



INTUMESCENT PAINTS

This Fast Fact summarises the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) position in relation to the application of intumescent paint systems on construction located within bush fire prone areas and supersedes our previous Fact Sheet 1/15 version 4.5 February 2015.

The application of intumescent paints as an applied finish should not be confused with fire retardant treated timbers. NSW RFS policy requires that fire retardant treated timbers need to be pressure impregnated with a retardant to qualify and does not need periodic maintenance to retain their fire resistant qualities. Timbers having an application of intumescent paint are not considered to be fire retardant treated timber. The applied membrane has the retardant qualities, not the surface it has been applied to.

Recently the NSW RFS has been made aware of new and refined products that may provide a useful means to reduce the impact of bush fire to buildings located within bush fire prone areas.

Any proposed use of intumescent paint must be supported by a NATA certified laboratory test and

perform as required by AS3959-2009, 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas'.

Any proposed systems shall also comply with the weathering performance as required by ASTM D 2898 Method B 'Accelerated Weathering Testing'.

The nominated product shall be used as follows:

- › The owner must pass along the product specifications and user manual to any future purchasers of the property in question;
- › Maintenance and reapplication requirements must be in accordance with the product manufacturer's specification; and
- › Not be applied to trafficable surface areas such as timber decks and timber stair treads

Note that any applications for BAL-FZ must be referred to the NSW RFS to be assessed on their own merits.

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For further information regarding this document, please contact a NSW RFS Planning and Environment Services Centre on 1300 NSW RFS (1300 679 737) or email pesc@rfs.nsw.gov.au.