

**Table 12 AWP Standards for Softwood Lumber & Plywood**

USE CATEGORY STANDARDS					COMMODITY STANDARDS																								
SELECTION GUIDE																													
Use Category	Service Conditions	Use Environment	Common Agents of Deterioration	Typical Applications																									
UC1	Interior construction Above Ground Dry	Continuously protected from weather or other sources of moisture	Insects only	Interior construction and furnishings	C1 – All Timber Products – Preservative Treatment by Pressure Processes																								
UC2	Interior construction Above Ground Damp	Protected from weather, but may be subject to sources of moisture	Decay fungi and insects	Interior construction	C2 – Lumber, Timber, Bridge Ties and Mine Ties																								
UC3A	Exterior construction Above Ground Coated & rapid water runoff	Exposed to all weather cycles, not exposed to prolonged wetting	Decay fungi and insects	Coated millwork, siding and trim	C3 – Piles																								
UC3B	Exterior construction Above Ground Uncoated or poor water runoff	Exposed to all weather cycles including prolonged wetting	Decay fungi and insects	Decking, deck joists, railings, fence pickets, sill plates, uncoated millwork	C4 – Poles																								
UC4A	Ground contact or fresh water Non-critical components	Exposed to all weather cycles, normal exposure conditions	Decay fungi and insects	Fence, deck, and guardrail posts, crossties & utility poles (low decay areas)	C5 – Fence Posts																								
UC4B	Ground contact or fresh water Critical components or difficult replacement	Exposed to all weather cycles, high decay potential including salt water splash	Decay fungi and insects with increased potential for biodeterioration	Permanent wood foundations, building poles, horticultural posts, crossties & utility poles (high decay areas)	C6 – Crossties and Switch Ties																								
UC4C	Ground contact or fresh water Critical structural components	Exposed to all weather cycles, severe environments, extreme decay potential	Decay fungi and insects with extreme potential for biodeterioration	Land & fresh water piling, foundation piling, crossties & utility poles (severe decay areas)	C9 – Plywood																								
UC5A	Salt or brackish water and adjacent mud zone Northern waters	Continuous marine exposure (salt water)	Salt water organisms	Piling, bulkheads, bracing	C11 – Wood Blocks for Floors and Platforms																								
UC5B	Salt or brackish water and adjacent mud zone New Jersey to Georgia, South of San Francisco	Continuous marine exposure (salt water)	Salt water organisms including Limnoria tripunctata	Piling, bulkheads, bracing	C14 – Wood for Highway Construction																								
UC5C	Salt or brackish water and adjacent mud zone South of Georgia and Gulf Coast	Continuous marine exposure (salt water)	Salt water organisms including Martesia, Sphaeroma	Piling, bulkheads, bracing	C15 – Wood for Commercial – Residential Construction																								
UCFA	Fire protection as required by codes Above Ground Interior construction	Continuously protected from weather or other sources of moisture	Fire	Roof sheathing, roof trusses, studs, joists, paneling	C16 – Wood Used on Farms																								
UCFB	Fire protection as required by codes Above Ground Exterior construction	Subject to wetting	Fire	Vertical exterior walls, inclined roof surfaces or other construction which allows water to quickly drain	C17 – Playground Equipment																								
<p><b>SPECIAL NOTE:</b> The American Wood-Preservers' Association (AWPA) developed the Use Category System (UCS) to provide a simple way to use AWP Standards. The UCS defines a series of different exposures for treated wood products. Each exposure has a different degree of biodegradation hazard and/or product service life expectation. All treated wood commodities can be placed into one of the Use Categories (see table above). There are five Use Categories based on exposures and expected product performance, ranging from weather protected to salt water marine. A separate Use Category is provided for fire retardant applications. The Use Category number relates to the hazard associated with certain use environments, while the letter following the number (if present) relates to the risk. In general, as the Use Category number increases, there is a consequent increase in the required preservative retention. The depth of penetration requirements may also increase.</p> <p>The UCS was developed as a format change for the AWP Commodity (or "C") Standards and is not intended to make substantive technical changes to those Standards. Inconsistencies in the UCS and the C Standards may exist due to the enormity of the task to construct the UCS. Therefore, in the event of conflicts between the UCS and the C Standards during the interim phase-in period, the C Standards will govern until such time as the C Standards may be deleted from a future edition of the AWP Book of Standards. For user convenience, treated wood specification guidelines in this publication include both the appropriate Use Category Standard and a cross reference to its corresponding Commodity Standard.</p> <p>To specify a treated wood commodity using the UCS, use the AWP Book of Standards. The user should first find the appropriate Use Category for the expected service conditions in Section 2 "Service Conditions for Use Category Designations", and a definite application in Section 3 "Guide to Treated Wood End Uses". The user may then refer to the appropriate product or application in Section 7 "Commodity Specification." The Table of Contents for Commodity Specifications using AWP's Use Category System is shown to the right.</p>					<p>C18 – Marine Construction</p> <p>C20 – Structural Lumber: Fire Retardant Treatment by Pressure Processes</p> <p>C22 – Permanent Wood Foundations</p> <p>C23 – Round Poles and Posts used in Building Construction</p> <p>C24 – Sawn Timber used to Support Residential &amp; Commercial Structures</p> <p>C25 – Sawn Crossarms</p> <p>C27 – Plywood Fire Retardant Treatment by Pressure Processes</p> <p>C28 – Glued-Laminated Members</p> <p>C29 – Lumber and Plywood to be used for the Harvesting, Storage and Transportation of Food Stuffs</p> <p>C30 – Lumber, Timbers and Plywood for Cooling Towers</p> <p>C31 – Lumber used Out of Contact with the Ground and Continuously Protected from Liquid Water</p> <p>C32 – Glue Laminated Poles</p> <p>C33 – Structural Composite Lumber</p> <p>C34 – Shakes &amp; Shingles</p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> The Standards are not in consecutive order, as some have been deleted over time. Only those pertaining to Southern Pine have been included here.</p>																								
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