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Mr Andrew Campbell  
PO Box 3483  
Nerang  
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Dear Mr Campbell,

### **CSIRO Appraisals: Termite Management Systems**

As previously advised, CSIRO Appraisals is conducting a revalidation exercise on its termite management system technical assessments. We have completed a review of the technical assessments as part of the revalidation exercise and we are now working with technical assessment holders to incorporate the outcomes of the review into the technical assessments.

I have set out below the criteria used in the review and indicated how the outcomes will be incorporated into the technical assessments.

### **General guidelines for assessing systems**

CSIRO Appraisals has sought evidence for termite management systems that verifies:

- the system, when installed, will be termite resistant in accordance with criteria set out in AS3660.1- 2000 *Termite Management: New Building Work* and the evidence of termite resistance is directly applicable to the system currently being marketed;
- there are steps in place to provide confidence that the system and all of its components will be manufactured and installed consistently to the required specifications;
- the system can be installed in such a manner as to create a barrier to concealed subterranean termite entry in accordance with Building Code of Australia requirements; and
- the system complies with Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) requirements and that all APVMA registered products utilised in conjunction with the system are used in accordance with APVMA guidelines.

### **Different types of termite management systems**

The termite management systems that CSIRO has appraised fit into the following categories:

- Chemical soil barriers created through the use of reticulation systems.
- Solid barriers that incorporate the use of chemicals.
- Physical barriers made from materials that are listed in AS3660.1.
- Physical barriers made from materials that can be readily compared, in terms of their physical properties, to materials listed in AS3660.1.
- Other physical barriers.

## **Guidelines for assessing termite resistance of systems**

I have set out CSIRO Appraisals' criteria for assessing the termite resistance of the different categories of barriers. Please note that three year field trials are generally only mandatory for the "Other physical barrier" category.

### **Reticulation systems**

To verify the termite resistance of a reticulation system CSIRO Appraisals requires test evidence that verifies that the system is capable of distributing APVMA approved chemicals in accordance with APVMA approved guidelines to achieve the required concentrations along the length of the system. This test evidence must relate to all different types of chemicals recommended for use in conjunction with the system.

### **Solid barriers that incorporate the use of chemicals**

APVMA approval of these barriers is used by CSIRO Appraisals as evidence of efficacy.

### **Physical barriers**

CSIRO Appraisals requires evidence that these barriers are made from materials that are listed in AS3660.1 or that the barriers are made from materials that can be readily compared, in terms of their physical properties, to materials listed in AS3660.1.

### **Other physical barriers**

CSIRO Appraisals requires evidence that these barriers have successfully completed trials against termites. Generally this will be a three year field trial. If a system in this category has not had a three year field trial, CSIRO Appraisals will note this in the technical assessment and indicate the alternative basis of assessment in the technical assessment.

### **Timing**

Subject to timely responses from technical assessment holders, CSIRO is endeavouring to conclude the revalidation process as soon as possible. I anticipate that publication of the revalidated termite management system technical assessments will commence in the coming weeks.

### **Durability**

The AS3660 series of standards does not provide a methodology for the assessment of the durability of termite management systems. In the absence of a methodology, CSIRO Appraisals has determined that it will not assess the durability of termite management systems. We have written to Standards Australia to recommend that consideration be given to the establishment of a durability assessment methodology in AS3660.1 or AS3660.3. Any inconsistency in the treatment of durability across the technical assessments will be addressed in the revalidation exercise.

## **Mastotermes Darwiniensis**

We note your advice regarding reports of *Mastotermes Darwiniensis* activity on the Gold Coast. CSIRO Appraisals focuses on the engineering and technical aspects of termite management systems. It is not practical for CSIRO Appraisals to monitor termite activities across Australia. That monitoring is better handled at a state or local level.

CSIRO Appraisals will ensure that the relevant technical assessments indicate the types of termites against which the termite management systems have not been assessed, or assessed as not being suitable. This will enable authorities, who have local knowledge of termite activity, to determine the suitability of individual systems for use in their regions.

### **Technical Assessments: General**

In conducting the revalidation exercise, CSIRO has sought evidence that the termite management systems appraised meet the assessment criteria set out above and that the systems being marketed are the same as those assessed by CSIRO Appraisals.

The reports considered by CSIRO Appraisals in its assessment of termite management systems are listed in the technical assessments. If any of the reports are not "independent", this will be noted in the technical assessments, along with the basis of assessment of the system.

The need to monitor termite management systems through regular inspections is set out in the CSIRO technical assessments.

The revalidation exercise is providing an opportunity for CSIRO to review the wording used in its termite management system technical assessments. CSIRO will endeavour to establish consistent terminology across all termite management system technical assessments, provide updated information in the technical assessments on the basis of assessment of the systems, and review the information provided regarding use of technical assessments.

I will keep you informed as we progress through the revalidation exercise.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Hanson