

**November 17, 2021**

**Report #2**

**From: CFBA In-Ground Pressure-Treated Barn Post Committee**

The recently formed CFBA committee, wishes to update its members on what has been learned and shared to date.

Wood Preservation Canada previously provided a new descriptive brochure as a specifier's guide for Barn Posts. As of Tuesday (November 16<sup>th</sup>), we have been provided with a revised brochure which offers more background detail and information to the post specifier, though not materially different. The newly titled ***Pressure Treated Structural Barn Posts - A Specifiers Guide*** may be viewed on the [Wood Preservation Canada website](#) and the [CFBA website](#).

What has always been clear is that farm posts are a structural component of a post frame building and as such fall under the CSA 080 standard which is referenced in the current versions of federal and provincial building codes. Under CSA 080 the barn posts or poles must be classed commercial or industrial as opposed to residential, and fall under use category UC 4.1 & UC 4.2.

These two descriptions (UC 4.1 & UC 4.2) are somewhat ambiguous in the newly developed *Pressure Treated Structural Barn Posts - A Specifiers Guide*. According to the description, posts can be delivered as UC 4.1, but only if used in areas of low decay, which requires subjective conjecture on the part of the specifier. A building that fails well before its life expectancy has been reached, may be the result of making the wrong choice. This is the very issue to be resolved. The latest information received by the CFBA indicates specifications should be determined on a case-by-case basis, but if someone gets it wrong, there is potential for future failure, and possible stakeholder insurance companies who won't share in the liability of a premature failure. For this reason, the CFBA will work with WPC, to contact PT-Wood treaters and the Technical Chair of CSA Committee to reach full

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shared consensus regarding what product can legally qualify as a structural in-ground wood post. The suitability of purpose of PT barn posts (under UC 4.1 or UC 4.2), as well as what products the wood treatment facilities can deliver to the farm building industry that meet the CSA regulatory requirements (required by applicable building codes) should be established.

As noted by Will Teron, the lumber yard treated material that includes a product labelled as UC 4.1d has been confirmed as a residential product and unsuited for use as an in-ground agricultural post for agricultural buildings.

There is optimism that a product resource can be identified that will satisfy all essential requirements, and allow post frame structures to meet code and give builders and their customers the life expectancy needed. Once this has been determined, the farm building industry can continue to offer post frame buildings with assurances to and from all stakeholders.

## **In-Ground Pressure-Treated Barn Post Committee Canadian Farm Builders Association**

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