Full Length Research Paper

Impact of impregnation with boron compounds on combustion properties of oriental beech (Fagus orientalis Lipsky) and varnishes

Musa Atar¹, Hakan Keskin², Süleyman Korkut³* and Derya Sevim Korkut³

1Gazi University, Faculty of Technical Education, Department of Furniture and Decoration, 06500 Besevler, Ankara, Turkey.
2Gazi University, Industrial Arts Education Faculty, Department of Industrial Technology, 06830 Gölbasi, Ankara, Turkey.
3Duzce University, Faculty of Forestry, Department of Forest Industrial Engineering, 81620 Düzce, Turkey.

Accepted 1 April, 2011

This study examined the impacts of varnishing after impregnation with boron compounds on combustion properties of oriental beech. The test samples prepared from oriental beech (Fagus orientalis Lipsky) wood were impregnated according to ASTM D 1413–76–99 with boric acid (Ba) or borax (Bx) using a vacuum technique. After impregnation, one of six varnishes (cellulosic (Cv), synthetic (Sn), polyurethane (Pu), water-based (Wb), acrylic (Ac) or acid-hardening (Ah) was applied in accordance with ASTM D 3023 coated surfaces. After treating, varnishing and conditioning, the combustion properties of samples were determined according to ASTM E 160-50. Combustion temperatures for Bx and Wb were highest when testing without flame source combustion (WFSC), while Ba and Pu exhibited the lowest temperature when testing for flame source combustion (FSC). For the combination of combustion type, impregnation material and varnish type, combustion temperature was the highest for WFSC + boric acid + water-based varnish, but the lowest for WFSC + boric acid + synthetic varnish. As a result, the tested varnishes showed an increasing impact, but boron compounds (Ba and Bx) showed a decreasing impact on the combustion properties of beech. In conclusion, for usage areas having a high risk of fire, impregnation of wood material with boron compounds before varnishing will decrease combustion temperature and provide some degree of security.

Key words: Combustion, flame retardance, coatings, boron compounds, varnish.

INTRODUCTION

Due to the sensitivity of wood materials to fire, architects, construction element designers and furniture and wood producers seek methods of increasing the resistance of wood material against fire. In addition to known combustion properties, it is important to determine the effects of impregnation and other processes on fire resistance.

Wood and wood-based materials are primarily composed of carbon and hydrogen. For this reason, they are combustible (Chin-Mu and Wang, 1991). When heated, wood burns by producing flammable volatiles that may ignite. For wood to spontaneously combust, the temperature must be raised to 275°C (Levan and Widany, 1990). Two types of “combustion” are often evaluated with woody materials, low temperature charring (non-flaming combustion) and higher temperature flaming combustion. The former usually occurs without an open flame and at temperatures in the 260 to 290°C range, the later occurs at higher temperatures.
For wood ignition, oxygen ($O_2$), a flame source and flammable material are necessary. However, wood actually has excellent natural fire resistance because of its remarkably low thermal conductivity and the fact that, wood char is formed when wood is burned. To reduce flammability and provide additional fire safety, wood is sometimes treated with fire-retardant chemicals. That is, the combustibility of wood can be reduced with the use of flame- or fire-retardants (Goldstein, 1973; Browne, 1963)

Wood materials have better properties than many construction materials, but it is not possible to make them incombustible. It is well recognized that processing wood with some chemical treatments increases fire resistance and combustion properties. For this purpose, ammonium sulphate, ammonium chloride, dicyandiamide, borax, boric acid and various phosphorous compounds (for example, phosphoric acid, monoammonium and diammonium phosphates) have historically been used (Atar et al., 2004).

Large-scale construction and furniture, coated only with paint and varnish, have surface protection for only about 2 years. Thus, varnishing and painting after impregnation is important for long-term resistance against biotic and abiotic effects, photochemical degradation, dimensional changes, biological factors and fire (Evans et al., 1992; Williams et al., 1996). Painting and varnishing with water-repellent chemicals after impregnating with boron compounds makes wood more resistant to in-service environmental degradation (Harlow, 1991). Impregnating with a solution of copper, chrome and salt can make wood more resistant to degradation from environmental effects (Sell and Feist, 1985). For many years, before recent concerns about combustion properties, a common method for protection wood material was to use a 15% solution of paraphine + boric acid (Ba) + borax (Bx) (Feist, 1988). High doses of boron compounds are the preferred method today.

