

IMPORTANT NOTE

PRUDENTIAL COATINGS –TIMBER FR SYSTEM

The design and construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas provides many challenges. Building materials, such as timber, may ignite from direct flame contact, radiant heat, or the effects of burning and flying embers.

The Building Code of Australia recognizes this and by way of direct reference to Australian Building Standard, AS 3959, provides prescriptive guidance on what construction methods and materials can be used for the different categories or levels of bushfire attack. Most exposed 'at risk' surfaces require the use of "Fire Retardant Timber" which, as defined in AS 3959, are timbers with an applied paint or coating system that has passed the rigorous testing demands of this standard.

Compliance to AS 3959 code:

The Timber FR System complies with the AS 3959 Bushfire code up to the 29 KW risk level BAL - 29. There are no paint products that meet the requirements of BAL (Bushfire Attack Level), BAL - 40 or BAL - FZ.

The BCA (Building Code of Australia) can be complex in relation to the fire standards approval processes under AS 3959 and State based requirements can add to the complexity. If you are being asked to comply with a fire related standard as part of your building/renovation activities, we strongly recommend that prior to purchase and application of the product, you consult with whichever authority needs to be satisfied, to check which particular standard they require compliance with.

Product summary

The Timber FR system comprises 4 x stages of activity, each requiring application of different complementary products to achieve a given thickness of coating. The products involved are a primer; an intumescent fire retardant coat; a sealer and a top coat. Of these, the application of the intumescent coat is most critical, as that product is very hygroscopic (attracts and absorbs moisture) and that has the effect of neutralising its properties. The application of the system therefore has to be carefully planned and executed.

Application of the System:

The Timber FR System is designed for raw unsealed timber surfaces only and whilst application to any other surface/substrate is not covered under product warranty, it is possible to apply the system on top of previously painted surfaces, given appropriate preparation. As the origin of Australian timbers and knowledge of their pre-sales treatment cannot be certain, it is strongly recommended that product is always applied to a 'test patch' in the first instance, to verify expected adherence and water resistance prior to total job application. If application is proposed on surfaces other than raw soft wood timbers always check with Prudential Coatings directly prior to purchase.

The Timber FR system should be applied by a competent Painter, who has familiarised him/her self with the manufacturer's application instructions and is willing/able to complete a Certificate of Coating Application to satisfy relevant authorities. These certificates need to be kept by the premises owner, along with other ownership related documentation. Ceasefire Technologies can provide Certificate of Coating Application templates and referrals to 'Authorised Applicators' if required.

Successful application of the system requires:

- Dry timber surfaces
- Humidity of less than 80%
- Absence of rain or expectations of it
- An ambient temperature of more than 10°C – ideally 25°C
- An application plan which allows each intumescent coat to be applied to absolutely dry preceding coats (primer or intumescent)
- Arrangements to protect surfaces from rain, moisture and 'pooling water' until all coats up to and including the sealer coat have been applied and dried thoroughly

SPECIAL ADVICE: STORAGE LIFE – FIRE RETARDANT (Part 2)

Due to the complex nature and formulation of the Timber Fire Retardant (Part 2) this product will naturally thicken in the can over time. It is advisable to purchase this product within weeks of the application work, as the thickened product does not qualify for product warranty or claims. Date of dispatch from factory is clearly stated on the can.

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