

Newsletter 161

5 October 2009



Dear Members,

REVIEW OF OUR REGIONAL MEETINGS

Thank you to all who attended our recent round of Regional Meetings and our Annual General Meeting – especially as the Post Office went on strike as we posted your invitations. We are still concerned with the attendance of our treater members at some of the regions, especially in the light of the topical issues that were discussed and where we would like more input and discussion from the treaters.

CHEMICAL FORUM AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At the Executive Committee Meeting held on the 16th of September it was agreed that in the future, we will be publishing extracts from the minutes of all our Chemical Forum and Executive meetings. This will hopefully ensure that there is more open communication and transparency. In this way we also hope to highlight the various projects that SAWPA is involved in. Please see below under 'Talking Rot' one of the projects just completed with a positive outcome. The agendas of both the Chemical Forum and the Executive Committee, held on the 15th and 16th respectively, contained all of the issues that were discussed at the regional meetings. Of the issues the following three were of the more salient ones raised and which members need to have more information on.

Chemical Forum Status: It was agreed that the Chemical Forum will continue as it is currently constituted but that any member may by prior arrangement request to attend and partake in the chemical forum meetings and it was further agreed that this in fact has always been the case. In January we will publish a schedule for the 2010 regional, chemical and executive meetings as well as the Annual General meeting. Should you wish to attend or raise anything at any of the meetings, please do not hesitate to contact us in this regard.

New Waste Management Regulations: The new regulations that entails that plants are no longer entitled to store chemical waste e.g. CCA sludge for longer than three months, and that only registered/licensed Waste Management and Disposal companies are allowed to store (for longer than three months) and dispose of such waste, was discussed and it was agreed by the Executive Committee that the matter be taken up in the proposed Environmental Charter Working Group for discussion and finding ways of dealing with the new regulations.

Proposed Regulations for the Registration Pest Control Operators: The proposed regulations which in its proposed form will have a direct impact on all industrial wood preservation plants were discussed and the executive Committee decided that SAWPA meets with the Department of Agriculture to discuss the matter. (More details on the proposed regulations and the outcome of the meeting held with the Registrar are given later on in this newsletter.)

THE NEW PRESSURE EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

SAWPA has received final clarity from the Department of Labour on the interpretation of the new Pressure Equipment Regulations. It seems that in the process of developing the new regulations some unfortunate oversights crept into the document causing doubts in various industries to whom the regulations apply/may apply to. We have now been informed that the regulation (6) pertaining to "Users" were also intended to be part of the exclusions in regulation 2 (2) and therefore **it does not apply to pressure equipment in use or on order prior to the publication of the new regulations.** Please note that the exclusion is not applicable to treatment cylinders containing internal steam pipes for heating creosote. Members must please contact SAWPA if they have any uncertainty on whether the regulations apply to them or not. The department has however informed us that the possible inclusion of all treatment cylinders into the regulations in future can not be excluded.

The exclusion on pressure cylinders in use prior to the publication of the new regulations being published transpired from the exclusion in the regulation published in GNR 1591 of 4 October which states: *...but does not include (b) a vessel in which the pressure is exerted by a liquid the temperature of which does not exceed the boiling point of the liquid at atmospheric pressure and in which a cushion of gas or vapour cannot form above the liquid.* If you therefore operate your cylinder outside of the parameters given in this exclusion given in the 1996 regulations, the 2009 regulations automatically applies to you.

UPDATE ON NRCS APPROVALS PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION

SAWPA had a meeting with the representative of the NRCS and would like to give the following feedback to our members. The 3rd of October will not materialize as the effective date for the implementation of the compulsory specification VC9101 as originally gazetted on the 3rd of April. In order for the NRCS to have implement the compulsory specification, sufficient time had to be given to preservative treatment plants to apply for and get approval from the NRCS. In light of the fact that the NRCS is still in the process of drawing up the official application form, which treaters need to complete and submit in order to get approval, and the fact that consultative meetings still have to take place with the stakeholders and their representative bodies , e.g. SAWPA, to discuss the levy structure, we should expect the actual implementation to only take effect early in 2010. The NRCS is not in a position to commit to any dates, and its basically a case of "It will be ready when its ready". SAWPA has already, on behalf of our members, embarked on the process of obtaining the necessary documentation of conformance that need to accompany the application forms

PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PEST CONTROL OPERATORS

SAWPA has been fortunate to get hold of proposed regulations (Gazetted February 2009) for the registration of pest control operators through one of our Chemical Supplier members, prior to its final approval. The proposed regulations included "Wood preservation" and thus entails that all preservative treatment plants in specific the treatment plant operators and staff working closely to the actual treatment process have to undergo training as pest control operators and then apply for registration with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in order for them to continue applying wood preservative chemicals to timber. In a meeting with the Registrar it was agreed that SAWPA be given the opportunity to lodge a motivation and appeal on why the Industrial Timber Preservation Industry need not be included in the proposed regulations. This motivation was forwarded to the Registrar on the 22nd of September and we are awaiting a response from the Registrar.

SAWPA had 17773 hits on its website during August 2009 and 18940 during September 2009

We attach a copy of an article which appeared in the Building Africa magazine, August 2009 Vol 9 No 8

TALKING ROT

During July 2009 SAWPA was advised of a paint on timber sealer on the market, containing a pesticide/fungicide which was being sold prior to being registered with the Department of Agriculture. We contacted the manufacturer/supplier and they noted our concerns and with immediate effect withdrew the information regarding this product from their website, and pledged not to further supply the product into the market until it has been successfully registered. (Copies of the correspondence are available from SAWPA).

SAWPA accepts no responsibility for any claim made in this newsletter.

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