

Press Release

Warning: Wood products painted with fire retardants do not meet building code requirements for fire retardant treated wood.

Does your product meet the requirements for fire-retardant-treated wood (FRTW) as defined by the International Code Council (ICC) or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)? Rigorous testing standards have been developed for fire retardant treated wood (FRTW) products that are recognized nationwide by **ICC** and **NFPA**. Products that do not adhere to these standards should never be used in lieu of code-compliant, pressure impregnated, fire retardant treated wood.

Recently, painted wood products with spray or brush applied topical wood coatings have been promoted in ways that encourage their misuse in structural applications. The building codes do not permit wood products painted with “fire retardant” coatings to be used as substitutes for pressure impregnated fire retardant treated wood. These non-compliant products are a threat to public safety and could cause you financial hardship and legal problems.

Confusing, ambiguous, and misleading statements and claims in print and on the web may give the impression that some of these painted products are code-compliant and safe for building construction. As a specifier, builder, contractor, or owner, you can be liable for problems that occur from the use of this product if substituted for fire retardant treated wood.

Coatings may have been mistakenly accepted as FRTW by building officials, fire marshals, architects and contractors when they are not aware of the differences between pressure impregnated fire retardant treatments and surface-applied coatings. Use the following as a guide to evaluate product acceptability.

Checklist for Interior Fire Retardant Treated Wood	PYRO-GUARD	Coating
<i>Has the product been:</i>		
Approved by the ICC-ES as being in compliance with the ICC codes	YES	?
Tested in accordance with all ASTM standards (Section 2303.2, IBC): to include the following:	YES	?
ASTM E84 Fire tested for the full 30 minute test (on face and back of panel)	YES	?
Published structural design values: ASTM D5664 & D6305 (high temperature)	YES	?
ASTM D3201: Confirmed by an ICC-ES accredited testing laboratory as non-hygroscopic	YES	?
Pressure Impregnated on all sides with an approved fire retardant formulation	YES	?
<i>Look for permanently applied ICC-ES accredited inspection agency labels or stamps with the following information:</i>		
Underwriters Laboratories (UL)	YES	?
Flame spread and smoke development numbers	YES	?
ICC-ESR Number	YES	?
Kiln dried after treatment (KDAT) statement	YES	?
30 minute test	YES	?
Grade mark: such as APA or other approved third party grading agency	YES	?
Accepted by the Department of Defense and listed on the Qualified Products List QPL / Mil-L-19140 MIL SPEC	YES	?
Tested for smoke toxicity per the “Acute Inhalation Toxicity of Thermal Degradation products using the NYS Modified Pittsburg Protocol	YES	?

PYRO-GUARD fire retardant wood, unlike painted, sprayed or dipped coatings, does not require approved applicators, reapplications or special maintenance.

- **PYRO-GUARD** fire retardant chemicals are pressure impregnated deeply into the cellular structure of wood, while coatings are only painted on the surface.
- Unlike coatings, **PYRO-GUARD** pressure treated products do not peel, chip, flake, or wear away.

Always insist on products that are accepted by the ICC Evaluation Service with an Evaluation Service Report. Code compliant **PYRO-GUARD** is third party approved for flame spread, strength, corrosion and hygroscopic properties. To obtain the **PYRO-GUARD** ESR or learn more, visit www.frtw.com or call 1-800-832-9663.

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