



NEW WOOD POLE PRESERVATIVE: COPPER OIL

BACKGROUND

Creosote has been the best preservative to protect our wood poles from decay. However, the additives which kill off the decaying organisms are harmful. It is still available for use under licence until 2029 when it is likely to be withdrawn. To prepare for the withdrawal of creosote Copper Oil has been selected as the best available alternative.

LV POLE CHANGES

Copper Oil is a mix of Tanasote (the bug killing chemical) and refined mineral oil. The mineral oil retains the preservative in the wood pole fibres, like that of creosote, but without the harmful additives which can cause issues during hot weather with vapour and skin irritation.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Use up existing stocks of creosote and green poles.
- Read the COSHH sheet for Tanasote.
- Read *Toolbox Talk – Wood Pole Handling*
- Read *EDS 01-9001 Wood Pole Storage Facility Design*.
- Use Copper Oil treated poles for LV Pole replacement during 2023.
- Feedback to the OHL SAT all concerns and more importantly any benefits this change will bring.

We ask all stakeholders to use up existing stock of creosote and green poles for LV pole replacement during 2023.

The Copper Oil poles will have new stores codes and will be a direct replacement for the current range of green poles and the lighter creosote ones, including blocks. All LV pole replacements from 2023 will be Copper Oil treated poles, once existing stock has been used up.

WORKING WITH AND STORAGE OF COPPER OIL TREATED POLES

Because this is a new preservative, we will retain our current working approach with creosote poles using PPE detailed in *Toolbox Talk – Wood Pole Handling*.

Please also read the accompanying COSHH assessment.

The pole storage facilities currently used across the company will be maintained and disposal will be the same as for creosote poles. The use of temporary bunding detailed in *EDS 01-9001 Wood Pole Storage Facility Design* will be used on un-banded sites as an interim measure.

Primary communication via Line Manager complete by (X)	1 week	x	2 weeks	1 month
Additional communication (X)	Learning points		1 st 15	x Team Brief slide

Line management must ensure appropriate employees understand the content of this document within the timescale shown. This document is subject to compliance audits after the communication deadline.