



Picture courtesy of Multimail



STRUCTURAL TIMBER PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY IN QUEENSLAND

The Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2017 (NCBP Act) places significant onus and responsibilities on every party involved in the supply chain of building products including, importers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, designers and specifiers, to builders and licensees. This includes providing information on the building products use and application to ensure that it remains conforming under the NCBP Act (that is, it is safe, compliant, and not misrepresented for the products intended use). Significant penalties and other costs may be associated where the legislation is contravened and as a series of positive duties, you have had these responsibilities since the laws were introduced in 2017.

However, the NCBP Act is as much about ensuring you are able to demonstrate to the regulator that you are 'doing the right thing'.

“
Can you prove that you have done the right thing?
”

DOCUMENTATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THOSE IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN, DOWN TO CONSUMERS

The following extract from the NCBP Act describes the information required to be passed down, at each step, through the supply chain (chain of responsibility (COR)) to the homeowner, in respect of a building products use, application and maintenance.

“required information, for a building product, means information about the product that -

(a) for each intended use of the product, states or otherwise communicates the following -

- (i) the suitability of the product for the intended use and, if the product is suitable for the intended use only in particular circumstances or subject to particular conditions, the particular circumstances or conditions;
- (ii) instructions about how the product must be associated with a building to ensure it is not a non-conforming building product for the intended use;
- (iii) instructions about how the product must be used to ensure it is not a non-conforming building product for the intended use; and

(b) complies with the requirements for the information, if any, prescribed by regulation for this definition.”

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

By implication, the legislation and requirements above require product to be traceable back up through the supply chain to the original importer/manufacture and others that the product may have passed through including where the original product may have been changed or altered to ensure it is compliant and fit for purpose. For example, timber products may be preservative treated post initial manufacture to achieve H2/H2F, H3 or higher levels for termite management or to make suitable for external weather exposed applications. Stress graded structural timber is often docked to shorter lengths and grade marks may not appear on each re-worked piece.

BUILDER AND CERTIFIER RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure compliance with the legislation, builders and certifiers need to confirm building products comply with relevant legislation and relevant Australian Standards, CodeMark certification or via a Performance Solution which will require involvement of appropriate professionals.

For structural timber products such as solid framing, LVL, glue-laminated timber, plywood, and preservative treated timber, Australian Standards require products to be identified if they are claiming compliance with the standard. If they are not identified, certifiers and builders should reject them as being non-conforming.

The failure to notify QBCC, under the legislation, of a non-conforming building product (NCBP) is also a specific offence.

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Are you keeping and supplying necessary records and instructions?
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Take photos
Keep docketts
Maintain files.
”

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If a structural timber product cannot be appropriately identified, do not purchase or return the product to your supplier.
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IDENTIFICATION OF TIMBER PRODUCTS

The following are the typical requirements given by Australian Standards for identification. Other information may also be required. CodeMark products have other specific requirements.

STRUCTURAL TIMBER PRODUCTS

If the timber is branded, labelled, stamped or marked to indicate that it complies with a Standard, the information shall be legible and shall include the following:

- (a) The number of the Australian Standard being claimed ie
 - AS 2082 (hardwood)
 - AS 2858 (visually graded softwood)
 - AS 1748 (MGP/machine graded pine)
 - AS 1328 (glue laminated timber)
 - AS 2269 (structural plywood including bracing)
 - AS 4357 Structural Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL).
- (b) Identification of the source of grading (stress graded timber) or product or property determination
- (c) For stress graded timber if graded as seasoned, the word 'SEASONED' or the abbreviation 'S'
- (d) For LVL, stress grades are not applicable but must carry a 'registered product name/ trade mark' or manufacturers name. Manufacturers of LVL have published data as to its properties, uses, span tables etc.
- (e) If preservative treated, additional branding in accordance with AS 1604.1.

Typical identification brands/markings



Machine stress graded softwood



Visually stress graded hardwood

PRESERVATIVE TREATED TIMBER

Timber treated in accordance with AS 1604 is required to have the following identification:

For all hazard classes, **each** separate piece of structural treated timber shall be legibly marked with the following:

- (a) A unique identifier for the treatment plant (i.e. a plant number, a company name or a company logo).
- (b) A unique identifier for the preservative (i.e. product name or a preservative identification number).
- (c) Envelope treated timber products - Where timber products are envelope treated in accordance with AS1604 they shall carry a warning label.

Typical identification brands/markings



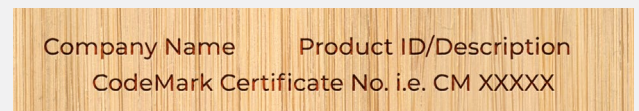
Preservative treated timber (64 is the preservative and H3 is the Hazard Level). **Identification may be ink brand or end tag.**



Label where required on envelope treated timber such as LVL, Plywood, Glulam and Reconstituted Wood products. This does not apply to H2F envelope treated framing.

CODEMARK TIMBER PRODUCTS

Typical identification brands/markings



CodeMark (typical example of what may appear on CodeMark certified products). The CodeMark logo may also be displayed on packaging or products.



Ensure all structural timber products have necessary "claim of compliance" - and keep a record (photos/dockets/end tags).



RECORD KEEPING

To avoid possible action by the QBCC, it is imperative that all in the supply chain, including builders, pass on required information to the 'next in the chain', and maintain and file accurate and detailed product identification and traceability information so the use of the product remains conforming for each job. Due diligence needs to be able to be demonstrated by all in the supply chain so that at any point in time there is evidence that the product is conforming.

