



## Farm Fencing



Timber has long been the preferred material for a wide range of end uses around the farm, but particularly as an adaptable, durable and economical choice for fencing. The aim of this document is to inform the specifier/end user about the benefits of using preservative pressure treated timber for farm fencing and to highlight the current Irish Standards that are relevant. It is the responsibility of the specifier/supplier/end user to familiarise themselves with the I.S. Standards referred to in this guidance note.

### Benefits of Treated Timber for Farm Fencing

- Aesthetically pleasing – pressure treated timber is less visually intrusive than other materials and blends naturally into agricultural environments.
- Durability – pressure treated timber in accordance with I.S.436:2007 has an anticipated service life of 15 years.
- Safety – timber, despite its low weight, has excellent tensile strength.
- Easy to erect and maintain – timber is extremely versatile from an end-user perspective.
- Environmentally sound – manufactured from a renewable resource, carbon neutral Irish home grown timber, is sourced from well managed forests.
- Timber treated with the latest generation of wood preservatives is classified, under current Irish legislation, as non-hazardous for disposal at the end of its service life.

### Irish Standards

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) develops and publishes Standards to meet international demands for quality, design, performance, safety and environmental impact of products and services. Standards Consultative committees have been established between NSAI and the main business sectors to facilitate the participation of the timber industry, the consumer and other stakeholders in the work of standardisation and extend public awareness of the scope and significance of Standards.

### Farm Fencing

Farm fencing destined for use in ground contact as stock fencing, where a 15 year anticipated service life is required, should comply with the requirements of I.S.436:2007.

I.S.436:2007 covers the following technical attributes of farm fencing:

- Permitted timber species
- Post sizes and diameters
- Timber preservatives - the new generation preservatives which have now replaced traditional chromated copper arsenate (CCA) products
- Pre-treatment drying requirements for the posts and strainers
- Labelling and traceability of the end product

### Quality Control on-site

Good quality workmanship and a satisfactory quality control scheme are essential to ensure that the timber posts and rails meet the requirements of this standard.

An on-site quality control scheme is operated by NSAI. For further information visit [www.nσαι.ie](http://www.nσαι.ie)

### Treatment Specification

The posts should be treated in accordance with Hazard/Use Class 4 to ensure they will provide long life in wet conditions.

The preservative loadings used should be supported with 10 years' independent field data which benchmark the performance of new generation preservatives against traditional CCA.

If there is any doubt about the level of treatment a component has had, ask your timber treater for a treatment certificate.



Disclaimer: Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this document, the Wood Marketing Federation gives no undertaking to that effect and no responsibility can be accepted for reliance on this information.

The Wood Marketing Federation updates its literature as and when necessary. Please ensure you have an up to date copy.

**Table 1 : Timber Treatment recommendations for a 15 year desired service life in accordance with I.S.436:2007**

Hazard/Use Class	Permeability class of wood species			
	Permeable		Resistant	
	Penetration	Retention	Penetration	Retention
4	P8	CV1	P4	CV1



### Reference Material

I.S.436:2007. Farm Fencing Post and Wire

B.S.8417:2003 Preservation of timber – Recommendations

E.N.599:1997 Durability of wood and wood based products – Performance of preservatives as determined by biological tests.

E.N.351:1996 Durability of wood and wood based products – Classification of preservative penetration and retention.

### Contact Details

Coford - [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)  
 Woodspec - [www.woodspect.ie](http://www.woodspect.ie)  
 NSAI - [www.nσαι.ie](http://www.nσαι.ie)  
 Wood Marketing Federation - [www.wood.ie](http://www.wood.ie)

### Acknowledgments

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