Keskin (2007) stated that, considering the interaction of combustion type and impregnation materials, the lowest thermal degradation values were obtained in samples impregnated with Bx and imersol-aqua solutions, containing 0.5% w/w tebuconazole, 0.5% w/w propiconazole, 0.1% w/w 3-iodo-2-propynyl-butyl carbamate and 0.5% w/w cypermethrin. Borax in flame source combustion (FSC) and imersol-aqua in without flame source combustion (WFSC) showed a decreasing impact on the combustion properties of the laminated veneer lumber (LVL), produced by a combination of European oak (Quercus petreae Liebl,) and Lombardy poplar (Populus nigra Lipsky) veneers, bonded with Desmodur-VTKA (Desmodur-vinyl tri ketonol acetate) (Keskin, 2007).

The effects of impregnation materials, including sodium perborate, sodium tetraborate, imersol-WR 2000 and tanalith-CBC, on the combustion properties of three-ply laminated wood material produced from Uludag fir (Abies bornmülleriana Mattf.) were investigated. The highest mass reduction in massive wood samples impregnated with tanalith-CBC was determined (Uysal and Ozciifci, 2004). The investigation of Kolmann (1960) showed that, the thermal degradation of hardwood species was lower than sapwood species for hardwoods containing more sensitive pentozans (Kolmann, 1960)

Goldstain (1973) found that, the lignin of spruce started to degrade at 130 to 145°C and cellulose at 156 to 170°C. He also found that, when powdered beech was held at 160°C for 28 days, it lost 80% of its cellulose and in 14 days it lost 2 to 3% of its lignin.

Uysal and Ozciifci (2000) tested three layered LVL, produced from polyvinyl acetate (PVAc) adhesive and lime tree, consisting of different core ply, according to the procedure of ASTM E 69 combination standards. They found the highest amount of ash and unburnt wood were obtained in LVL consisting of lime tree.

Yalinkilic and Ors (1996) studied impregnation of Uludag fir (A. bornmülleriana Mattf.) wood with boron compounds and polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400. They tested those samples using standard laboratory combustion tests. PEG-400-treatment had little influence on combustion properties, while the boron compounds were more effective.

In this study, we determined the influence of coating with various varnishes after impregnation with two common fire-resistant boron compounds (boric acid and borax) on the FSC and WFSC properties of oriental beech.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Wood material**

Oriental beech (Fagus orientalis Lipsky) wood was selected as a test material because of its wide use in industry. Special attention was given to the selection of wood materials, which were straight-grained, free of knots and exhibited no reaction wood, decay or insect damage as specified in TS 2470 (1976).

**Varnishes**

Cellulosic (Cv), synthetic (Sn), polyurethane (Pu), water-based (Wb), acrylic (Ac), and acid-hardening (Ah) varnishes were used. Application procedures followed the manufacturer’s recommendations. The amount of varnish applied was determined on a solids basis, as defined by the manufacturer’s label. Technical specifications of varnishes are given in Table 1 (Dewilux et al., 1996).

**Impregnation materials**

Boron compounds (boric acid and borax) were obtained from Etilbank-Bandirma (Turkey) boric acid factory. The properties of boric acid ($H_3BO_3$) are 58.30% $\frac{1}{2}B_2O_3$, 43.70% $H_2O$, with a molecular weight of 61.84 g/mol, a density of 1.435 g/cm$^3$ and melting point of 171°C. Borax ($Na_2B_4O_5 \cdot 5H_2O$) content was 21.28% $Na_2O$, 47.80% $B_2O_3$ and 30.92% $H_2O$, with a molecular weight of 291.3 g/mol, a density of 1.815 g/cm$^3$ and a melting point of 741°C (Ors et al., 2006).
Table 1. Some properties of varnishes.

