



TECHNICAL NOTE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: www.frtw.com or 1.800.TEC.WOOD (832.9663)

FR-S RATING EXPLAINED

Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood

Sometimes fire-retardant-treated wood (FRTW) specifications refer to a “FR-S” rating. This can create confusion because building codes do not use the FR-S designation. Building codes do, however, require a flame spread rating of 25 or less for FRTW.

The FR-S rating indicates that a specific species of wood exhibits a flame spread and smoke developed rating of 25 or less when tested in accordance with the ASTM E84 - “*Standard Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*” extended for an additional 20-minutes.

There are two issues of concern with smoke: 1) obscuration and 2) toxicity. Building codes do not specify a smoke-developed requirement for FRTW. With FRTW the amount of smoke developed is not an issue. Using the worst smoke developed number for FRTW and the best for untreated wood, FRTW produces only about 20 per cent as much smoke.

PyroGuard™ and **ExteriorFireX™** have been evaluated for smoke toxicity through the Materials and Equipment Acceptance Division of the New York City Department of Buildings and both carry NYC-MEA numbers. The testing indicates that the smoke is no more toxic than the smoke from untreated wood.

PyroGuard™ and **ExteriorFireX™** meet or exceed all building code requirements. For the best competitive quote, a specification of flame spread less than 25 gives the contractor the option of using the species and treatment that is best suited for the application.