



**PRESSURE TREATED
POWER & UTILITY POLES**

Environmental Issues

Pressure treated poles can be preserved with creosote or Tanalith®. With CCA treatment small amounts of chemical can leach or migrate from the treated timber. The exact amount is dependant on how well the wood was treated, how old it is, and the environment around the pole.

Most of the metal losses from CCA (Tanalith® C) occur during rainfall.

For each hour the pole is completely wetted by rainfall, it will lose an average of 0.000141g of Arsenic, 0.000077g of Copper and 0.000020g of chromium.

To put a simpler figure on this, 1.44g of Copper will be leached during its service life.

As a comparison a 1 penny coin contains 2.5g of Copper.

In terms of Arsenic, it can be fatal at levels of 75-150mg per person. To reach this figure it would require a person to eat 0.9 - 1.75kgs (2 - 4lbs) of soil immediately surrounding a pole to reach this level.

By following correct treatment practices and safe handling of chemical all risks can be minimised.

Creosote leaches from the wood throughout the life of the pole. Tests in the USA suggest that these losses can be as high as 85% in wet conditions.

The EU Position/Tanalith® E - Ecological Alternative

In 2003, the European Union imposed restrictions on the use of products containing arsenic (Commission Directive 2003/02/EC Jan 2003), and the use of timber treated with arsenic-containing preservatives.

Products containing chromic acid above 7% are classified very toxic. Under EU chemical legislation the Seveso Directive sets limits on how much product solution can be stored on-site before you trigger the lower tier limit and any plant containing CCA needs to consider this legislation.

As from 1st September 2006, under the Biocidal Products directive, CCA preservatives will be no longer permitted to be sold in EU countries. All CCA should be removed from treatment plants prior to that date.

Since 2000, Arch has promoted Tanalith® E as the proven alternative.



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Tanalith® E

Tanalith® E is a proven and effective alternative to Tanalith® C.

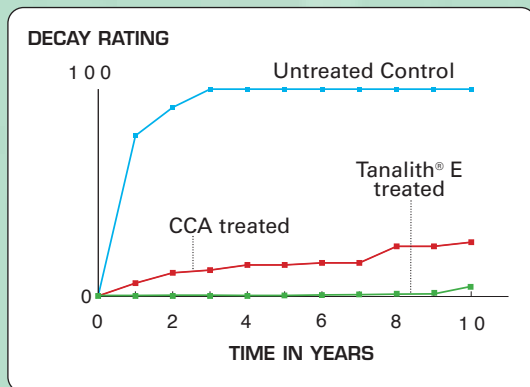
It is used in over 30 countries worldwide and covers all climates and service conditions.

It is based on copper from recycled sources and biodegradable biocides which are also used for crop protection.

The first trials of Tanalith® E were conducted in the 1980s and it was commercially introduced in 1993. Extensive laboratory and field testing in 28 sites around the world prove its effectiveness, especially in high hazard locations such as termite regions in Africa.



Performance



The graph shows that small samples of Tanalith® E pressure treated timber are providing outstanding performance, in an aggressive field test site, after 10 years. From this data you can be confident that commercial sized poles can achieve a desired service life of 30 years in ground contact.

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