| Type of varnish         | pH value | Density (g cm\(^{-3}\)) | Viscosity (DIN Cup/4mm) | Amount applied (g m\(^{-2}\)) | Nozzle gap (mm) | Air pressure (bar) |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Polyurethane (filling)  | 5.94     | 0.98                     | 18                      | 125                           | 1.8            | 2                 |
| Polyurethane (last)     | 4.01     | 0.99                     | 18                      | 125                           | 1.8            | 2                 |
| Synthetic               | -        | 0.94                     | 18                      | 100                           | -              | -                 |
| Wb (primer)*            | 9.17     | 1.014                    | 18                      | 100                           | 1.3            | 1                 |
| Wb (filler)**           | 9.30     | 1.015                    | 18                      | 67                            | 1.3            | 1                 |
| Wb (finishing)**        | 8.71     | 1.031                    | 18                      | 67                            | 1.3            | 1                 |
| Cv (filler)             | 2.9      | 0.955                    | 20                      | 125                           | 1.8            | 3                 |
| Cv (finishing)          | 3.4      | 0.99                     | 20                      | 125                           | 1.8            | 3                 |
| Ac (filler)             | 4.3      | 0.95                     | 18                      | 125                           | 1.8            | 2                 |
| Ac (finishing)          | 4.6      | 0.97                     | 18                      | 125                           | 1.8            | 2                 |
| Ah (finishing)          | 8.0      | 0.99                     | 18                      | 100                           | 1.8            | 3                 |

ASTM D 17*, ASTM D 65**, ASTM D 45***.

Preparation of test samples

The rough-cut beech drafts used for the preparation of test and control samples were cut from the sapwood parts of beech lumber with dimensions of 20 × 20 × 500 mm and conditioned at 20±2°C and 65±3% relative humidity until they maintained a constant weight. The test samples, with a dimension of 13 × 13 × 76 mm, were cut from these drafts before impregnation and varnishing. The test samples were impregnated with 5.5% boric acid or 5% borax, according to ASTM D 1413-76-99 (2005). Accordingly, the samples were exposed to a 700 mmHg prevacuum for 60 min and then held in either a Ba or a Bx solution at normal atmospheric pressure for 60 min to allow the treating solutions to diffuse into the impregnated materials. The processes were carried out at 20±2°C. Retention of impregnation material (R) was calculated by the formula:

\[
R = \frac{G \cdot C}{V} \times 10 \text{ (Kg m}^{-3}\text{)} \quad \text{(1)}
\]

Where, G is the amount of impregnation solution absorbed by the samples; \(T_2\) is the sample weight after impregnation; \(T_1\) is the sample weight before impregnation; C is the concentration (%) of the impregnation solution; V is the volume of the sample.

Impregnated test samples were kept at 20±2°C and 65±3% relative humidity until they reached constant weight (moisture equilibrium). Test samples were varnished according to ASTM D 3023 (1998). The surfaces of the samples were sanded with abrasive papers (silicon carbide, P180C-QB, waterproof, English abrasives, Atlas Brand, England) to remove the fiber swellings and dust was removed before varnishing. The manufacturer's recommendations were followed for the composition of solvent, hardener ratio and whether one or two finishing layers were applied after sanding. Spray nozzle distance and pressure were adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions and moved in parallel to the specimen's longitudinal surface at a distance of 20 cm. Varnishing was done at 20±2°C and 65±3% relative humidity. Layer thicknesses of varnishes were determined to be 99 µm in cellulosic varnish, 88 µm in water-based varnish, 103 µm in acrylic varnish and 100 µm in acid-hardening varnish.

Combustion test

Combustion tests were done in combustion test devices according to ASTM E 160-50 (1975) standards. Accordingly, before the combustion test, impregnated samples were conditioned at 27°C and 30% relative humidity in a conditioning room until reaching 7% relative humidity. Every sample group was weighed before the test and stored on a wire stand. Samples on every stand were placed vertically on the stand with respect to the samples below and above. Distance between samples and the fire-flame outlet was fixed at 25±1.3 cm when the device was empty and gas pressure was fixed at 0.5 kg cm\(^{-2}\) in the manometer. When ignited, the test temperature was set at 315±8°C in the funnel, using a calibrated thermocouple. The flame source was centered below the sample pile and the flame source combustion was continued for three minutes. After extinguishing the flame source, subsequent evaluation of flame spread (charring) without open-flame source combustion was carried out. Temperatures during combustion (°C) were determined with a thermometer (Figure 1).

