

Newsletter 164

29 March 2010



Dear Members,

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 you require forms. Although we have requested the NRCS for an extension on the the original closing date of the 31st of March 2010, we urge you to send the forms as soon as possible to prevent a bottle neck with the compiling of the submission packs.

TWO START INCREMENT BORERS

Members may be interested to note that Increment borers are now also available in a two start version, which according to Inglar Haglof, is more suitable for use in hardwood species, opposed to the three start version we have come to know and use in South Africa. Here is an extract from a report on recent tests carried out by SATAS on eucalyptus poles using both the three start and two start increment borers. The tests were done on request from Alternative Structures:

“The initial starting of the drilling is the same on both of the borers. When starting you need to thrust the point of the borer into the timber so as to penetrate into a pole for 1mm or 2mm. The two start does however turn a lot better once it has cut into the first bit of thread and makes drilling much easier. As an Inspection body we drill a minimum of 64 poles per inspector per week on average, but it can be exceptionally higher depending on the production of a plant. An operator may drill 32 poles a day on average so it might be beneficial to have an Operator give their experience on the borer too. In my opinion the two start is a better borer and requires less effort or strain than the three start.”

Please contact Philip Boardman from Alternative structure should you require more information on the 2 start borer. We also have an interesting article on ‘Inglar Haglof – a legend in the woods’ which is available from SAWPA electronically. The article is interesting to read and gives the history of increment borers since the end of the 19th century.

TALKING ROT

We thought this following report might be interesting reading for our members and in no way do SAWPA support the content as accurate or unbiased towards the alternatives to CCA.

The report “An Overview of Treated Wood Usage” was received from the TWC (Treated Wood Council in the USA) and was written by the Mid-America Lumbermen’s Association (MALA), documenting a declining percentage of treated lumber retention compliance rates in Missouri and suggesting new legislation to increase penalties for wood treaters.

AN OVERVIEW OF TREATED WOOD USAGE

While treated wood may not be the leading product sold by retail lumber and material dealers, it is still a product that is important to the retail building materials community. The information presented here has been gathered from conversations with industry experts, research of past trends and records, and observation of field inventory reports.

In our region, only the State of Missouri has an active treated wood oversight and testing program. A stringent process is in place for field-testing of treated wood sold in Missouri whether treated here or delivered from out of state. The State of Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) has a budget and staff to implement their treated wood law. Sample reports have been shared with MLA for the past eight months. During that time, the retention level of treatment necessary to comply with American Wood Preservers Association Standards (AWPA) has been declining. As this continued, MLA looked into why this trend was occurring. This is an overview of contributing factors.

1. When reviewing MDA reports, we see a marked decline in approvals after CCA was eliminated in residential usage. The primary reason for this relates to the cost of the new treatments. The Azole in the Copper Azole used in today's treatment process is approximately 4-5 times more expensive than CCA. CCA was also less corrosive to the equipment used in the treating process thus aiding in reduced maintenance costs. The level of treatment required for compliance under AWPA standards was easily obtained and in most cases exceeded. Many times a .40 on-grade retention specification was treated to .42 (per sq. ft.) and the manufacturer was still able to generate a profit.
2. MDA's acceptance rate when CCA was utilized as a treatment for residential usage was 85 percent of samples tested in the field.
3. CCA was much easier to formulate for treating. The new generation of wood-treatment products is more difficult to formulate and harder on the equipment used in the treating process, which results in higher equipment maintenance costs.
4. Real concerns were raised with the advent of Micronized Copper Azole (MCA). The Azole component in particular is not as easy to mix in the treating process as CCA. For example, if the number "1" is the standard for treated-wood performance as stated by AWPA, manufacturers now try to get as close to that number as possible without exceeding it. Using excessive product leads to higher costs. Where .42 on .40 compliance could still produce a profit for the manufacturer using CCA, (continuing with our example) a 1.2 over a 1 could result in the manufacturer sustaining a loss rather than a profit on that treated wood.
5. The equipment required for testing Azole is approximately \$90,000. Very few labs have such equipment and most states simply do not have the budget to purchase it. The Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) has the equipment and test samples can be outsourced to them to determine retention values. (The approximate cost for testing is \$50 per sample.) Due to the cost, not as many core samples can be tested from field inventories.
6. It is generally accepted that the European market is more advanced in developing treated products for the future. As of this writing, there is no treatment on the horizon that will take the place of the current ones in the marketplace. It is also extremely unlikely CCA will ever be allowed back on the market for residential usage.
7. Because the tolerances are so tight, a great deal of "under-treating" is occurring based on field test samples taken over the past eight months. Rather than take any chances of going over the minimum retention level, manufacturers are hitting the bare minimum for retention or – most often – falling short of that number.
8. Very few states have oversight to monitor core samples in the field. Missouri is one of the few. At this writing, the acceptance level of samples in the field is 58 percent (compared to the 85 percent for CCA) and this number continues to decline.
9. It is believed that with no incentives to the manufacturer to achieve the AWPA retention level, the percentage numbers shown will plateau or continue to slowly decline.
10. This is a problem only with treated wood used for residential usage. No such concerns are expressed in commercial, industrial or agricultural usage of treated wood stock.

