



MICRONIZED COPPER AZOLE (MCA) TREATED PLYWOOD

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New Zealand Wood Products Ltd (IBuilt) offers waterborne MCA H3.2, a Micronized Copper Azole manufactured by Koppers under the trade name MicroPro®.

The advantages of MCA are:

- Lighter brown colour
- Chemical treatment free of arsenic and chrome
- The less corrosive treatment allows direct contact with Aluminium

Background

MCA is widely used worldwide and accounts for 80% of the market in the USA. MCA uses the same pressure treatment process and achieves the same protection as CCA H3.2.

MCA is included in New Zealand standards:

- NZS 3640: Chemical preservation of round and sawn timber.
- AS/NZS 1604: Specification for preservative treatment Part 3: Plywood.

Micronized Copper Azole (MCA) H3.2

Micronized Copper Azole (MCA) is a preservative used in the pressure treatment of timber products. The copper in the MCA is ground into microscopic particles hence the name micronized. It is an effective protection against fungal decay, termite and borer attack.

Fasteners

MCA-treated timber has similar corrosion rates to CCA (chromated copper arsenate) treated timber and untreated timber. Use galvanised fasteners or type 304 and 316 stainless steel in severe corrosion risk areas. If in doubt customers should refer to NZS 3604 tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 for specific details.

Adhesives

The same adhesives used for CCA treatments can be used with waterborne MCA-treated plywood.

Aluminium

Direct contact between MCA and aluminium is permitted as long as moisture can escape and doesn't collect on the plywood or wood.

Colour

MCA's lighter colour has the benefit of potentially reducing colour variations caused by fillet marks. There is a risk that customers and BCA inspectors may question if the plywood has been treated due to the lighter colour. Ensure the product is stamped appropriately on back of the sheet.

Treatment Identification

The latest revision of NZS 3640 mandates that plywood treated to an envelope penetration pattern must include an 'E' in the brand and a warning statement. To ensure compliance the following information is stamped on the back of each plywood panel.