Records may include one or a number of the following:

- Invoices and delivery dockets that detail the product grade, preservative treatment
- Form 15's where applicable i.e. wall frames and trusses
- Photographic evidence of timber grade and treatment brands, end tags on treated timber etc. Timber may be painted or concealed and end tags on treated timber are usually cut off and disposed or become concealed.

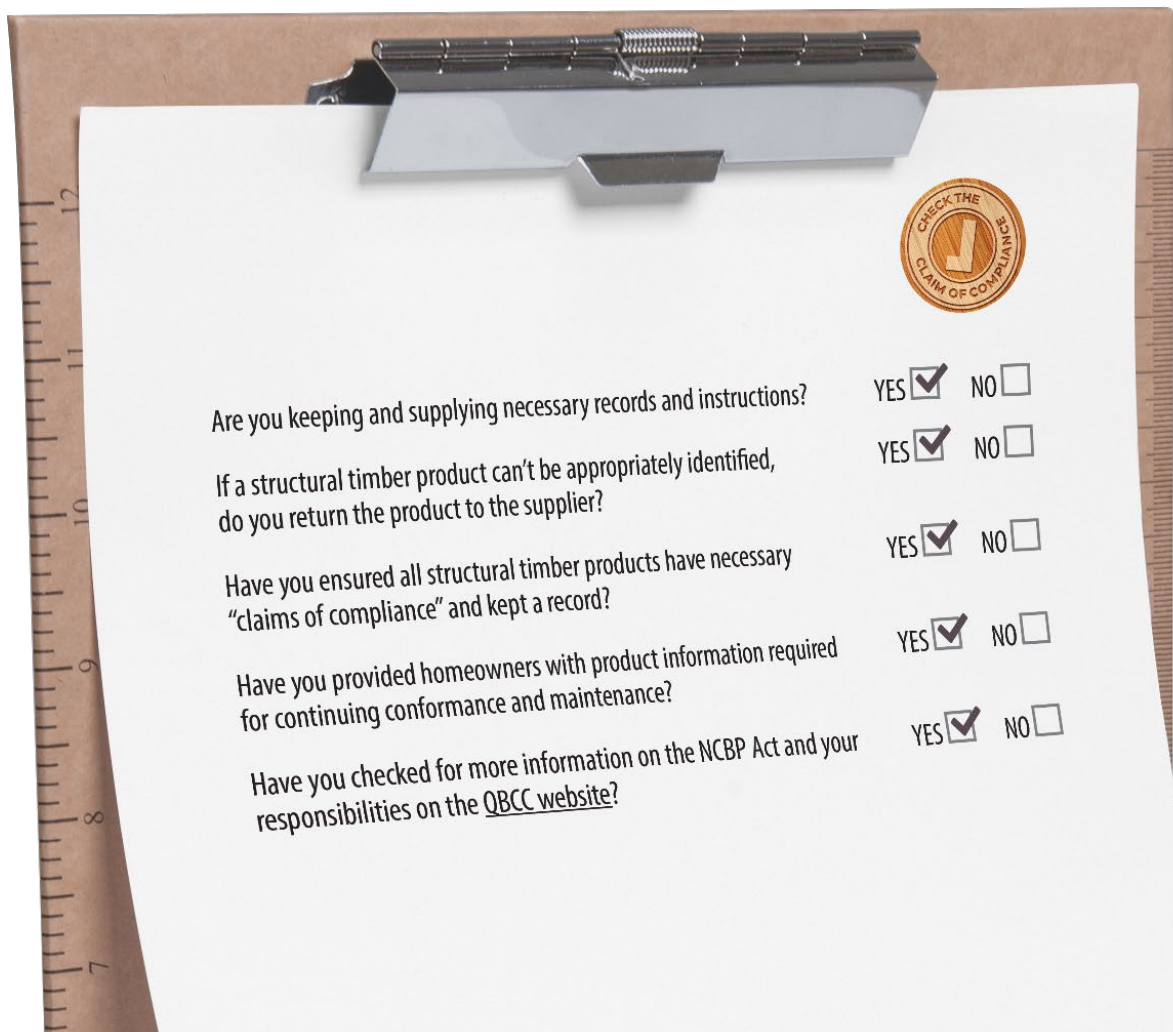
It is also a requirement that builders provide to homeowners any information from manufacturers or others in the supply chain on building products that is required to ensure the continued conformance and fitness for purpose of these which may include ongoing maintenance requirements. This may include:

- Hardcopy instructions
- Referral to manufacturer supplier websites that contain the relevant information.
- In addition, Timber Queensland have a number of published Technical Data Sheets (TDS) that provide guidance and recommendations on installation, use and maintenance including:-
 - TDS 2 – Finishes for Exterior Timber
 - TDS 15 – Specifying Timber
 - TDS 24 – Recommendations for the Use of H3 LOSP Treated Timber
 - TDS 25 – Outdoor Timber Performance

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Protect yourself: provide product information.



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A clipboard with a silver clip at the top, holding a white sheet of paper. The paper has a circular seal in the top right corner that says "CHECK THE CLAIM OF COMPLIANCE" around a central logo. Below the seal is a checklist with five questions, each with "YES" and "NO" options and checkboxes. The "YES" checkboxes are all checked. The paper is placed on a wooden surface with a ruler visible on the left side.

Are you keeping and supplying necessary records and instructions? YES NO

If a structural timber product can't be appropriately identified, do you return the product to the supplier? YES NO

Have you ensured all structural timber products have necessary "claims of compliance" and kept a record? YES NO

Have you provided homeowners with product information required for continuing conformance and maintenance? YES NO

Have you checked for more information on the NCBP Act and your responsibilities on the [QBCC website](#)? YES NO