

# **EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TREATED TIMBER PRODUCTS IN NEW ZEALAND**

*Simon Love*

BScTech(Hons)

Scientist - Sustainability

SCION – Next generation biomaterials, Rotorua, New Zealand

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Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is defined by the OECD as ‘an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of the product’s life cycle’. EPR is a concept that ideally should provide incentives for producers to take responsibility for the environmental impact of their products throughout the entire life cycle of the product. It also aims to enhance post-consumer resource recovery and recycling.

The New Zealand Timber Preservation Council (TPC) estimates 5,000 tonnes of copper, chromium and arsenic (CCA) salt equivalent are used annually to treat an estimated 650,000 m<sup>3</sup> of timber to various treatment grades. Much of this treated timber ends up as waste from construction sites, while demolition sites also provide a source of waste treated timber. EPR policies could significantly reduce the amount of waste timber being dumped or stockpiled, and could result in benefits for the environment as well as for the producer, in the form of new products from waste wood. This project has assessed the options for EPR approaches in the timber industry in New Zealand, and has resulted in a list of recommendations.

A review of the different approaches to EPR has been completed. This includes examples of international EPR policies implemented in the EU and Australia, plus examples of companies that have adopted EPR approaches in New Zealand. A comparison has been made between the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches, including original manufacturer take-back, pooled take-back and third-party take-back. This analysis has been used as the basis for the recommendations provided.