



**PRESSURE TREATED
POWER & UTILITY POLES**

Technical Assessment

Creosote

Creosote has been used as a wood preservative since the 1930s. It is an effective and durable product but it has restricted uses and is now banned for domestic use in the European Union and completely banned in other countries, including Ghana and Cameroon.

Advantages of Creosote:

- Creosote gives a degree a water repellency which can reduce checking and twisting of poles.
- Historical choice with proven methods of application.

The disadvantages of Creosote are:

- Strong smell which is unpleasant for workers at the treatment plant and during pole installation
- Creosote transfers onto the skin and clothes of workers handling the poles
- Creosote is regarded as a primary skin irritant.
- 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.
- Such losses cause a lowering of effectiveness, poisoning of the ground and contamination for surroundings and people.
- Remedial ground line maintenance of creosoted poles is often required because of this leaching, therefore increasing costs.
- Creosote poles in storage need to be rotated periodically so the creosote does not sink to the lower side. This increases cost before the pole has even been installed.
- The cost of all petroleum based products, including creosote, is continually increasing.

The European Union's Directive 2001/90/EC of October 2001 stated that "A recent study has concluded that creosote has a greater potential to cause cancer than previously thought."



Wheldon Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire, WF10 2JT, England.
Tel: +44 (0)1977 714000 Fax: +44 (0)1977 714001
E-mail: advice@archchemicals.com www.archtp.com

CCA Preservative

(CCA) preservatives were developed in 1933 and have proven performance worldwide.

Arch Timber Protection's TANALITH® preservatives are used by more than 90 authorities in over 30 countries for treatment of transmission and telephone poles. In many other countries similar CCA preservatives are extensively used for this purpose.

There are numerous technical studies documenting the effectiveness and safety of CCA waterborne preservatives.

The benefits of Tanalith® C treated poles

- The most effective waterborne wood preservative ever developed.
- Effective against all wood destroying organisms.
- Odourless, non-tainting, non-flammable and compatible with other materials.
- Very economical treatment.
- Safe to humans, animals and plants when handled and applied correctly. **Tanalith® C** does not kill plants which come into contact with freshly treated timber, unlike creosote.
- When impregnated into the timber, the chemical components of **Tanalith® C** bond within the wood structure which minimises any ground pollution.
- Poles with a high moisture content are easier to impregnate with **Tanalith® C** than with Creosote.
- Because there is virtually no migration of preservative, remedial ground line treatment is not necessary for ageing **Tanalith® C** treated utility poles.
- Pole strength - full-scale testing has shown that **Tanalith® C** treated poles meet all specifications required.
- Cleanliness - **Tanalith® C** treated utility poles are easier to handle, clean to the touch and non-staining to utility work crews.
- **Tanalith® C** treated poles have anticipated service life up to 30 years.

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

© Copyright 2006 Arch Timber Protection.

© TANALITH is a registered trademark of Arch Timber Protection.

Disclaimer: Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this document, Arch Timber Protection gives no undertaking to that effect and no responsibility can be accepted for reliance on this information.

Arch Timber Protection updates its literature as and when necessary.
Please ensure you have an up to date copy.