

## Use of treated wood in roof assemblies

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Treated wood commonly is used in the U.S. construction industry as a component in roof assemblies. In *The NRCA Roofing and Waterproofing Manual, Fifth Edition*, NRCA specifically recommends the use of decay-resistant, treated wood for blocking and nailers at roof perimeters and penetrations for fastening membrane and sheet-metal flashings. Many roof product and system manufacturers also make similar recommendations for the use of treated wood.

Recent changes in the chemical treatments used in treated wood have resulted in reports and concerns about corrosion of fasteners and metals that come in contact with treated wood that use specific, current generation chemical treatments.

In this bulletin, NRCA provides a brief background of this issue and offers specific interim recommendations intended to address the concern of corrosion relating to the use of treated wood.

### Background

Since the early 1930s, the most widely used chemical treatment for treated wood has been chromated copper arsenate (CCA) compounds. CCA-treated wood has proven to perform successfully in many applications, including as components of roof assemblies where nontreated wood's resistance to insects, micro-organisms and fungal decay may be a concern.

As of January 2004, wood preservers voluntarily removed CCA-treated wood from U.S. and Canadian consumer markets as a result of a voluntary agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA cited the arsenic and chromium contained in the CCA treatment as being possible environmental concerns in certain exposed-to-the-weather applications, such as with outdoor furniture and playground equipment.

Wood preservers have introduced a number of CCA-treatment substitutes, including alkaline copper quat (ACQ-C, ACQ-D, ACQ-D Carbonate), copper azole (CBA-A, CA-B), sodium borates (SBX/DOT) and ammoniacal copper zinc arsenate (ACZA). These new-generation treatments contain biocides that do not include arsenic and chromium and are currently acceptable to EPA.