Statistical analyses

Using one type of wood, two types of combustion, two types of impregnation material and one control sample, six types of varnish and one control sample, a total of 126 samples (2 × 3 × 7 × 3) were prepared with three samples for each parameter. Multiple variance analysis was used to determine the effects of impregnation materials and varnishes on FSC and WFSC. The Duncan test was used to determine the significance of differences between groups.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Retention and varnish levels

The retention amount of the impregnation material is
given in Table 2. The retained amount of the impregnation material was found to be higher with boric acid than borax. A reason for the higher amount of retention with boric acid might be the high concentration of the solution.

**Combustion temperature**

Average temperature values for each combustion type varied according to impregnation material and varnish types and are given in Table 3. The relative WFSC-combustion temperatures were determined as the highest temperature measured without flame source combustion. WFSC temperatures were highest for borax treatment, followed by water-based varnish and the lowest in boric acid treatment with polyurethane varnish. The combustion temperature in the impregnation treatment was 16% lower in boric acid samples and 11% lower in borax samples, compared with control specimen. Accordingly, impregnation materials can decrease the combustion temperature. Indeed, boron compounds showed a decreasing impact on the combustion properties of the laminated wood materials, produced by a combination of beech and poplar veneers, bonded with desmodur-VTKA (Desmodur-vinyl tri ketonol acetate) (Keskin et al., 2009). The combustion temperature, according to control specimen in the varnishing process were 5% higher in Cv, 12% higher in Wb, 3% lower in Pu and approximately equal for Ac, Ah and Sn. Temperature values showed differences, depending on the varnish.

Average temperature values according to combustion
Table 2. Retention amount of impregnation materials (kg m\(^{-3}\)).

| Impregnation material | Retention \(^a\) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Boric acid (Ba)       | 40.99 \(^A\)    |
| Borax (Bx)            | 20.75 \(^B\)    |

\(^a\)Least significant difference (LSD) = 2.012.

Table 3. Average temperature values of different combustion processes and materials.

| Types of combustion\(^*\) | Temperature (°C)\(^b\) |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Flame source combustion (I) | 449.5 \(^B\)          |
| Without flame source combustion (II) | 456.6 \(^A\)        |
| Impregnation materials\(^**\) |                      |
| Control (Co)               | 497.6 \(^A\)          |
| Boric acid (Ba)            | 419.4 \(^C\)          |
| Borax (Bx)                 | 442.1 \(^B\)          |
| Varnishes\(^***\)          |                        |
| Unvarnished (Uv)           | 443.4 \(^C\)          |
| Cellulosic (Cv)            | 464.7 \(^B\)          |
| Synthetic (Sn)             | 441.7 \(^C\)          |
| Polyurethane (Pu)          | 429.5 \(^B\)          |
| Water-borne (Wb)           | 502.1 \(^A\)          |
| Acrylic (Ac)               | 444.4 \(^C\)          |
| Acid hardening (Ah)        | 445.4 \(^C\)          |
| Impregnation materials\(^**\) |                      |
| Control (Co)               | 497.6 \(^A\)          |
| Boric acid (Ba)            | 419.4 \(^C\)          |
| Borax (Bx)                 | 442.1 \(^B\)          |

\(^*\)Different letters in the columns refer to significant changes among types of combustion at 0.05 confidence level (LSD\(_{0.05}\) = 2.141); \(^**\)different letters in the columns refer to significant changes among impregnation materials at 0.05 confidence level (LSD\(_{0.05}\) = 2.622); \(^***\)different letters in the columns refer to significant changes among varnishes at 0.05 confidence level (LSD\(_{0.05}\) = 4.05). I: Flame source combustion; II: without flame source combustion; Co: unimpregnated samples; Ba: boric acid; Bx: borax; Uv: unvarnished; Cv: cellulose; Sn: synthetic; Pu: polyurethane; Wb: waterborne; Ac: acrylic; Ah: acid hardening.

type + impregnation material, impregnation material + varnish type and combustion type + varnish type combinations are shown in Table 4. According to combustion temperature and impregnation material combination, combustion temperature was highest in the FSC (I) + Bx combination (443.1 °C) and lowest in the WFSC (II) + Ba (413.2 °C). Impregnation materials showed a decreasing effect on the combustion temperature values of FSC and WFSC at a rate of 11 and 20% in Ba and 8 and 15% in Bx, respectively.

