



SaferWood

THERMEX-FR



Scan for Report
ESR-1159

International WUI Code Compliant Exterior FRTW

Guidance for Properly Specifying and Using Fire Retardant Wood Products

Record wildfires in the West have spurred increased interest in protecting structures against fire. Many believe the solution is to apply something to the wood in a structure to keep it from burning. The reality of effectively protecting wood against fire, however, is far more complicated.

There are a host of coating products promoted today to safeguard wood from fire. Yet there are significant differences when compared to wood that has been pressure treated with fire retardants.

These differences are recognized in the **International Building Code, Section 2303.2**, which defines fire-retardant-treated wood (FRTW) as “wood products impregnated with chemicals by

a pressure process.” If not applied through pressure, the treatment “shall be an integral part of the manufacturing process of the wood product.”

The 2018 edition of the IBC further clarifies what is allowed in Section 2303.2.2:

“The use of paints, coating, stains or other surface treatments is not an approved method of protection as required in this section.”

Pressure treating infuses the fire retardant into the cells of the wood, not just the surface. The combination of pressure and fire-retardant treatments change the chemistry of the wood, so when it is heated, it gives off water and carbon dioxide which slows or stops the spread of flames.

SaferWood treated with **Thermex-FR** by Chemco is Compliant per § 2303.2 of the IBC and ignition-resistant per 2018 IWUIC Section 503.2, Item 3, FRTW, and may be used in the exterior design and construction of buildings under the IWUIC where an ignition-resistant material is required.



Quality



Ignition-Resistant



Non-Toxic



Peace of Mind