

Division Opinion

Inquiry: 2008-06

Subject: Fasteners and Hardware in Contact with Treated Wood

Code: 2006 International Residential Code
2006 International Building Code
2007 Minnesota State Building Code chapter 1309

Submitted By: 10,000 Lakes Chapter of the International Code Council
Uniformity of Inspections Committee

Approved By: Thomas Anderson, State Building Official

Issue Date: Aug. 1, 2008

Question: How can an inspector verify fasteners are acceptable for contact with chemically treated woods?

Answer: The 2006 International Building Code (IBC) Section 2304.9.5 and 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) R319.3 identify that fasteners for pressure-preservative and fire-retardant-treated wood shall be of hot-dipped zinc-coated galvanized steel, stainless steel, silicon bronze or copper (see exceptions). The IBC and IRC referenced sections also note that the coating weights for zinc-coated fasteners shall be in accordance with ASTM A 153.

Review the product label located at the end of the treated material in question. Most product labels will identify the treating process used (i.e. ACQ, Borate, Copper Quaternary...). Many manufacturer product labels will also indicate the products end use (i.e. above ground, ground contact, decking or permanent wood foundation...). Once the material treating process is known an individual can verify the requirements for fasteners other items (i.e. hardware, trim, flashing other metal products) attached to the treated material for code compliance or the manufacturers recommendations.

For your convenience the Pressure Treated Wood – Chemicals and Fasteners Contact List has been provided to assist your research.