The combustion temperatures based on impregnation material and varnish types were highest in Bx + Cv (523.30 °C) and lowest in Ba + Sn (369.6 °C). The combustion temperatures of varnished samples without impregnation were higher than impregnated and varnished samples, except Bx + Cv. Accordingly, impregnation materials decreased the increasing properties of varnishes.

Impregnation materials showed a decreasing effect for combustion temperatures in Sn, Pu, Wb, Ac and Ah varnishes, measured at 29, 1, 8, 22 and 28% for Ba and 15, 8, 9, 14 and 12% for Bx, respectively. With the Cv varnish, a 14% decrease for Ba and a 10% increase for Bx was observed.

Results of multiple variance analysis for the impact of combustion type, impregnation material and varnish type on combustion temperature value are given in Table 5. Effects of combustion type, impregnation material and varnish type on combustion temperature have been found to be important for the effect of variance sources (\(\alpha = 0.05\)). Duncan test results, given in Table 6, indicated the differences between the groups.

The combustion temperature value was the highest in the II + synthetic varnish combination but the lowest in the II + polyurethane varnish for varnished wood material.
Table 4. Average temperature values for the combination of combustion process and materials.

| Type of material | Temperature (°C)* |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Types of combustion + impregnation materials* | |
| I               | 479.75 B          |
| I+Ba            | 425.59 D          |
| I+Bx            | 443.10 C          |
| II              | 515.51 B          |
| II+Ba           | 413.24 B          |
| II+Bx           | 441.04 C          |
| Impregnation materials + types of varnishes** | |
| Co              | 514.67 B C        |
| Ba              | 445.45 FG         |
| Bx              | 370.15 L          |
| Cv              | 468.34 E          |
| Ba+Cv           | 402.59 J          |
| Bx+Cv           | 523.30 A          |
| Sn              | 517.90 ABC        |
| Ba+Sn           | 369.60 L          |
| Bx+Sn           | 437.73 HI         |
| Pu              | 441.84 GH         |
| Ba+Pu           | 440.20 GH         |
| Bx+Pu           | 406.56 J          |
| Wb              | 521.11 AB         |
| Ba+Wb           | 511.65 CD         |
| Bx+Wb           | 473.504 E         |
| Ac              | 505.75 D          |
| Ba+Ac           | 394.66 K          |
| Bx+Ac           | 432.72 J          |
| Ah              | 513.82 BC         |
| Ba+Ah           | 371.81 L          |
| Bx+Ah           | 450.43 F          |
| Types of combustion + types of varnishes*** | |
| I               | 409.72 H          |
| I+Cv            | 488.53 B          |
| I+Sn            | 463.33 D          |
| I+Pu            | 431.76 F          |
| I+Wb            | 439.36 E          |
| I+Ac            | 482.53 C          |
| I+Ah            | 431.10 F          |
| II              | 477.15 C          |
| II+Cv           | 440.95 E          |
| II+Sn           | 420.15 G          |
| II+Pu           | 427.27 F          |
| II+Wb           | 564.84 A          |
| II+Ac           | 406.22 H          |
| II+Ah           | 459.64 D          |

*Different letters in the columns refer to significant changes among combustion and impregnation materials types at 0.05 confidence level (LSD₀.₅ = 3.708); **different letters in the columns refer to significant changes among impregnation materials and varnish types at 0.05 confidence level (LSD₀.₅ = 6.937); ***different letters in the columns refer to significant changes among combustion and varnish types at 0.05 confidence level (LSD₀.₅ = 5.664).
Table 5. Multiple variance analysis for impact of combustion type, impregnation material and varnish types on combustion temperature.

| Source | Degrees of freedom | Sum of squares | Mean square | F value | P < % 5 (Sig) |
|--------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|---------------|
| Factor A<sup>a</sup> | 1 | 1601.58 | 1601.583 | 43.4488 | 0.0600 |
| Factor B<sup>b</sup> | 6 | 62124.106 | 10354.018 | 280.8908 | 0.0000 |
| AB | 6 | 138254.823 | 23042.470 | 625.1118 | 0.0000 |
| Factor C<sup>c</sup> | 2 | 136054.340 | 68027.170 | 1845.4872 | 0.0000 |
| AC | 2 | 13476.898 | 6738.449 | 182.8052 | 0.0000 |
| BC | 12 | 147944.074 | 12328.673 | 334.4606 | 0.0000 |
| ABC | 12 | 3096.354 | 16844.620 | 456.9723 | 0.0000 |
| Error | 84 | 3096.354 | 36.861 | | |
| Total | 125 | 3096.354 | 36.861 | | |

