

Wood preservatives - Determination of preventive action against Reticulitermes species (European termites) (Laboratory method)

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

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ICS 71.100.50

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 118

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

January 2025

ICS 71.100.50

Supersedes EN 118:2013

English Version

Wood preservatives - Determination of preventive action  
against *Reticulitermes* species (European termites)  
(Laboratory method)

Produits de préservation des bois - Détermination de  
l'action préventive contre les espèces de *Reticulitermes*  
(termites européens) (Méthode de laboratoire)

Holzschutzmittel - Bestimmung der vorbeugenden  
Wirkung gegenüber *Reticulitermes*-Arten (Europäische  
Termiten) (Laboratoriumsverfahren)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 6 January 2025.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
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## European foreword

This document (EN 118:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 38 “Durability of wood and derived materials”, the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by July 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by July 2025.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 118:2013.

EN 118:2025 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 118:2013:

- the required purity of fine white quartz sand was lowered (5.2.1.1);
- the values for the examination of termite attack in rating 2a) and 3a) were slightly changed to close rating gaps.

NOTE 1 The species name “*Reticulitermes santonensis*” is officially withdrawn and replaced by *Reticulitermes flavipes*. This document will follow the new regulation.

NOTE 2 Test results obtained according to earlier versions of this document and when the tests had started before this version of EN 118 was published are considered as valid.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

## Introduction

This document describes a laboratory method of testing which gives a basis for assessment of the effectiveness of a wood preservative, when applied as a surface treatment, against the *Reticulitermes* species of European termites.

This laboratory method provides one criterion by which the value of a product can be assessed. It is further recommended that results from this test should be supplemented by those from other appropriate tests, and above all by comparison with practical experience.

When products which are very active at low concentrations are used it is very important to take suitable precautions to isolate and separate, as far as possible, operations involving chemical products, other products, treated wood, laboratory apparatus and clothing. Suitable precautions should include the use of separate rooms, areas within rooms, extraction facilities, conditioning chambers and special training for personnel (see also Annex C for environmental, health and safety precautions).

## 1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of the preventive action of a wood preservative against the *Reticulitermes* species of European termites when the preservative is applied as a surface treatment to wood.

NOTE 1 This method can be applied not only to different species of *Reticulitermes*, but also to other species of the family Rhinotermitidae, where necessary adapting the temperature and humidity conditions and the assessment of attack to the specific behaviour of the species concerned.

This method is applicable to:

- water-insoluble chemicals which are being studied as active ingredients;
- organic formulations, as supplied or as prepared in the laboratory by dilution of concentrates;
- organic water-dispersible formulations as supplied or as prepared in the laboratory by dilution of concentrates; and
- water-soluble materials, for example salts.

NOTE 2 This method can be used in conjunction with an ageing procedure, for example EN 73 or EN 84.

## 2 Normative reference

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use - Specification and test methods (ISO 3696)*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

**3.1 representative sample**  
sample having its physical or chemical characteristics identical to the volumetric average characteristics of the total volume being sampled

**3.2 supplier**  
sponsor of the test (person or company providing the sample of wood preservative to be tested)

## 4 Principle

Surface treatment of test specimens of a susceptible wood species with the preservative or, if a concentrate is being used, with known dilutions of the preservative.