

Impact of restrictions on the use of CCA-treated wood in Sweden

Jöran Jermer

SP Swedish National Testing and Research Institute
Wood Materials and Structures
Box 857, SE-501 15 Borås, Sweden

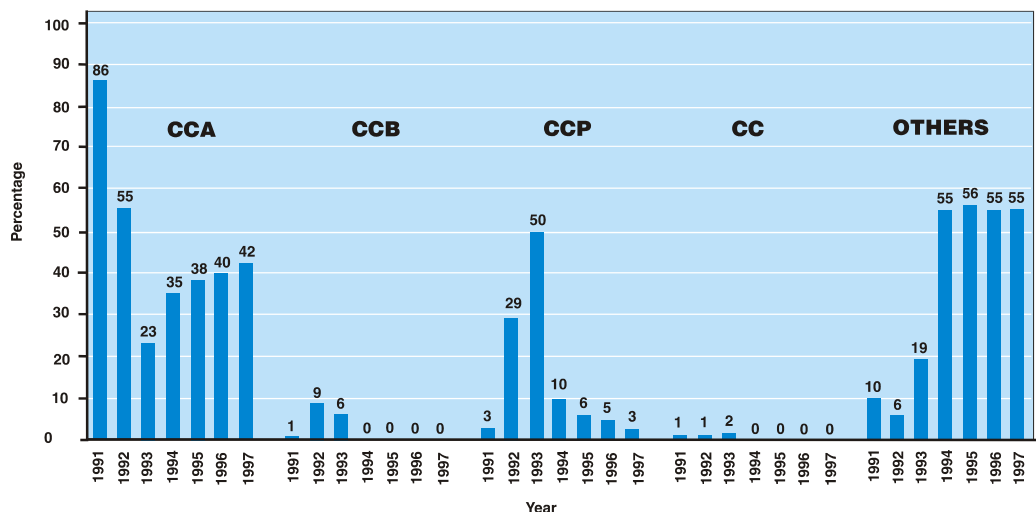
In Sweden severe restrictions against arsenic and chromium containing preservatives were introduced already during the period 1992-1993.

With the aim of reducing the use and distribution of potentially environmentally dangerous substances, the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate (KemI) in 1992 introduced restrictions for the use of wood treated with arsenic and chromium containing wood preservatives. In the KemI Code of Statutes KIFS 1990:10 it was stated that such treated wood was restricted for use accordingly:

- When the wood is buried in, or otherwise in permanent contact with damp soil or water;
- When the wood is used for the construction of jetties or other marine applications;
- When the wood is permanently installed as safety devices to protect against accidents;
- When the wood is used for the interior of constructions where it is difficult to replace and where there is a risk of accidental wetting, e.g. ground plates on plinths and concrete slabs, ground-floor joists, etc
- All other use of such treated wood is prohibited.

During a transition period 1992-1993 wood treated with chromium-based preservatives was allowed also for other end-uses than the ones mentioned above.

The KemI restrictions had a dramatic impact on the use of CCA-treated sawn timber on the domestic market for preservative-treated wood. It decreased from approximately 85 % in 1991 to below 40 % in 1994, whereas the arsenic and chromium free preservatives increased their market share from about 10 % to nearly 60 % during the same period. Since 1994 the percentage of CCA-treated sawn timber on the domestic market has been fairly constant around or just below 40 %. During the transition period 1992-1993 the use of CCP-preservatives, i.e. those containing copper, chromium and phosphorous compounds, had a remarkable peak. It is assumed that the coming restrictions against CCA in the European Union will further reduce the use of CCA-treated wood in Sweden.



Percentage production of preservative-treated sawn timber with different water-borne preservative types in Sweden 1991-1997 for the domestic market.