

**American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association
Letter Ballot**

Title: Update to SECTION 3.6.1 Fundamentals

1. **Committee and Subcommittee:** Committee 30 – Subcommittee 3
2. **Letter Ballot Number:** 30-22-05
3. **Assignment:** 3.3 Tie Test and the Economics of Service Life
4. **Ballot Item:** In an effort to review and revise Section 3 of Chapter 30 Subcommittee 3 would like to submit this ballot proposing an update to 3.6.1 Fundamentals, last updated in 1985. This change is for clarification.
5. **Rationale:** Subcommittee 3 believes that the current recommendation needs to be reaffirmed with a small editorial change only.

3.6.1 Fundamentals

CURRENT

Preservative treatment of wood to retard or prevent the effectiveness of wood-destroying agencies such as fungi, bacteria, insects, marine borers, and fire has succeeded in making wood an economical material for use in many fields. The magnitude of annual savings produced by preservative treatment is proportional to the degree of careful attention assigned to the quality of preservatives, the detail of the treating procedures, the proper handling of the treated material and the competent inspection of all of these essentials. Heartwood of most naturally durable woods resists penetration by preservative. Yet its life is generally extended by treatment, even though the depth of penetration is slight, providing that the wood is properly seasoned prior to treatment. Preservative treatment will not restore any loss of strength resulting from defects of any kind; consequently, only wood free of significant defects which will render it unfit for use can be treated to advantage.

PROPOSED

Preservative treatment of wood to retard or prevent the effectiveness of wood-destroying agencies agents such as fungi, bacteria, insects, marine borers, and fire has succeeded in making wood an economical material for use in many fields. The magnitude of annual savings produced by preservative treatment is proportional to the degree of careful attention assigned to the quality of preservatives, the detail of the treating procedures, the proper handling of the treated material and the competent inspection of all of these essentials. Heartwood of most naturally durable woods resists penetration by preservative. Yet its life is generally extended by treatment, even though the depth of penetration is slight, providing that the wood is properly seasoned prior to treatment. Preservative treatment will not restore any loss of strength resulting from defects of any kind; consequently, only wood free of significant defects which will render it unfit for use can be treated to advantage.