



NEWS RELEASE

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ISANTA Tackles Corrosion and CCA Substitutes

Corrosion is complex. The International Staple, Nail And Tool Association (ISANTA) is striving to develop better ways for specifiers to deal with it. The recent changes in treated wood illustrate this well.

Observations suggest that attention to corrosion resistance may be more important for the newest generation of treated wood. There is immediate interest because producers of treated wood are shifting away from CCA due to a voluntary agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and the producers of CCA. This agreement prevents the use of CCA treated wood for consumer uses such as play structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios, walkways, and boardwalks.

All of the affected industries are researching the corrosion resistance question: preservative manufacturers, treaters, fastener manufacturers. These industries are continuing to develop new products to improve performance and compatibility. No test has been selected as THE best test to predict long-term corrosion resistance of fasteners used with treated wood. The manufacturers of the different preservatives generally recommend hot dip galvanized or stainless steel fasteners, as was recommended for CCA. (Recommendations typically do not specify a coating weight or thickness of zinc and the stainless steel type is not usually specified, although some preservative manufacturers have published lists of recommended fasteners.)

Major model building codes, such as those written by organizations like BOCA (*National Building Code*), ICBO (*Uniform Building Code*), ICC (*I-Codes - International and Residential*) and SBCCI (*Standard Building Code*), generally prescribe hot dip galvanized, stainless steel, silicon bronze or copper fasteners for preservative treated and fire-retardant-treated wood. Building officials can approve other fasteners based on findings that the alternate is satisfactory, complies with the intent of the code, and is at least the equivalent in performance of that prescribed in the code. Evaluation reports issued by the model code organizations document such findings. Some preservative

manufacturers have evaluation reports which require that fasteners be hot dip galvanized, stainless steel, or of triple coated zinc polymer materials. Fastener manufacturers can be consulted for information on fasteners.

On a broader scale, ISANTA is striving to overhaul the standards that have been used to control corrosion resistance. It hopes to substitute a system of performance tests for the list of specifications in current standards. Performance tests can be applied to both established and new coatings, and can be used to rank performance in different environments. For example, a salt spray test will likely be recommended for coastal construction. Test results will then indicate any coating's level of protection with respect to established levels of performance. Just as the 8d common nail is great for attaching sheathing - but too short for framing and not well suited for shoe molding - each fastener's corrosion resistance will be able to be matched to appropriate uses and the desired levels of protection.

As for treated wood, a task group from the American Wood-Preservers' Association is working with ISANTA to develop the most appropriate test method for fasteners used in the newest generation of treated wood.

ISANTA has nineteen members: Atlas Steel and Wire Division of Gerdau Ameristeel, Campbell Hausfeld, DePoan, DeWalt, Dubai Wire, ITW (Duo-Fast and Paslode), Falcon/Specialty Fasteners, Fasco/Beck, Hitachi, ISM Fastening Systems, Makita, Master Fasteners, Max USA, Pentair Tools Group (Porter-Cable and DeVilbiss Air Power), Prebena, PrimeSource, Senco, Stanley Fastening Systems, Tree Island/Golden State/Halsteel.

The association concentrates in the areas of fastening recommendations, product and safety standards, and safety programs for fasteners and fastening tools used in: residential and commercial construction, remodeling, manufactured housing, furniture, vehicles, pallets and containers, picture frames and other industrial markets.

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