



# Proven Fire Protection for Timber ...giving you time in a fire situation

This is the first of a series of information bulletins from timber protection experts Arch, to guide specifiers in the correct and responsible selection of fire retardant treatments for timbers.

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## FIRE PROTECTED TIMBER – SPECIFIERS BEWARE!

The importance of correctly specifying fire retardant treated timber cannot be overstated; as well as protecting valuable buildings, you are ultimately protecting peoples' lives. Projects that choose proven [DRICON](#) or [NON-COM Exterior](#) fire retardant treated timber from [Arch Timber Protection](#) eliminate any doubt that the product specified might not be fit for purpose. You can be sure that the three essential elements required when fire protecting timber are fully addressed when using Arch fire retardant impregnation treatments. These are:-

- Evidence of Compliance: an independent classification report specific to species, end use and Euro Class (B or C)
- Product Performance: correctly tested and approved products
- Product Application: quality assured industrial application processes

### Evidence of Compliance

A Classification Report **MUST** be specific to the timber components being used in the project and make reference to:-

- Class of treatment: Euroclass B or C
- Timber thickness
- Timber species
- Whether or not an air gap will be present behind the material once installed or whether the material will be fixed directly to a backing material.

Independent advice can be sought from [Exova Warringtonfire](#) or [TRADA Chiltern](#) if you are in any doubt about the legitimacy of any reports supplied.



### Product Performance

Although a Classification Report demonstrates initial compliance with the required fire performance, the long term durability of fire retardant treated timber must also be demonstrated by conformance to the new draft European Standard prEN15912: *Durability classes of reaction to fire performance of fire retardant wood-based products in interior and exterior end use applications.*

For timber to be used in an internal situation, limited hygroscopicity i.e. the ability of the fire retardant treatment within the timber to resist moisture must be evidenced as high levels of hygroscopicity could lead to migration of the fire treatment over time and a subsequent downgrade of the required fire performance.

For timber to be used in an external situation, the ability of the fire treatment to resist moisture is required as well as the ability to resist leaching. This is demonstrated using the accelerated weathering tests defined within the Standard.

In line with the requirements of prEN15912:



DRICON fire retardant treated timber is classed as INT 2 (suitable for interior humid applications) denoted by the label



NON-COM Exterior fire retardant treated timber is classed as EXT (suitable for exterior applications) denoted by the label



### Product Application

Your job will be made easier if the fire retardant application has recognised accreditations in place that demonstrate a quality and professional application process. An industrial pressure treatment process is by far the most effective method for the fire protection of timber. The process is strictly controlled to accurately apply the prescribed amount of fire retardant product into the timber and, unlike brush or spray applied systems, it is an all round application, not just on one surface.

In European Standards, independently audited factory production of fire retardant treated timbers in accordance with ISO9001 quality management systems is required to ensure the highest level of attestation.

The [Wood Preservation Association \(WPA\)](#) represents the UK timber protection industry and confirms listed and approved products and suppliers in its Fire Retardant Manual. Only a select number of products carry the prestigious approved status.

Further credentials and assurances can be also realised if the treatment facility also carries ISO14001 environmental management accreditation or is BBA approved.

### Proven Products and Service

When choosing the correct fire retardant protection for timber, compliance, performance and application are therefore vital considerations. DRICON or NON-COM Exterior treated timbers from Arch Timber Protection provide complete peace of mind that these are duly taken care of. We ensure compliance with prEN15912, both products are Wood Protection Association listed and DRICON carries an approved WPA status, DRICON is also [BBA approved](#), our treatment centre is quality assured with both ISO9001 and ISO14001 accreditations, the only one of its kind in the UK, and we have the correct independent Classification Reports in place for a wide range of timber species and thicknesses.



To download the latest product specifier's guide, click on the links below.

[DRICON](#)      [NON-COM Exterior](#)

To access NBS Plus Product Specifications, [click here](#).

To view fire retardant treated timber case studies, click on the links below.

[DRICON](#)      [NON-COM Exterior](#)

To set up a project call with our fire retardant product manager or to book a CPD presentation, [click here](#).

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