SPECIFYING CROSSTIES AND SWITCHTIES

Product Introduction

Crossties and Switchties have a long and successful history in the track structure. For over a hundred years treated wood ties have demonstrated that their strength and durability are outstanding. The information in this guide will describe the treatment requirements of a crossties and switchties as specified in the CSA 080 Standard. The Processing and Treatment of crossties and switchties shall be done in accordance with CSA O80.2-08, section 9.3.

Allowable Wood Species and Related Use Categories

Crossties and Switchties are subject to severe service conditions and are a critically important material component in the railroad track system. This means that product failure in-service could have a range of effects from service interruption to loss of life. Therefore, Crossties and Switchties have a use category rating of 4.1 for general use and 4.2 for important (locations) or high decay situations. Crossties and Switchties shall meet the physical standard specifications as defined by the customer. An example of these requirements is the Specifications for Timber Crossties as defined by the Railway Tie Association (RTA) and the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA).

Species Group	End Use	
	General	Important and/or High Decay
Jack, Lodgepole, Ponderosa, Red and Southern Pine	4.1	4.2
Western Hemlock & Larch	4.1	4.2
Costal Douglas Fir	4.1	4.2
Interior Douglas Fir	4.1	4.2
Ash, Birch, Maple, Beech and Oak	4.1	4.2

Allowable Treatment Preservatives

All allowable species may be treated with one of the following preservatives. Wood preservatives require registration under the Federal Pest Control Act. Only preservatives that have received and are currently registered are listed.

Preservative	Preservative Abbreviation	Relevant Standards
Creosote	CR	AWPA P1 and P13
Creosote-Petroleum Solution	CR-PS	AWPA P3
Pentachlorophenol, Solvent A	PCP-A	CSA 080.4, AWPA P8 & P9
Pentachlorophenol, Solvent C	PCP-C	CSA 080.4, AWPA P8 & P9