majority of builders. However, issues of supply in particular can have builders looking at alternatives.

This new campaign is being organised and directed by AFPA Marketing Committee members and is being funded primarily by plantation pine industry interests but also by international timber suppliers and industry associations including ATIF, FTMA, Timber Queensland and TABMA and of course KPC Australia.

The catchline of the campaign will be **“Timber Framing the Ultimate Renewable”** in line with wider industry promotion.



New AS/NZS 1604 information and rollout of Webinars and/ or face to face meetings with customers (COVID allowing)

As mentioned in the last edition of this Newsletter, the revised AS 1604-Preservative-treated wood-based products, was released earlier in the year.

The 3 part AS 1604 series will be called up in State building regulation through its reference in other Standards such as the termite management series, AS 3660, AS 1684 Framing Code and the Timber engineering Code, AS 1720, when these standards are revised for call up in the NCC (National Construction Code) . In the meanwhile, preservative treatment operations should be becoming familiar with the new Standard.

A major change to the Standard is that the new edition is a 3-part series incorporating the preservation requirements for retention and penetration patterns etc in the new Part 1: Products and treatment which for the first time is a combined Australian and New Zealand Standard. The new Part 2: Verification requirements and Part 3: Test Methods completes the series.

The previous (and still current edition) of the AS and AS/NZS series required treaters to meet the penetration, retention, marking and other requirements however the Standard was silent on how that was to be achieved and most importantly had a very simple pass/fail criteria for compliance.

The new AS/NZS Part 2: Verification requirements, now has very explicit methods for demonstrating compliance with the Standard which are based on statistical methodologies similar to the ones used by producers of structural timber for compliance of structural properties. This recognises the fact that timber is a naturally variable material and that preservative treatment and even testing methods all have elements of variability which combine to make it unreasonable that one timber sample on its own would reflect the properties of the whole population of timber treated in a charge, over a month or a year's treating.

AS/NZS 1604.2 gives one method for verification of penetration compliance and **4 methods** of retention compliance that have advantages and disadvantages for different operations depending on several factors including the preservative type and the volume of timber passing through the treatment process.

The Appendix A method is based on the New Zealand industry methodology and is the reference method for disputes and the other methods have been calibrated to give a similar verification result to Appendix A. In the main, these methods rely on a significant amount of laboratory testing of samples which could be expensive for many operations.

Having said that, Koppers investigation into these methods in conjunction with experts involved in the development of the Standard has shown that in many cases an alternative customised verification method that gives a similar verification outcome to the Standard may be the best way forward for some treatment operations. Koppers has begun to discuss the new standard with customers and will be assisting as we transition to the new Standard series.



BUSHFIRE RESEARCH SUPPORT

As reported in previous editions of our newsletters, KPC has been very much involved in Timber Industry discussions regarding the increasing pressure on timber products used in Bushfire Prone Areas (BPA's) .

A significant project to test bushfire performance of timber products including fence and sleeper material was proposed including funding commitments by KPC, TPAA and a range of Timber Sawmilling and treatment industry participants.

We are pleased to announce that the project has been approved for funding under the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) Gippsland Centre and work has been commenced by Wood Products Victoria and Alastair Woodard and Boris Iskra who will be managing the Project. The outcomes of this project will be relevant to Gippsland and Victorian interests as well as the rest of Australia.

A MESSAGE FROM THE KOPPERS BOARD

The world changed considerably in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic altering business operations, the economy and people's daily lives. While the past year's changes affected Koppers, the resilience and character of the business was amplified due to the Company's visionary leaders and the tireless efforts of its people.

This unprecedented challenge also presents a unique opportunity for Koppers to strategically lay the groundwork for future success. Our Board works closely with the Koppers executive team to establish the Company's long-term vision and strategy to foster sustainable growth and deliver shareholder value as a part of our Board's fiduciary obligations.

Sustainability is central to Koppers identity — a company focused on enabling the circular economy through its preservation and recovery of wood products. In 2020, Koppers identity was again demonstrated by the formation of the Board's Sustainability Committee (formerly the Safety, Health and Environmental Committee). Koppers is also setting strategy-defining goals to drive long-term performance. Through its commitment to Sustainability, we believe Koppers is making progress toward the creation of long-term value for all its stakeholders.

The Company continued to make notable progress in 2020 despite the challenging circumstances. Koppers effectively managed employee health and safety in response to COVID-19, while achieving record results in our underlying safety metrics. Koppers also increased its commitment to global workforce inclusion as well as its philanthropic contributions to the communities in which they operate. At the same time, the Company saw record-setting financial performance — validating Koppers belief that placing the care of our people first creates a culture of enhanced performance overall.

Koppers recent accomplishments exemplify the power of Sustainability as a core value to the Company's overall success. Through its Zero Harm foundation and strategic focus on wood preservation, Koppers success story is inextricably linked with its strategic Sustainability pillars of People, Planet, Performance. While challenges like COVID-19 and climate change remain, we are confident Koppers is well positioned to continue delivering stakeholder value through its pursuit of a business strategy that fosters sustainable growth both now and in the future.

New Staff Members

KPC Australia and its staff are very pleased to welcome the **Rhys Gamble** and **David Hunt** to full-time employment with us.

Rhys will be based at the Mount Gambier production facility as a Production Operator and David will be a Production Operator at the Geelong facility.

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