



The last date for placing on the market and selling timber treated with creosote except for timber used as railway sleepers or utility poles for electricity or telecommunications was the **30th April 2023.**

31st August 2023

The Pesticide Control Divisions (PCD) within the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is the competent authority for biocides in Ireland. This includes what are referred to as “treated articles”. These are mixtures, substances or articles, such as timber, that have been treated with biocidal products. These products protect the items from harmful organisms like pests, mould and bacteria. It’s important to note that items can only be treated with biocidal products that contain active substances approved for that specific purpose in the EU.

Until recently, timber fencing posts intended for agricultural use could be treated with creosote. However, the approval and applications of creosote as a wood preservative were reviewed under the EU Biocidal Products Regulation. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) managed the review process. The outcome was a **limited** renewal of approval for creosote, due to significant concerns. Permitted uses are now restricted to vacuum pressure impregnation of wood used for railway sleepers, electricity poles and telecommunications poles. The renewal Regulation¹ came into force on 1st November 2022 and stipulates that from **30th April 2023** only creosote-treated timber used for railway sleepers or utility poles for electricity or telecommunications may be placed on the market in Member States.

There is **no derogation** under this regulatory framework to allow for the continued placing on the market of timber treated with creosote for agricultural and/or equine purposes.

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1950 of 14 October 2022 renewing the approval of creosote as an active substance for use in biocidal products of product-type 8 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

However, it should be noted that **timber post already treated with creosote and sold to end users e.g., farmers, before the 30th April 2023, can still be used by the buyer after that date.**

If you require any further information, please contact biocide-enforcement@agriculture.gov.ie.

Biocides Enforcement Team,

Pesticides Control Division