PermaPine now offers MCA timber preservative

PermaPine, a leading supplier of treated timber in New Zealand, has expanded its offerings to include Micronised Copper Azole (MCA) treatment. Unlike traditional CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate), MCA provides environmental advantages and better end-of-life options.

As New Zealand's leading supplier of CCA-treated posts, poles, and piles, PermaPine has long been committed to providing quality outdoor products for the New Zealand and Pacific Island markets.

PermaPine has recently commissioned a second treatment plant, which provides additional capacity and extends the capacity to "fixate" the timber preservative into treated product following treatment. Customers and end users benefit by receiving drier products.
Along with CCA treatment, PermaPine can now offer an alternative timber preservative called MCA. Micronised Copper Azole treatment will be offered to the market for products such as garden sleepers, roundwood, and landscaping products. Initially, these offerings will be "made to order" rather than purchased from stock; therefore, they will have slightly longer lead times.

What is MCA?

MCA is a wood preservative with two active ingredients: Micronised Copper and Azole. Micronised copper is simply copper carbonate ground down to a fine size. The copper used is almost always from recycled copper metal. Copper is a common fungicide. Azoles are a family of synthetic fungicides originally developed for the human health and crop protection market. The azole used in MCA is also a finely ground particle.

History and use

The first commercial use of MCA was in the USA around 2007. MCA was accepted into the NZ Wood Treatment Standard (NZS3640) in 2012. MCA is commonly used to treat pine species in the US, and is also used in Australia. MCA provides protection for H3, H4 and H5 applications, but until now, has been most commonly used for H3 applications such as decking, fencing, and pergolas.

Why MCA?

MCA has some advantages compared to CCA.

- MCA has various environmental certifications, including being certified by Global Green tag, and National Green Building standard.
- Better end-of-life options, with some commercial boilers in NZ presently burning MCA-treated wood. For CCA, the disposal options through burning are limited to one commercial boiler.
- The ability to burn MCA-treated wood at the end of its life under specific conditions.
- PermaPine MCA treated product is backed by a 50-year warranty against insect and fungal attack when used and installed according to industry guidelines.

But why still use CCA as a treatment?

- CCA remains well-recognised and established as a preservative.
- Its long history of use globally and widespread availability make it a reliable choice
- CCA tends to be a more cost-effective preservative compared to MCA.

PermaPine