

# Company Announcement: Timber Treatment Plant Makeover Brings Benefits

8th December 2010

Attached please find a press release on: Khulani Timber Industries, one of Limpopo's longest established timber treatment operators, recently commissioned Arch Wood Protection to upgrade Khulani's treatment plant in the interest of greater efficiencies and productivity.

Arch responded to the request in the spirit of its commitment to treaters and customers to build relationships via various initiatives across the supply and value chain, thus adding value that goes beyond mere supply of treatment products.

Side view of the Vessel and the tanks are in the background



The Modjadjiskloof, Limpopo based plant makeover was carried out in May. Khulani have been in the treatment business for a number of years. Their original CCA plant had been in use for a number of years. However after extensions to the vessel a few years ago the inefficiencies of the plant began to surface and effect production, prompting the approach to Arch.

Until the beginning of 2009 Khulani had acquired their treatment chemicals from a competitor that subsequently closed down. The plant was originally designed and installed by the competitor.

During the early stages of the relationship that subsequently developed, Arch undertook an engineering review of Khulani's plant which highlighted areas where, at a reasonable investment into plant and equipment, the payback period on the investment would be quite short.

The upgraded consisted, firstly, of a new "right sized" tank farm, allowing for fewer mixes during the day, including a strength adjusting tank which is unique in the industry.

The strength adjusting tank allows the operator to store high solution strength chemical temporarily, for treating high retention H5 hazard class products and utility poles, while reducing the strength of the solution for H4 and H3 applications.

This allows for a more accurate treating process and leaves less room for possible over-treatment, which can occur when a plant moves from H5 to H4 or H3 treatments or from a high to low solution strength. Arch also installed a chemical bulk storage tank and an IBC tank stand for the dispensing of Weatherwood solution into the mix.

'Tanalised Weatherwood' to give it its official name, is a combination of well known timber preservative Tanalith (CCA) and the Weatherwood additive, a water based wax emulsion.

The use of a bulk storage facility has become Arch's preferred way of supplying customers in that from a Safety, Health and Environmental point of view, the risk of chemical exposure to operators is minimised and the amount of empty chemical drums stored on site is reduced.

Moreover, the bulk tank also greatly reduces time taken to prepare a new chemical mix, the product is easier to dispense and it's safer in that the operator does not have to move the mix around the site. A key component of the upgrade was to reduce the overall time of the treatment cycle which had been up to three hours or more.

Arch designs plants to use a similar treatment cycle time, the filling stage or flooding of the vessel being eight to ten minutes, followed by the initial vacuum.

These are pretty much standard times so that the only variable is the time it takes to run the pressure cycle which, in turn, is dependant on the product being treated, i.e. charge volume, diameter size and length etc.

Modifications were also made so that the plant could move away from a dry vacuum process to a wet vacuum process which is most commonly used in South Africa by treaters using Tanalith C.

The design of the plant was done by Darren Marillier, Arch's Sales Manager, and commissioned by Daryll Ehrke, Customer Account Manager for the Northern Regions.

***PHOTO CAPTION***

***Side view of the Vessel and the tanks are in the background***

2010-12-08

Nov PR3-2010

***FDave Gray PR***

***Tel 011 795 3962***

***Fax 0865032876***

***Cell 082 881 3135ax 0865032***