

WORKING PRESERVATIVE-TREATED TIMBER

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Cutting and handling · end-grain treatment of cut ends and notches · older treatments · treated timber waste

KD-RA-CA-004 Rev A0

Statutory basis: COSHH 2002 — preservatives, the dust from cutting treated timber and end-grain treatment products are assessed from the product label and safety data sheet, and exposure prevented or adequately controlled under regs 6 and 7; cut surfaces treated as the specification requires under BS 8417:2011+A1:2014; the contractor producing treated timber waste classifies it, describes it accurately and passes it only to a registered carrier under the duty of care in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.34, with the transfer note kept under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 reg 35, and treated wood that is hazardous waste consigned under the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 — England and Wales instruments, so on work in Scotland or Northern Ireland confirm the waste rules that apply there; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15, with washing facilities under Schedule 2. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Handling, cutting and drilling preservative-treated timber on site; brush application of end-grain preservative to cut ends, notches and holes; working with timber in existing buildings that may carry older treatments; and the segregation, classification and disposal of treated offcuts and removed timber.

This document does not cover: remedial spray and injection treatment of timber in existing buildings (KD-RAMS-DP-002), general wood dust control (KD-RA-CA-001), and fire-retardant treated products (product-specific assessment).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Skin contact with freshly treated or wet treated timber

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Timber allowed to dry as the treater advises before it is worked where the programme permits; gloves worn when handling wet or freshly treated timber; cuts and grazes covered; hands washed before eating, drinking and smoking — never hand to mouth.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Dust and sawdust from cutting and drilling treated timber

At risk: Operatives, others nearby

Controls: The dust carries the preservative. On-tool extraction on power saws and drills; FFP3 RPE, face-fit tested, where extraction is not enough; clean-down by vacuum, never dry sweeping; sawdust kept out of welfare areas.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. End-grain preservative — skin and eye contact, vapour and, for solvent-borne products, fire

At risk: Operatives

Controls: The label and safety data sheet are followed exactly — they are the conditions of use. Decanted into a small lidded, labelled container; applied by brush, never sprayed; gloves and goggles as the label states; ventilation indoors. Where the data sheet marks the product flammable: no smoking, hot work or ignition sources nearby, used brushes and wipes into a lidded metal bin, and storage in the flammables store.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Cut ends, notches and holes left untreated — timber that decays and fails in service

At risk: The building and its users

Controls: Every cut, notch and drilled hole in treated timber is treated with the compatible end-grain preservative the specification names, where the specification to BS 8417:2011+A1:2014 calls for it, before the timber is fixed or covered.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Older treated timber in existing buildings — arsenic-based, creosote or historic solvent-borne treatments

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Unidentified old treated timber is assumed hazardous until identified: cutting kept to a minimum, timber removed in lengths rather than cut up in place, extraction and FFP3 RPE where it must be cut, disposable coveralls and gloves, and the timber set aside for waste classification. Stained, oily or strongly smelling timber is reported before work continues.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Burning treated offcuts

At risk: Operatives, neighbours, the public

Controls: Treated timber is never burned on site or taken away as firewood. Offcuts go only into the segregated treated-timber waste container.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

7. Treated timber waste mixed, mis-classified or given to an unregistered carrier*At risk: The environment, the contractor*

Controls: Treated offcuts and removed timber kept separate from clean wood waste. The contractor producing the waste classifies it before it leaves site; timber treated with creosote or CCA is consigned as hazardous waste. The waste is described accurately on the transfer note and passed only to a registered carrier, with the note kept.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. Eating, drinking and smoking with contaminated hands*At risk: Operatives*

Controls: Washing facilities with warm water and soap close to the work; hands and face washed before breaks; no food or drink kept or taken in the work area; dusty outer clothing removed before entering welfare.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 01 Identify the treatment from the delivery note or the supplier's treatment record. Get the safety data sheets for the treatment and for the end-grain preservative the specification names.
- 02 In existing buildings, ask the client or principal contractor what treatments are recorded. Treat unidentified treated timber as hazardous until it is known.
- 03 Brief the COSHH assessment, the PPE, any flammability controls, the washing arrangements and the waste segregation.
- 04 Store treated timber off the ground and covered. Let freshly treated timber dry as the treater advises before working it, where the programme allows.
- 05 Handle with gloves. Cut and drill with on-tool extraction; vacuum sawdust as it builds up.
- 06 Treat every cut end, notch and hole with the specified end-grain preservative by brush before fixing, following the product label.
- 07 Put offcuts straight into the segregated treated-timber container. Never burn them or give them away.
- 08 STOP and report if old timber is stained, oily or strongly smelling, or its treatment cannot be identified. Do not cut it up in place.
- 09 Wash hands and face before every break. Keep food and drink out of the work area.
- 10 Before treated waste leaves site, classify it as the producer and consign creosote- or CCA-treated timber as hazardous waste. Use a registered carrier, and complete and keep the transfer note.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE**5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

- Saws and drills with on-tool extraction
- M-class vacuum
- Small lidded, labelled containers and brushes for end-grain preservative
- Lidded metal bin for brushes and wipes used with flammable products
- Segregated, labelled treated-timber waste container

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS**COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS****6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST**

- Head protection
- Safety footwear
- High visibility
- Gloves — task-rated
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Gloves for handling treated timber
- Goggles when applying end-grain preservative
- FFP3 RPE (face-fit tested) when cutting old treated timber

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED**7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS**

No permit is normally required for this activity. The site's own rules may still require one — check before starting, and record any permit issued below.

PERMITS ISSUED FOR THIS WORK (OR NONE)

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft; not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.