

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 6 July 2021

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

RE: NRCS confiscates illegally treated Timber from Treaters and Distributors in Kwa - Zulu Natal.

NRCS Inspectors recently seized illegal treated timber from distributors in Pietermaritzburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province worth more than a million rand and halted all treatment due to non-compliance with the regulation. The NRCS was responding to the growing number of illegal treated timber found in the South African market as part of its mandate to protect consumers and the environment.

The organisation conducted targeted inspections and found a number of illegal treaters in Pietermaritzburg and surrounding areas. The treaters were unable to prove compliance to the requirements of the Compulsory Specification (VC 9092) for Treated Timber and were producing sub-standard products. They failed to produce proof of compliance and the products also failed to comply with the marking requirements.

The following requirement must be adhered to in order to render the products safe and compliant:

- i. A statement that the preservative treatment of timber complies with the requirements of the relevant product specification standard as set out in paragraph 12.4 of the latest edition of SANS 10005;*
- ii. The type/s of preservative/s that is/are used in the preservative treatment of timber as set out paragraph 4 of the latest edition of SANS 10005 or relevant product specification standard;*
- iii. The hazard class/es for which timber is treated as set out in paragraph 5 of the latest edition of SANS 10005;*
- iv. The preservative treatment process/es that is/are used in accordance with paragraph 8.2 of the latest edition of SANS 10005.*

As part of its findings, the NRCS Inspectors discovered that the timber is cleaned and then dipped in used oil or painted to mimic a treated timber.

Illegal treatment of timber holds an environmental threat in that the oil used to treat the timber seeps through the soil thereby contaminating the environment.

There is a growing demand for treated timber in the country which is used in the construction of roofing and as a more cost effective method in building houses. With the current economic situation, consumers opt for cheaper products as a substitute of bricks and legally treated timber which are deemed as expensive.

The NRCS would like to alert consumers on the rise of illegal treated timber and to advise against purchasing the product which is of a sub-standard quality. The NRCS will continue to monitor compliance of products and if any product is found non-compliant, the organisation will remove it from the market. This in line with section 20 (1) (b) of the NRCS Act No 5 of 2008 which stipulates that “any person who imports or sell a commodity or product – for which a compulsory specification is in force must furnish to the national regulator such information as may be specified with regard to the article concerned”.

NRCS administers the regulation of the Preserved Treated Timber through the Compulsory Specification aimed at preventing the spread of wood destroying insects, and protecting consumers against the economic impact caused by biological wood destroying agents such as fungal decay and insects.

For media interviews, please contact Mirriam Moswaane on 012 482 8826 / 083 364 2007 and for technical queries please contact Mr Thomas Madzivhe on 012 482 8770/ 072 475 1267

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS (NRCS).