AUSTRALIAN PLANTATION PRODUCTS AND PAPER INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Blue Pine Treatment Protection System

Blue Pine framing is plantation pine that has either been sprayed or dipped with unique carrier systems. These systems include synthetic pyrethroids that provide termite protection when used within house frames for at least 25 years. The synthetic pyrethroids, Permethrin and Bifenthrin are commonly used for head lice treatments and fly-sprays and so pose very little or no risk to humans during handling and whilst in place in house-framing applications.

This new development means that framing timber can be treated in line within mill production environments and deliver termite protected timber framing that is much more cost-effective than past systems.

The new treatment systems are the result of extensive research and testing and have the approval of state and federal authorities. CSIRO undertook this work in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries. Laboratory and field testing and evaluation were performed in accordance with protocols developed by the Australian Wood Preservative Committee (AWPC) that includes various governmental bodies as well as research institutes from Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea.

Field testing was performed at two sites, one in the Northern Territory and the other at Beerburrum in SE Queensland. These were chosen because of their harsh environmental conditions and the availability of active termite colonies of the types that cause most of the significant commercial damage in Australia. These termite species did not include, however, the *Mastotermes darwiniensis* termite which can be found North of the Tropic of Capricorn. Conventional pressure treated termite protected timber is recommended for these applications.

The testing methodology used included various methods of placing specimens in bait containers that were accessible by live colonies of the target termite species. To encourage feeding and attack, various bait specimens were also placed in the containers and these were inspected during the trial periods up to 12 months in duration. When the test period was concluded, the test specimens were examined and compared with the untreated “control” specimens. A rating was then assigned and a pass/fail awarded. In addition, CSIRO conducted tests to simulate actual building construction, where some mini wall frames, with ends docked and with plaster attached, were tested against termites in an 'Accelerated Field Simulator' or AFS. The frames were placed in large troughs containing the termites, in a large incubation room.

When the testing and evaluation phase was satisfactorily completed, the new treatment processes were subject to the registration processes of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) which administers the National Registration Scheme. To be registered, the chemicals and process must be assessed for efficacy (i.e. effectiveness) and safety. Similarly, the new treatment process was assessed by the relevant Australian Standards

Committee as well as state regulators and a new treatment category - known as H2F - was created to distinguish the product from other treatment types.

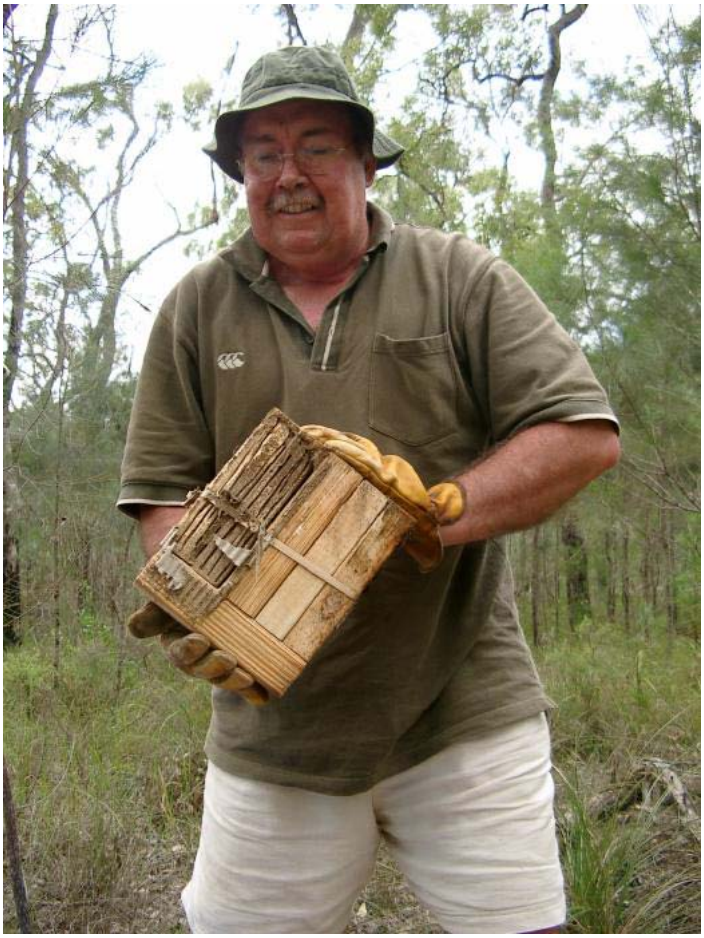
Blue Pine framing, treated to the requirements of Australian Standard AS1604 to H2F level is produced and marketed by a number of pine processors around Australia under their own brand names. Products are backed by their 25 year guarantee.

Blue Pine framing is one of the most significant new products on the Australian house building scene and is an important element in protecting new homes from termite attack when used in conjunction with ground line treatments and regular inspection.

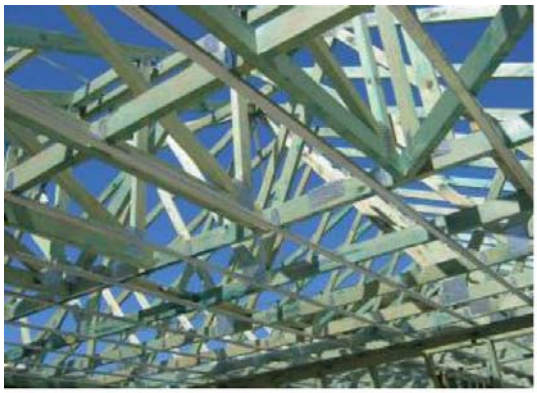
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Further information and technical assistance is available from the A3P Plantation Pine Advisory Service.

Blue Pine Hotline: 1800 007 463 (1800 00 PINE)



Dr Brenton Peters of DPI&F inspecting one of the termite trial samples; demonstrating the effectiveness of treated pine as compared to untreated controls in the prevention of damage by termite attack.



Blue Pine H2F protected roof trusses and wall frames under construction.