



WOOD PROTECTION

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To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Light Organic Solvent Preservative (LOSP) in New Zealand

USA based customers for LOSP treated, primed board products manufactured in New Zealand and Chile may have heard of adverse media coverage regarding LOSP treated wood in the New Zealand building industry. Koppers Arch Wood Protection is a major supplier of LOSP products to the New Zealand timber industry and also supplies a high proportion of the producers that manufacture treated, primed board products for the US market.

We want to assure you that the concerns expressed recently in New Zealand do not have any implication for the board products supplied to the USA. The reasons why you need not be concerned are as follows.

- The issue in New Zealand pertains to raw structural (framing) timber treated in mass for the building industry. It does not relate at all to pre-primed finger jointed products in the US which are manufactured by dedicated process lines under highly controlled conditions.
- The problem in New Zealand mainly relates to what is termed treatment service operations (TSO) where they LOSP process 3<sup>rd</sup> party wood. Due to current frenetic demand for treated timber in the building sector, the TSO providers are under intense pressure from their customers to push the wood back out their door quickly after treatment and sometimes without proper post treatment conditioning. In some cases this appears to result in some adverse reactions from the building trades due to excess preservative remaining in the timber. It does not relate to operations such as primed board manufacturers where the whole post-treatment reconditioning process is under tight control in order to ensure that the application of primer coating is not adversely affected by preservative residues.
- The LOSP product mix used in New Zealand contains a number of chemicals not approved and not used in the US market such as tri-butyl tin (TBT) based materials which are known to be irritating and odorous. While we can not at this stage say definitively that the issues in New Zealand are solely due to TBT based products, in our experience we have had no adverse reactions to the organic azole based treatment approved for the US market.

It is stressed that the LOSP treatment that is EPA approved for use in the US is based on modern organic chemistry and includes active constituents that are also approved for use in agriculture for protection of edible crops. Stringent processing controls at the board mills required for application of the high quality architectural primer finish means that all the excess preservative and carrier is eliminated from the product during manufacturing. Koppers Arch is cooperating with the building industry and timber industry associations in New Zealand to better understand the nature of the concerns raised. However as discussed above there is no reason for customers in the US to expect similar problems from LOSP treated, primed board products from Chile or New Zealand based producers.



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