<sup>a</sup>Factor A: combustion type (FSC: flame source combustion, WFSC: without flame source combustion); <sup>b</sup>factor B: varnish type (Cv: cellulosic, Sn: synthetic, Pu: polyurethane, Wb: waterborne, Ac: acrylic, Ah: acid hardening); <sup>c</sup>factor C: Impregnation materials (Ba: boric acid, Bx: borax).

Table 6. Duncan test results.

| Process type | Temp. (°C)<sup>a</sup> | Process type | Temp. (°C)<sup>a</sup> | Process type | Temp. (°C)<sup>a</sup> |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| II+Ba+Wb | 595.8<sup>A</sup> | I | 494.2<sup>FG</sup> | I+Ba+Ah | 414.1<sup>M</sup> |
| II+Sn | 573.5<sup>B</sup> | II+Ba | 493.8<sup>FG</sup> | I+Ba+Wb | 412.1<sup>MN</sup> |
| II+Wb | 563.7<sup>B</sup> | I+Ac | 492.3<sup>G</sup> | II+Ba | 402.5<sup>NO</sup> |
| II+Ba+Cv | 543.1<sup>C</sup> | II+Ba+Cv | 491.6<sup>G</sup> | I+Ba | 397.2<sup>OP</sup> |
| II+Ah | 540.3<sup>C</sup> | II+Cv | 488.2<sup>GH</sup> | I+Ba+Ah | 391.8<sup>PQ</sup> |
| II | 535.2<sup>C</sup> | I+Ah | 487.3<sup>GH</sup> | II+Pu | 388.5<sup>PQ</sup> |
| II+Ba+Wb | 535<sup>C</sup> | II+Ba+Ah | 486.8<sup>GH</sup> | II+Ba+Pu | 383.2<sup>Q</sup> |
| II+Ac | 519.2<sup>D</sup> | I+Wb | 478.5<sup>H</sup> | II+Ba+Ac | 370.7<sup>R</sup> |
| I+Ba+Cv | 513.5<sup>DE</sup> | I+Sn | 462.3<sup>I</sup> | I+Ba+Pu | 370.2<sup>R</sup> |
| I+Ba+Pu | 510.1<sup>DE</sup> | I+Ba+Ac | 460.6<sup>I</sup> | II+Ba+Sn | 366.1<sup>R</sup> |
| II+Ba+Sn | 509.4<sup>DE</sup> | I+Cv | 448.5<sup>J</sup> | II+Ba+Ah | 351.8<sup>S</sup> |
| I+Ba+Cv | 503.5<sup>EF</sup> | I+Ba+Pu | 429.9<sup>K</sup> | I+Ba | 337.8<sup>T</sup> |
| I+Pu | 495.1<sup>FG</sup> | I+Ba+Wb | 427.5<sup>KL</sup> | II+Ba+Ac | 328.7<sup>TU</sup> |
| I+Ba+Ac | 494.7<sup>FG</sup> | I+Ba+Sn | 418.3<sup>LM</sup> | II+Ba+Sn | 320.9<sup>U</sup> |

<sup>a</sup>Different letters in a column refers to significant differences among the different interactions of combustion, varnishes and impregnation materials at 0.05 confidence level (LSD<sub>0.05</sub>: 9.811); I: flame source combustion; II: Without flame source combustion; Ba: boric acid; Bx: borax; Sv: cellulosic; Sn: synthetic; Pu: polyurethane; Wb: water-borne; Ac: acrylic; Ah: acid hardening.

