

GC/10/03

22 April 2003

**ALL MEMBERS
INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Dear Sirs

European Creosote Directive

The following information applies to 100% Coal Tar Creosote and is based on the attached briefing note produced by Dr Coggins of the British Wood Preserving and Damp-Proofing Association, our thanks to the BWPDA for their assistance in this matter.

Members who trade in Creosote or Creosote treated timbers are strongly urged to read the attached briefing note because this cover document is only intended as a summary to highlight what we believe are the most critical aspects of the Directive for TTF Members.

Sale Of Liquid Creosote

Health & Safety approval for the sale of Creosote to DIY users will cease on 30 April 2003. DIY users are not permitted to use Creosote after 30 June 2003.

Sales of Creosote to professional users may continue after 30 April 2003, but in minimum 20 litre drums, which in addition to the provision of safety information must be marked "for use in industrial installations or by professionals".

Sale Of Creosote Treated Timber To DIY Users

Sales of new Creosote treated timber to DIY users are not permitted after 30 June 2003.

Sales of second-hand timber to DIY users which has been re-treated with Creosote (ie given a fresh application) are not permitted after 30 June 2003, irrespective of when Creosote was re-applied.

Sales of second-hand Creosote treated timber to DIY users (primarily second-hand railway sleepers) are permitted after 30 June 2003. However, Members must ensure their staff are fully aware of the legal restrictions on end-use after this date (see below), and ensure they pass this guidance on to DIY users, along with the appropriate Health and Safety information (see the BWPDA advice to sellers).

The Voice of the Timber Industry

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All Members including Legislative and Environmental Representatives

Sale Of Creosote Treated Timber To Professional Users

Treatment or re-treatment of timber with Creosote may continue after the 30 June 2003 but only in industrial installations or by professional users. Which means that:

- Sales of new and second-hand Creosote treated timber to professional users may continue after 30 June 2003. However, Members must ensure their staff are fully aware of the legal restrictions on end-use after this date (see below), and ensure they pass this guidance on to professional users, along with the appropriate Health and Safety information.

From 30 June Creosote treated timber IS PERMITTED for professional and industrial use in:

- Any situation, except those specifically listed in the Directive (see below). Examples of permitted end-uses given in the Directive are railways, power transmission and telecommunications, fencing, agricultural purposes, harbours and waterways.

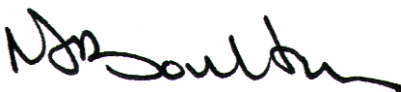
From 30 June 2003, the EU Directive states Creosote treated timber may NOT be used:

- Inside buildings, whatever their purpose
- In toys
- In playgrounds
- In parks, gardens and outdoor recreational and leisure facilities, where there is a risk of frequent skin contact
- In manufacture of garden furniture
- For the manufacture and use or re-treatment of:
 - containers intended for growing purposes
 - packaging of products for human or animal consumption
 - other materials, which may contaminate a) or b) above.

The enforcement of this Directive falls to local Trading Standards Officers.

We believe this information will be sufficient for most TTF trading Members however if you would like further information please contact me on email nboulton@tff.co.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Boulton".

Nick Boulton
Product Manager