

According to Australian Standard AS/NZS1604 parts 1 to 5, any product claiming to be preservative treated must be branded as specified in the standard. An important part of the brand is the Hazard Class, which indicates the service conditions to which the product is exposed and the level of treatment or level of protection that must be applied to the wood.

The Hazard Classes have been defined as follows (Note: Hazard Classes marked with '**' apply in New Zealand only)

Hazard Class	Exposure	Service condition	Hazard	Example uses
H1	Inside, above ground	Completely protected from the weather, well ventilated and protected from termites	Borers	Susceptible framing, flooring, furniture, interior joinery
H1.1**				
H1.2**		Completely protected from the weather, well ventilated – risk of decay	Borers, decay	
H2	Inside, above ground	Protected from wetting, no leaching.	Borers and termites	Framing, flooring, furniture, interior joinery used across Australia
H2F				(Envelope treated) framing used south of the Tropic of Capricorn
H2S				Framing used South of the Tropic of Capricorn
H3	Outside above ground	Periodic moderate wetting and leaching	Moderate decay, borers and termites	Weatherboards, fascias, pergolas, framing etc.
H3.1**			Moderate decay, borers	
H3.2**		Periodic moderate wetting but with risk of moisture entrapment – critical end use	Decay fungi and borers	Weatherboards, fascias, pergolas, framing – structural and decking.
H3A		Periodic moderate wetting and leaching	Moderate decay, borers and termites	Weatherboards, fascias, pergolas, framing etc. –under a regularly maintained paint coat system
H4	Outside in-ground	Severe wetting and leaching non-critical applications	Severe decay, borers and termites	Fence posts, retaining wall less than 1 m high, landscaping timbers.

H5	Outside in-ground with or in fresh water	Extreme wetting and leaching, critical application	Very severe decay, borers and termites	Piling, house stumps, power poles cooling tower fill, building poles, retaining walls more than 1m high
H6	Marine waters	Prolonged immersion in sea water	Decay and marine wood borers	Boat hulls, marine piles, jetty cross bracing, jetty landing steps.

Generally, the higher the Hazard Class, the greater the penetration and retention of preservative specified in the Standard. (Note New Zealand Standard NZS 3640 also specifies H1.2, H3.1 and H3.2 Hazard Classes)

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