Conclusions

The application of certain varnishes effectively enhanced fire resistance of two types of borate-treated beech LVL. Combustion temperatures were highest when tested without flame source combustion (WFSC) for boric acid treatments using a water-based varnish (595.9°C). Combustion temperatures were lowest when tested with flame source combustion (FSC) for boric acid treatments with a synthetic varnish (320.9°C). As a result, it appears that impregnation of wood material with appropriate boron treatment, followed by subsequent varnishing, will further increase combustion temperatures and provide additional fire resistance and a degree of security.

without impregnation. For samples varnished after impregnation, the temperature was the highest in WFSC varnished with water-based varnish after impregnation with boric acid, but lowest in WFSC varnished with synthetic varnish after impregnation with boric acid (Figure 2).
REFERENCES

ASTM D 1413–76–99 (2005). Standard test method for wood preservatives by laboratory soil-block cultures. ASTM Standards West Conshohocken PA; USA.

ASTM D–3023 (1998). Standard practice for determination of resistance of factory applied coatings on wood products of stain and reagents. American Society for Testing and Materials.

ASTM E 160-50 (1975). Standard test method for combustible properties of treated wood by the crib test. ASTM Standards West Conshohocken PA; USA.

Atar M, Keskin H, Yavuzcan HG (2004). Varnish layer hardness of oriental beech (Fagus orientalis Lipsky) wood as affected by impregnation and color bleaching, J. Coatings Technol. 1: 498-504.

Browne F (1963). Theories of the combustion of wood and its control. West Conshohocken PA; USA.

Chin-Mu T, Wang YL (1991). Incombustibility of fire retardant coated wood panels quart. J. Expl. Forest NTU, 5: 49-55.

Dewilux DYO, Teknik bülten. Dewilux fabrikaları, İzmir AŞ (1996).

Evans PD, Michel AJ, Schmalzl K (1992). Studies of the degradation and protection of wood surfaces. Wood Science and Technology, 26: 151-163.

Feist WC (1988). Weathering of wood and its control by water repellent preservatives, an Hamel MP (Ed), Wood Protection Techniques and the Use of Treated Wood in Construction, Madison WI: Forest Products Society,pp: 82-88.

Goldstein IS (1973). Degradation and protection of wood from thermal attack in wood deterioration and its prevention by preservative treatments, Syracuse University, New York: 1: 307-339.

Harrow KM (1991). Leachibility of some water-soluble wood preservatives, Wood Science and Technology, B32 (6): 33-40.

Keskin H (2007). Effects of impregnation materials on combustion properties of laminated veneer lumber (LVL) obtained from European oak (Quercus petraea Liebl.) and Lombardy poplar (Populus nigra Lipsky), J. Appl. Polym. Sci., 105(4): 1766-1773.

Keskin H, Atar M, Izciler M (2009). Impacts of impregnation chemicals on combustion properties of the laminated wood materials produced combination of beech and poplar veneers. Construction & Building Materials (JCBM); 23(2): 634-643.

Kolmann F (1960). Occurrence of exothermic reaction in wood. Holz Als Roh-und Werkstoff; 18: 193-200.

Levan SL, Widany JE (1990). Effects of fire retardant treatments on wood strength a review. Wood and Fiber Science, 22(1): 113-131.

Ozs Y, Atar M, Keskin H, Colakoglu HM (2006). Impacts of impregnation with boron compounds on the surface roughness of some woods and varnished surfaces. J. Appl. Polym. Sci. 102(5): 4952–4957.

Sell J, Feist WC (1985). Weathering behavior of chromium-copper-boron treated wood. Holz Als Ron und Werkstoff; 43: 518–519.

TS 2470 (1976). Wood - Sampling Methods and General Requirements for Physical and Mechanical Tests. Turkish Standards Institution, Ankara-Turkey.

Uysal B, Ozoitci A (2000). İhnamur (Morus Alba Lipsky) odunundan PVAc tutkalı ile üretilen lame ağaç malzemelerin yanma özellikleri. Gazi Univ. J. Sci. Technol. 15: 121-131.

Uysal B, Ozoitci A (2004). The effects of impregnation chemicals on combustion properties of laminated wood material. Combustion Science & Technology, 176(1): 117-133.

Williams RS, Knanbe MT, Feist WC (1996). Finishes for exterior wood selection application and maintenance. Forest Products Society: USDA Forest Service, p. 127.

Yalinkiliç MK, Ors Y (1996). Duglas göknarı (Pseudotsuga Menziesii F.) odununun anatomin ve çeşitli kimyasal maddelerle emprenye edilebileme özellikleri. Turkish J. Agric. Forestry, 4: 142-150.