

## UPDATE OF TREATMENT FOR GROUND CONTACT TIMBERS

As a customer using timbers treated to BS 8417 with a 30 year desired service life in ground contact e.g. posts for post and rail and posts and gravel boards for acoustic screens or any other ground contact timbers that other agencies or customers specify the highest treatment standard, we would like to make you aware of the change in standard that came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

The May 2014 amendment to the existing standard for Use Class 4 (UC4) required the addition of 6mm lateral penetration into the heartwood of any species used for ground contact to achieve a 30 years desired service life. A comparison of the new requirements are shown below.

Hales Sawmills are producing timber to suit the new version of BS 8417, when called for by the customer. The other requirements are as follows:

The retention values required in the analytical zones remain the same as before.

The 100% penetration of the sapwood in the analytical zone in Pine and 12mm in Larch and Douglas.

Penetration into the heartwood zone is defined as evidence of 6mm penetration and greater than 75% of the surface area of the heartwood analytical zone on any exposed face penetrated.

In order to achieve and comply with this standard Hales Sawmills have already invested in mechanical incising machinery and demonstrate compliance by using an independent third party to carry out regular spot checks on treated timber stock to ensure compliance on every occasion.

Hales Sawmills have also installed two new additional treatment plants fitted with the very latest monitoring equipment to process the timber to assist in ensuring compliance but still carry our regular monitoring checks by cross cutting treated timber for a final visual check.

### **Old BS 8417 UC4 DESIRED SERVICE LIFE 30 YEARS**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Use Class 4</u>	<u>Penetration</u>	<u>AQL</u>
Douglas Fir	4	12mm Sapwood	25%
Larch	4	12mm Sapwood	25%
Pine	4	Full Sapwood	10%

### **CURRENT BS 8417 from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

Douglas Fir	4	12mm Sapwood 6mm Heartwood	25%
Larch	4	12mm Sapwood 6mm Heartwood	25%
Pine	4	Full Sapwood 6mm Heartwood	10%