

# Newsletter 162

23 November 2009



Dear Members,

## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER

The members who attended the regional meetings will recall that it was mentioned at the meetings that SAWPA was to embark on the development of an Environmental Charter for the Wood Preservation Industry. Over the past few weeks a small working group has put together a draft Environmental Charter (see attachment) as a base document. **This serves as a call to our members to peruse the draft and to submit comments and contributions to SAWPA.** Your time and efforts are highly appreciated. Please note as this is only the first draft and your input and contributions are of value as it is important that the charter is supported by the members and other industry stakeholders.

## RED LABEL REVIEW OF CCA – Update

During the first quarter of the year the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 requested each **manufacturer/supplier** of class 1 red label pesticides, e.g. CCA in the case of the wood preservation industry, to inform the registrar by the end of May 2009 whether they intend to continue the registration of CCA, and to submit by the end of September a well substantiated scientific motivation (including proposed risk management tools to address the risks), for maintaining the registration. Subsequent to this SAWPA received a letter from the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October calling for **all users** of CCA to submit a motivation on why the users deemed it important for the survival of our industry together with substantiated documented facts. SAWPA sent out a letter to all the members on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October informing them on the latest developments and calling for input and contributions should they wish to do so. The letter also made mention of a request to the Registrar to allow SAWPA, as a representative body to its members, to submit a motivation on behalf of the members and the industry. The Registrars office has kindly accepted the request and I would like to inform the members that I have already drafted a submission for the registrar, and will, after some final alterations, additions and further consultation, be circulating it to the members for their comments and approval. To assist us in formulating some of the numbers required we will appreciate it if you could supply us with the following information:

Name of your company: \_\_\_\_\_ (to keep track on who's information has been received)  
Number of employees: \_\_\_\_\_ (in the case of sawmills, only those at CCA plant)  
Total monthly remuneration for the plant: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that all information supplied will be treated in confidence and is purely for SAWPA to use in justifying the continued use of CCA treatment in the timber treatment industry.

## SAWPA JOINED AS THIRD PARTY IN LESOTHO STEEL VS NFP CASE

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November a notice was served upon SAWPA where we were notified of Natal Forest Products motion to the High Court of Pietermaritzburg to join SAWPA as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third party to the case between Lesotho Steel (plaintiff) and NFP (defendant) relating to transmission poles supplied and subsequently being failed following a third party inspection. NFP believes that SASOL (1<sup>st</sup> Third party), as the manufacturer of the creosote and SAWPA, who in their "opinion" was responsible for the changes to the creosote standards (which in their opinion led to the poles failing), should be held liable for the claim instituted against NFP.

SAWPA has taken legal advice and has appointed legal council who will be opposing the claim for contribution by SAWPA as the party responsible for the standard changes.

Over the past couple of years there has been opinions raised in communiqués with regards to the creosote quality, mostly derived from "information specifically selected" to support an opinion based on a lack of knowledge and assumptions, and not based on specific researched and proven facts. Research which coincidentally was offered and arranged by SAWPA at the time, but declined by the party/s involved.

Something to ponder: *"If you are prepared to take shortcuts, then accept were it takes you"*

## PART-TIME WOOD PRODUCTS SCIENCE CERTIFICATE AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, FOR MECHANICAL WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

From 2010, the Department of Forest and Wood Science at Stellenbosch University will be offering a Wood Products Science Certificate on a part-time basis. The Certificate consists of a minimum of seven undergraduate semester modules in Wood Products Science selected from a total of 10 modules. Each module covers a specific subject area – these are the same modules presented to undergraduate students in the degree programme. Modules range from the basic wood science disciplines like wood anatomy, physics and chemistry to applied disciplines like, wood products manufacturing and wood finishing. The theoretical part of the Certificate can be completed at the workplace/home and is followed up with practical sessions at Stellenbosch at the end of each semester. The Certificate is aimed at professionals working in the wood products sector and that have an appropriate scientific or technical background education and / or appropriate work experience but do not have a formal tertiary educational background in Wood Products Science.

For additional information please contact us and we will gladly forward you the complete brochure. Alternatively you can contact either Brand Wessels at Tel: 021 808 3319, Fax: 021 808 3603, e-mail: [cbw@sun.ac.za](mailto:cbw@sun.ac.za) or Tim Rypstra at Tel: 021 808 3317, Fax: 021 808 3603. e-mail: [tr@sun.ac.za](mailto:tr@sun.ac.za) .

### SIREX (Control Programme)

The Sirex wood wasp flight season in late 2008 (November and December) was monitored with panel traps and kairomone lures. The wasp was present in the Greytown area and moved to Vryheid in 2008. In 2009, the Vryheid to Paulpietersburg area was surveyed to detect trees infested with the wasp larvae after the traps had caught several wasps. The infested trees were inoculated with the biological control agent, *Beddingia siricidicola*, a nematode which interrupts the egg production within the female wasp. The Normandene area was also inspected and inoculated. The 2009 flight season is being monitored by traps that cover the area from Paulpietersburg to Louis Trichardt. In total, 129 sites have been identified. Contractors in Vryheid, Sabie and Louis Trichardt will monitor these traps weekly until the end of the year, collecting all the insects that have been attracted to these traps. These results will allow for the introduction of biological control agents into the newly affected area within the first six months of 2010. Anyone seeing these traps is requested to leave them alone.

Further information is available from Philip Croft, FSA Sirex Coordinator, P O Box 100281, Scottsville, 3209. Tel. No. (033) 386-2314 Fax No. (033) 386 8905 Cell No. 072 272 9326 E-mail [Philip.croft@icfr.ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Philip.croft@icfr.ukzn.ac.za)

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SAWPA had 21169 hits on its website during October 2009

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### IN MEMORIUM

It is with sadness and regret that we inform you of the tragic passing of Mark Armitage from Glenathol Forest Products. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

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### TALKING ROT

- Nengo Enterprises ([w\\_oduor@hotmail.com](mailto:w_oduor@hotmail.com)) is interested in acquiring a used treatment plant for power transmission poles. He would be interested to contact you should you wish to dispose of any equipment in operational condition.
  - A CCA treatment plant near Kampala is looking for a plant manager. Ideally this person should be single and about 25 years old. Please contact SAWPA should you require further information
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*We wish all our members peace and prosperity  
for the festive season and the New Year  
God bless*

BRUCE BREEDT

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

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