





### Does the timber industry accept the reports finding that CCA is unsafe in some applications?

No. The industry argues that the APVMA's own analysis shows that there is not an unacceptable health risk:

*"...based on a consideration of the exposure to CCA treatment timber products, in particular children's play equipment, there was no compelling evidence from the available data to conclude that there was likely to be an unacceptable risk to public health from exposure to arsenic from CCA-treated timber."*

The report states that children will have a daily arsenic intake from background factors (mainly drinking water) of 0.50 µg per kilogram of bodyweight. It calculates that the additional arsenic intake from contact with the CCA-timber in playgrounds is about 0.12 µg per kilogram of bodyweight per day. The total arsenic intake of 0.62 µg – with CCA products contributing about 20% - is much less than the tolerable daily intake of 3.0 µg set by Food Standards Australia New Zealand in 1999.

CCA has been used for over 70 years all round the world. It is long lasting, cost effective and it works well in preserving timber. It is also safe. There has never been a single instance of man, woman or child, becoming ill from exposure to CCA-treated timber.

### What happened in North America when CCA became restricted for specified applications?

There was a seamless transition to other chemical treatments.

The market in the United States and Canada has two features that are very different to that in Australia: decking accounts for some 70% of the volume and a majority of sales is done through a few "big-box" chains; Home Depot and Lowe's. The treaters geared up to switch to other chemicals (which now comprise about 80% of the market with CCA at 20%) and the big-box stores agreed not to draw attention to the transition from CCA to other chemicals. Product sales held steady in volume and decking prices rose 10-15%.

ACQ is now the dominant timber preservative in these markets.

Whilst CCA treated timber will continue to be used for a majority of applications, treatment alternatives are available through Willmott Forests.

Should you receive enquiries regarding alternative treatments or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our Customer Service Hotline for pricing and information

Toll free: 1800 805 840



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