



## TREATED LUMBER INDUSTRY TRANSITION



### 2016 INDUSTRY CHANGE IN PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER

**pro**wood



UFP Treated

**QUESTION:** What is the change?

**ANSWER:** Above Ground applications must adhere to UC4A (Ground Contact) requirements when they are:

- difficult to maintain, repair or replace, and
- critical to the performance and safety of the entire system/construction.

Deck joists and ledger boards fit this description.

Additionally, Above Ground applications must adhere to UC4A (Ground Contact) requirements when they are subject to hazards comparable to ground contact, such as:

- less than six inches from the ground
- at risk for poor air circulation
- likely to have prolonged contact with vegetation or leaf litter
- when used in tropical climates.

**QUESTION:** Why is this change happening?

**ANSWER:** The technical substantiation for this proposal is two-fold: (1) numerous dimensional lumber applications require the use of retentions higher than UC3B (Above Ground) to provide adequate service life, and (2) UC4A (Ground Contact) lumber is generally not available in the market except through special order programs or specialized retailers.

**QUESTION:** When will the change occur?

**ANSWER:**

1. The American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) changed its standard on January 26, 2016 with an effective date of publication in their 2016 Book of Standards (expected May 2016).
2. The ICC-ES is requiring all ESRs to change by July 15, 2016.

**QUESTION:** How does this effect UFP's treated lumber warranties?

**ANSWER:** Universal Forest Products warranties will be consistent with the new treating standards once the standards go into effect in early 2016.

**QUESTION:** Will building codes change?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Where building codes required treated wood, the wood must either meet AWPA Standards or may be used by virtue of an ESR. Consequently, AWPA changing its standards and the ESR's also being modified accordingly will change the building code requirements as state and local building codes are updated.

**THIS CHANGE AFFECTS ALL RETAILERS (BIG BOX AND INDEPENDENT). BE PREPARED. INFORM YOUR CONTRACTORS AND SPECIFIERS.**



**EXCERPT FROM AWPA PROPOSAL 15S-T05-T2-U1-MODIFIED-2, WITH PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO AWPA STANDARD U1 SECTION 2 SHOWN IN GREEN:**

UC4A GROUND CONTACT General Use -- Wood and wood-based materials used (1) in contact with the ground, fresh water, or other situations favorable to deterioration; (2) used above ground but are difficult to maintain, repair or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system/construction; or (3) used above ground but may end up in ground contact or are subject to hazards comparable to ground contact due to climate, artificial or natural processes or construction.

Examples are fence posts, deck posts, guardrail posts, structural lumber, joists and beams for decks and freshwater docks, timbers and utility poles located in regions of low natural potential for wood decay and insect attack.

**Note 1:** The following components for exterior above ground use shall be treated to Ground Contact UC4A or higher requirements:

- a) When there is a reasonable expectation that soil, vegetation, leaf litter or other debris may build up and remain in contact with the component.
- b) When the construction itself, other structures or anticipated vegetation growth will not allow air to circulate underneath the construction and between decking boards.
- c) When components are installed less than six inches above ground (final grade after landscaping) and supported on permeable building materials (e.g. treated wood or concrete).
- d) When components are in direct contact with non-durable untreated wood, or any older construction with any evidence of decay.
- e) When components are wetted on a frequent or recurrent basis (e.g., on a freshwater floating dock or by a watering system).
- f) When components are used in tropical climates.



Universal Forest Products, Inc. is a holding company that supplies wood, wood composite and other products to three robust markets: retail, construction and industrial. Founded in 1955, the Company is headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., with affiliates throughout North America and in Australia. For more about Universal Forest Products, go to [www.ufpi.com](http://www.ufpi.com).

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