CALL TO ACTION

The bottom line is that under-treatment leaves the building material dealer exposed to liability issues. If wood is not treated to the retention levels specified by AWPA, a failure of the under-treated product is a very real possibility. Even if the product label says it is treated to a given specification, and a post failure field test reveals it was not treated to the proper specification, the dealer could easily be co joined in a lawsuit with the manufacturer. Such case history exists with other products.

All dealers need to be aware of this situation. One possible solution we are considering is introduction of legislation that would provide penalty provisions (fines) when under-treatment is determined by core field samples. By doing so, the level of treatment for all wood would be raised and the states without such oversight would benefit from this action.

The alternative would be for wood treaters to voluntarily improve their compliance levels. It is our belief that if one manufacturer improves their process to better meet compliance numbers, the others will also. The Missouri Department of Agriculture is currently considering a public posting of all test results on their Web site. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not the public would pay attention or even understand the findings of these samples, but lumber dealers certainly would, and this direction is being very seriously considered by the Department.

These two ideas are by no means a total or perfect solution, but it is a start. The key here is dealer awareness. Before we pursue a legislative option, we wanted to bring these issues to your attention. We appreciate your comments and feedback. Please feel free to contact Art Brown at the MLA office for further discussion on this matter.

MINIMUM WAGES

We recently received an inquiry from one of our members on the minimum wages that were set for Forestry workers. Because many of our members have a interest in both forestry as well as preservative treatment we decided to include information for Forestry Workers, as supplied by Forestry South Africa, as well as the wage agreement as agreed for the Sawmilling chamber by the National Bargaining Council for the Wood and Paper industry (NBCWP).

1. FORESTRY WORKERS: W.E.F. 1ST APRIL 2010

With effect from 1st April 2010 the minimum wage applicable to forestry workers will increase by 7.3%. This increase, as shown in the table below, is derived from applying the December 2009 CPI figure (excluding owners' equivalent rent) of 6.3% plus 1%.

Period	1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2010	1 st April 2010 – 31 st March 2011	Increase in Rands
Per Month	R 1138.71	R 1221. 83	R 83.12
Per Week	R 262.80	R 281. 98	R 19.18
Per Hour	R 5.84	R 6.26	R 0.42

Courtesy FSA

2. SAWMILL WORKERS W.E.F. 1ST JULY 2009 to 30 JUNE 2010 (extract from NBCWP agreement)

WAGES

The wages of all wage-earning employees shall increase as follows:

- 2.1 An increase of 7.6% across the board on actual basic wage with effect 1 July 2009, and
- 2.2 A further increase of 1.0% across the board on actual basic wage with effect 1 January 2010, and
- 2.3 The actual basic wage referred to in 2.1 and 2.2 above shall be the actual basic wage applicable as at 30 June 2009.

MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum wage payable by the employer's who are signatories to this agreement shall be R1 505.00 per month with effect from 1 July 2009, increasing to R1 519.00 per month with effect 1 January 2010

SAWPA had 19111 and 18346 hits on its website during January and February 2010 respectively

BRUCE BREEDT

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

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Nuusbrief 164

29 Maart 2010



Beste Lede

NRVS AANSOEKE

SAWPA is steeds besig met die opname van aansoekvorms vir die NRVS goedkeuringsproses t.o.v. die implementering van die verpligte spesifikasie. Stuur asseblief u vorms so gou moontlik aan SAWPA, indien u dit nie reeds gedoen het nie, aangesien SAWPA betrokke is met fasilitering van die proses namens ons lede. Moet asseblief nie huiwer om ons te kontak indien u van die vorms benodig nie. Alhoewel ons reeds die NRVS versoek het om die aanvanklike sluitingsdatum van 31 Maart uit te stel, wil ons u egter versoek om steeds u vorms deur te stuur om sodoede 'n ongewenste opeenhoping te vermy met die sammestelling van die aansoeke.

TWEE SPIRAAL AANWASBOOR

Lede mag geïntereesd wees in die feit dat aanwasbore nou ook in 'n twee spiraal' tipe beskikbaar is, wat volgens 'Haglof', ook meer geskik is vir gebruik by die boor van harde hout spesies, in teenstelling met die "drie spiraal" tipe waarmee on reeds bekend is in Suid Afrika. Hier is 'n uittreksel van 'n verslag op onlangse toetse deur SATAS uitgevoer op bloekompale, waar hulle beide tipes gebruik het. Die toetse was op versoek van Alternative Structures gedoen.

