Newsletter 163

2 February 2010

Dear Members,

WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2010

REGIONAL MEETING CALENDER 2010

SAWPA has arranged for two rounds of Regional Meetings for our members during 2010. We look forward to meeting with you again at a venue nearest to you. Venues will be advised.

Round 1		***Round 2***	
Feb 23	***Southern & Eastern Cape***	***Aug 23***	***Kwa Zulu Natal***
Feb 26	***Western Cape***	***Aug 27***	***Gauteng***
March 2	***Limpopo***	***Aug 31***	***Limpopo***
March 5	***Gauteng***	***Sept 2***	***Mpumalanga***
March 9	***Mpumalanga***	***Sept 6***	***Western Cape***
March 12	***Kwa Zulu Natal***	***Sept 10***	***Southern & Eastern Cape***
March 24	***Chemical Forum***	***Sept 21***	***Chemical Forum***
March 25	***Executive Committee***	***Sept 22***	***Executive Committee & AGM***

An Agenda for the forthcoming regional meetings will be forwarded to the members by mid February. Please notify us of any specific matter which you would like to add to agenda for the first round of meetings. This is the members forum and opportunity to raise concerns and issues which you feel need to be addressed.

CCA CLASS 1 REVIEW

SAWPA would like to thank all those CCA treaters (non members included) by supplying us with the information for our motivation for the red label review of CCA. All but four CCA treaters countrywide participated, three of which we weren't able to make contact with – this in itself is very encouraging. The final submission was handed to the Registrars office on Friday the 29th of January.

The full submission is available on request and can also be viewed on our website under topical issues.

NRCS APPLICATIONS

SAWPA is still collecting the application forms for the NRCS Approval Process regarding the implementation of the compulsory specification. Please forward your form to SAWPA as soon as possible, if you have not already done so, as SAWPA is helping to facilitate this process on behalf of our members. Please do not hesitate to contact SAWPA should your require forms. The closing date for registration is the 31st of March 2010.

Of the forms already received some were incorrectly completed and had to be returned for corrections. Those who still need to complete the forms should please take note of the following:

Form VC 9091-C

- Complete sections A, C and D.
- The identification mark of the plant refers to the distinct trade mark displayed on your markers in the case of poles and ink stamps in the case of treated sawn timber.

Form VC9091-B1

- The identification mark of the plant – See above
- In Column 3 under treatment process you need to specify the process that you use when treating as given in SANS 10005 clause 8.2, e.g. Hot & cold open tank process, High pressure - (Bethell) full-cell process or (Rueping) empty-cell process.
- In Column 5 under Compliance standard you need to indicate the chemical standard, e.g. for CCA – SANS 673, for Creosote – SANS 616, for Borate – SANS 871, for TBTNP – SANS 1476 etc (see table 1 in SANS 10005).
- Only complete the areas next to the standards and H classes for which you are certified as per schedule 1 of your permit conditions.

REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PEST CONTROL OPERATORS

Current regulations (Government gazette No. 3593, R 1449 of 1 July 1983) as well as the proposed new regulations (Gazette No. 31894, R 154 of 20 Feb 2009) require that any person who, for reward, applies a registered agricultural remedy (including Wood preservatives) shall be registered as a pest control operator. Wood Preservation is given as one of the fields, and therefore all treatment plant operators or supervisors (were permanent supervision is at hand) have to be registered and a prerequisite for such registration is successfully attending a SETA accredited Pest Control Operators training course.

On the 18th of December the Registrar circulated a new draft version for comments as amended following receipt of comments on the initial proposal. The registrar requested all stakeholders to submit comment on the latest version by the 30th of January 2010, whereby SAWPA arranged a meeting with the registrar to discuss the regulations and its impact on our industry.

At the meeting our industry and the regulations applicable on compulsory treatment (history and current) was explained to the Registrar. The Registrar indicated that it was not the intention of his department to over regulate any industry which is already well regulated. He suggested that SAWPA should submit a proposal outlining suggested wording for the draft regulations specifying the criteria for P registration specific to primary wood preservation. SAWPA has submitted a proposal to the registrar which is short states that the possession of NRCS approval and SABS or SATAS certification should be the P registration criteria, as plant and staff competence is prerequisite for NRCS approval and product certification.

SAWPA has submitted its proposal and comments and we will keep our members posted. The comments and proposal is available on request.

SAWPA had 18719 and 15482 hits on its website during November and December 2009 respectively

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TALKING ROT

SAWPA recently received the following email enquiring about galvanized or Zincalume roof sheets being used directly on CCA-treated wood. The writer also enquired about alternatives for CCA.

"I am investigating the potential problems that we may have with using galvanized or Zincalume roof sheets directly on CCA-treated wood. If there are any moisture present at the timber-roof sheet interface, a corrosion cell forms between the copper in the timber and the zinc layer on the roof sheet and that eats away at the zinc layer.

The only real alternatives to the heavy-duty CCA-treatment for internal/external structural timber appears to be

- *a borate compound, but this is non-fixed, thus susceptible to leaching out of the wood and needs further protective coats*
- *a light organic solvent preservative such as Tributyltinoxide Lindane that must be protected further on all external areas*

These products appear to be organic and hopefully have no adverse reaction with galvanizing. Do you have any more information on this?

- *My concern is the commercial availability of this alternatively treated timber. Is it readily available from suppliers or do they need to take special orders for this?*
- *Will the above-mentioned treatments be suitable for "open" internal use, e.g. low cost housing where there are no ceilings and where condensation is likely to occur? Under these conditions: is the risk for leaching significant?*
- *Some part of the timber will be external as it protrudes through external walls. We specify the painting of these areas with carbolineum/creosote. Is this sufficient when either of the above-mentioned alternative treatments were to be specified?"*

Below is our response. We received a grateful reply from the writer thanking us for the useful information.

CCA is the most widely used wood preservative for the treatment of Structural Timber, whether it's sawn or roundwood poles.

Alternatives for CCA such as ACQ and Copper Azole preservatives has been developed but testing done internationally has indicated that these products are more corrosive towards galvanized steel.

Both the chemicals mentioned by yourself is only intended for H2, dry interior applications, and are both leachable from the timber when exposed to exterior weathering such as precipitation, one therefore has to ensure that the roof nails do not leak. TBTN is traditionally used for flooring and joinery and not roofing timbers. Furthermore TBTOL Lindane is no longer allowed to be used in South Africa as all products containing Lindane has been banned. The replacement is TBTNP (Tributiltyn-nephtanate Permithrin) but it has exactly the same end use application as TBTOL.

Both Borate and TBTNP has been used in H3, exterior above ground conditions provided that the timber is continuously maintained with a suitable water resistant sealer (including hand application of creosote on a regular basis). This could be suitable for the extended areas protruding through the walls.

CCA however remains the best option for long term durability of the timber. CCA treated Timber is unfortunately in many cases applied into roof trusses prior to its attaining its required fixation and pre-treatment moisture content which could lead to early onset of corrosion when introduced to galvanised sheets.

My advice would be to ensure that the treated timber has had the opportunity to fixate (at least 7 days) and that the moisture content of the treated timber has dried to below 17% before fixing the galvanized sheathing.

Further measure of insulation can be applied to ensure that no moisture is able to get to the interface post erection.

Regards
Bruce Breedt

BRUCE BREEDT