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PRESS RELEASE

TREATED VINEYARD POLES UNDER DRIP AND FLOOD IRRIGATION NOW GUARANTEED FOR 25 YEARS

Arch Wood Protection, a leading timber preservative manufacturer, has announced a breakthrough development with the revision of its 25 year guarantee to include vineyard poles treated to H5 hazard level.

'Tanalised Weatherwood' to give it its official name, is a combination of well known timber preservative Tanalith (CCA) and the Weatherwood water repellent additive, a water based wax emulsion.

The Tanalised Lifetime Guarantee, as it is officially known, covers damage caused by wood borer, termites and wood decay, brown rot, soft rot, white rot and any other decay that renders the timber structurally unserviceable.

The proviso to the guarantee is that the product must come from a treater supplied with Arch preservative identified by the 'TAN' symbol, that the timber has to be treated according to SAN's 10005 ("The preservative treatment of timber" standard) and that it covers the replacement of affected poles in designated hazard classes.

In practice Tanalised Weatherwood has proved to be widely effective across various hazard classes including H2 (interior above ground), H3 (exterior above ground), H4 (in ground) and H5 (fresh water contact).

However, critically, poles constantly or periodically in contact with fresh water and heavy wet soils in terms of (H5 hazard), were excluded from the guarantee, inclusive of agricultural poles and poles under flood and drip irrigation, among others.

"Agricultural poles under drip irrigation and flood irrigation will now be covered by the guarantee if they are treated with Tanalith C and Weatherwood to H5 retentions, due to the regular contact with water, and the use of liquid fertilizer and other nutrients, which add to the acidity of the soil, the higher timber preservative loadings are needed.

"It's notable that in Australia, all vineyard poles are treated according to the same chemical loadings as our H5. We have been pre-emptive by revising our guarantee to

include H5 hazards as well,” explains Gerard Busse, Marketing Manager, Arch Wood Chemicals South Africa.

“As in the case of the previous guarantee the revised guarantee is valid from date of purchase and is transferable from one owner to the next within the guarantee period.

“Vineyard timber poles treated with the trade mark protected ‘Tanalised Weatherwood’ preservative and utilised widely in the western Cape viticulture sector, have proved to have exceptionally long life.

Now those benefits are also available to vineyard poles exposed to H5 hazard.

“Key in this scenario is that the bulk of vineyard poles are placed under drip irrigation, so clearly the relevance of the guarantee for vineyards was under the spotlight. We believe the issue has now been correctly resolved.

“The background to Weatherwood is worth reiterating. Basically, it was introduced as a product innovation in the early 1990’s in response to the issue of cracking in vineyard poles.

“After various trials, the product was first introduced in the Ceres area. Its application since then has broadened considerably and experience by the users of Weatherwood treated poles has completely vindicated the 25 year guarantee.

“Users of Weatherwood in the Western Cape are many and varied including the likes of the Distell Group which includes farms such as Nederburg, Papkuilsfontein (Tukulu), JC le Roux and Plaisir de Merle.etc

“Indeed as we have said before, the product has won many friends and customers and has made significant inroads into vineyard pole and fruit farmers’ trellising markets in the Western Cape. Tanalised Weatherwood vineyard have become the product of choice compared to other treated poles” says Busse.

“All aspects considered therefore, we believe the revised guarantee is vitally important to the wine industry.”

WEATHERWOOD – A BRIEF TECHNICAL PROFILE

Tanalised Weatherwood’s application method is the same as for other timber preservatives, i.e. in a vacuum pressure timber impregnation treatment plant. Its preservative effects of the combination of Tanalith (CCA) and Weatherwood additive are clearly dramatic. Weatherwood derives its name from its water repellent effects, reducing weathering and splitting, essentially by stabilising the moisture content of timber poles and of course other timber products for that matter, so reducing the stresses of expansion and contraction which can expose the pole sapwood to insect attack, wood decay and weathering.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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