"The initial starting of the drilling is the same on both of the borers. When starting you need to thrust the point of the borer into the timber so as to penetrate into a pole for 1mm or 2mm. The two start does however turn a lot better once it has cut into the first bit of thread and makes drilling much easier. As an Inspection body we drill a minimum of 64 poles per inspector per week on average, but it can be exceptionally higher depending on the production of a plant. An operator may drill 32 poles a day on average so it might be beneficial to have an Operator give their experience on the borer too. In my opinion the two start is a better borer and requires less effort or strain than the three start."

Kontak asseblief vir Philip Boardman van Alternative Structures indien u meer inligting aangaande die twee spiraal aanwasboor wil hê. Ons het ook 'n interessante artikel oor 'Inglar Haglof – a legend in the woods' wat op versoek beskikbaar is van SAWPA in elektroniese formaat. Die artikel handel oor die geskiedenis van aanwasbore sedert die einde van die 19de eeu.

NUUS BROKKIES

Die volgende artikel is slegs ingesluit as interessante leesstof vir ons lede en SAWPA ondersteun geensins die akuraatheid van die feite of onpartydigheid daarvan teenoor die alternatiewe vir CCA nie.

Die verslag, "An Overview of Treated Wood Usage", is deur die TWC (Treated Wood Council) uit die VSA aan ons gestuur en is deur die Mid-America Lumbermen's Association (MALA), geskryf. Dit handel oor die sogenaamde dalende persentasie van die behandelde hout retensievoldoeningskoers in Missouri, en stel ook nuwe wetgewing voor (verhoogde boetes) vir behandelars wat oortree.

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11. When reviewing MDA reports, we see a marked decline in approvals after CCA was eliminated in residential usage. The primary reason for this relates to the cost of the new treatments. The Azole in the Copper Azole used in today's treatment process is approximately 4-5 times more expensive than CCA. CCA was also less corrosive to the equipment used in the treating process thus aiding in reduced maintenance costs. The level of treatment required for compliance under AWPA standards was easily obtained and in most cases exceeded. Many times a .40 on-grade retention specification was treated to .42 (per sq. ft.) and the manufacturer was still able to generate a profit.
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MINIMUM LONE

Een van ons lede het onlangs navraag gedoen oor die minimum lone vir bosbouwerkers. Deurdat baie van ons lede betrokke is in beide bosbou sowel as houtbehandeling het ons besluit om die inligting vir albei te publiseer. Die meegaande inligting is verkry van Bosbou Suid-Afrika en die Nasionale Bedingingsraad vir die Hout-en Papierbedryf (NBRHP).

1. BOSBOUWERKERS: Effektief 1 APRIL 2010

Met effek 1 April 2010 sal die minimum loon van toepassing op bosbouwerkers verhoog met 7.3%. Die verhoging, soos aangedui in die tabel hieronder, is bereken deur die Desember 2009 VPI syfer van 6.3% plus 1% te gebruik.

Periode	1 April 2009 – 31 Maart 2010	1 April 2010 – 31 Maart 2011	Styging in Rand
Per Maand	R 1138.71	R 1221. 83	R 83.12
Per Week	R 262.80	R 281. 98	R 19.18
Per Uur	R 5.84	R 6.26	R 0.42

Courtesy FSA

2. SAAGMEULWERKERS: Effektief 1 JULIE 2009 tot 30 JUNIE 2010 (uittreksel uit die NBRHP ooreenkoms)

LONE

Die lone vir alle loonwerkers sal soos volg verhoog:

- 2.2 'n verhoging van 7.6% op werklike basiese loon met effek 1 Julie 2009, en
- 2.4 'n verdere verhoging van 1.0% op die werklike basiese loon met effek 1 Januarie 2010, en
- 2.5 die werklike basiese loon soos na verwys in 2.1 and 2.2 hierbo sal die werklike basiese loon wees na 30 Junie 2009.

MINIMUM LOON

Die minimum loon betaalbaar deur werkgwers wat hierdie ooreenkoms onderteken het, sal R1 505.00 per maand wees vanaf 1 Julie 2009, wat verhoog tot R1 519.00 per maand vanaf 1 Januarie 2010.

SAWPA het gedurende Januarie and Februarie 2010 onderskeidelik 19111 en 18346 besoeke aan ons webtuiste gehad

BRUCE BREEDT

SAWPA neem geen verantwoordelikheid vir enige stelling gemaak in hierdie nuusbrieff nie.

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