Newsletter 165

14 May 2010

Dear Members,

NRCS APPLICATIONS

All applications received by SAWPA from members who are certified with SATAS have been handed in to the NRCS and are being processed. Members should have received an email copy of the proof of receipt from us.

The SABS Accreditation Management Department is currently amending all Schedule 1's (the 2nd page to the Permit Conditions) to include the treatment process used e.g. full-cell Bethell process. As soon as SAWPA receives the schedule 1's from the SABS, the applications we received from our members certified by the SABS will be submitted to the NRCS and SAWPA will supply these members with proof of receipt.

The NRCS is aware of the backlog and has given an extension for these applications.

NRCS Industry Stakeholder meetings

26 March 2010

A meeting was held on the 26 March 2010 with the NRCS and members of the wood preservation industry. All industry representatives present at the meeting were extremely dissatisfied with the contents, the spirit in which it was presented and the outcome of this meeting for the following reasons:

- SAWPA has not received any minutes to date of this meeting and it appeared during the meeting that no notes were taken
- The message and content of the presentation conveyed to the meeting was in total contrast to what was discussed in meetings between 2006 to 2008.
- During the meeting concern with regards contrasting facts were raised, and it appeared that the NRCS spokesperson was not up to date with what had transpired at previous meetings
- The extent of the involvement of the NRCS inspectors at the manufacturing facilities and their frequency of their visits was questioned. This could duplicate the activities and responsibility of the certification bodies.
- It was thought that the purpose of the NRCS was to focus on regulating the illegal treaters and treating facilities who do not comply, however the spokesperson emphasized taking a much more active role in regulating the structured part of industry.
- The Chairman commented that in the future the NRCS may appoint enough inspectors to take over the auditing and conformity assessment responsibilities.
- The new proposed levy to be charged by the NRCS was R1,71/m^3 (previously a levy of 30c/m^3 was discussed). This huge difference is unacceptable leading to negative effects on the profitability of an industry already struggling with the effects of the recession. The proposed levy is in contrast with the content of their own impact assessment where it stated that the costs of regulating would be minimal.
- Those present at the meeting represented the industry in South Africa. On numerous occasions the members were silenced by the spokesperson and were not given sufficient time and opportunity to state their opinion on what had been discussed in previous meetings.

SAWPA has lodged a complaint in writing to the CEO of the NRCS. Please contact us should you wish to receive a copy of the full letter. In response to our letter the NRCS has called for a meeting with SAWPA on the 17th May 2010.

IMPORTANT 21 May 2010

An invitation to industry stakeholders for the next meeting scheduled for 21 May was received by SAWPA early on the 13th of May. We have already lodged our dissatisfaction with the short notice period and informed them that should the meeting continue and not be well represented, then we will insist on a follow up meeting. Should the meeting continue, members are urged to attend the meeting so that we can voice our concerns and take an active role in determining how the NRCS involvement will affect our industries future. The full details of the invitation is attached (please note RSVP details).

TALKING ROT

The preservative treatment regulations that resided under the previous Consumer affairs (unfair business practices) Act was repealed and replaced by VC 9101, the Compulsory specification for the preservative treatment of timber for which applications for approval must be submitted to the NRCS.

It is also very important that suppliers of treated timber make sure that they inform their customers (retailers, contractors, end users) of the Hazard and end use classes of the treated products supplied to them and that these customers in turn should inform the consumer of this. This will ensure that the end user cannot hold the treater responsible for premature failure if the product is applied in the incorrect hazard condition e.g. H3 in H4 ground contact.

Please remember that SAWPA has promotional posters and information sheets available to you that give this information and these sheets provide the space for the treater to attach or stamp on their own details.

SAWPA had 20258 and 18204 hits on its website during March and April 2010 respectively

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TASA CONFERENCE

Bruce Breedt attended the annual Thatcher's' Association of South Africa National Congress that was held on the 8th of May in Pringle Bay, Western Cape. Bruce gave a presentation at the Congress on wood preservation covering the reasons why timber needs to be treated, the preservative methods, chemicals, hazard classes etc. The presentation was well received.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS FOR 2009

Those who were present at the last round of regional meetings will recall the discussion to continue bringing out annual industry statistics on treated timber as done in the past, but that the methodology (volumes based on chemical sales) and format previously used could no longer be applied as Dolphin Bay Chemicals is not prepared to divulge their 2009 chemical sales. At all of the regional meetings it was approved that we allow the two certification bodies, who have access to production volumes, to collate the volumes from all treaters certified by them and that these totals be passed on to SAWPA (and other bodies who would like to make use of the data) for publication as has been the practice in the past. SAWPA has formally requested the certification bodies to go ahead and they have indicated their willingness to do so. To ensure confidentiality only total volumes of the industry, with no reference to company names will be made available. It is envisaged that the data collection could take some time and that final figures for 2009 may only be available in July/August of this year. If the outcome of this proves successful it is safe to assume that the data for 2010 should be available much earlier next year

BRUCE BREEDT

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

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Nuusbrief 165

14 Mei 2010

Geagte lid,

NRCS Aansoeke

Alle aansoeke van SATAS merkhouers wat deur SAWPA in ontvangs geneem is , is reeds by die NRCS ingedien en lede sou ook reeds ‘n e-pos van ons ontvang het met ‘n afskrif van die bewys van ontvangserkenning.

Alle SABS-merkhouers se aansoeke by wat SAWPA ingedien is, sal by die NRCS ingehandig word sodra ons die gewysigde afskrifte van die skedule 1 (die 2de bladsy van die SABS permitvoorwaardes) van die SABS onvang het. Die SABS Akkreditasie-afdeling is tans besig om die skedules te wysig om die behandelings- proses, bv. volsel Bethell druk proses in te sluit. ‘n Afskrif van bewys van indiening sal aan elkeen gestuur word.

Die NRCS is bewus van die oponthoud en het uitstel vir die indiening gegee.

NRCS Vergaderings

26 Maart 2010

‘n Vergadering tussen die NRCS en bedryfsverteenwoordigers was op die 26ste Maart gehou wat uitgeloop het op ontevredenheid van almal daar teenwoordig t.o.v. die inhoud, die gees en die uitkoms van die vergadering en die redes kan kortliks as volg opgesom word:

- SAWPA het tot op hede nog nie die notule van die vergadering ontvang nie en dit het gedurende die vergadering geblyk dat daar nie notas geneem word nie.
- Die boodsakp en inhoud van die aanbieding is in totale kontras met dit wat by vorige vergaderings gehou in 2006 tot 2008 bespreek was.
- Kommer oor die kontrasterende feite is gedurende die vergadering uitgespreek en dit wou voorkom of die NRCS verteenwoordiger nie op hoogte was met wat by die vorige vergaderings gebeur het nie.
- Die voorgestelde strekking van die NRCS inspekteurs se betrokkenheid by behandelingsaanlegte en die gereeldheid daarvan is bevraagteken aangesien dit wil voorkom asof hulle die funksie van die sertifiseringsinstansies wil dupliseer.
- Dit is algemeen aanvaar dat die hoofdoel van die NRCS sou wees om te fokus op die regulering van onwettige behandelaars en behandelaars wat nie voldoen aan die vereistes nie. Afgelei van die NRCS se verteenwoordiger wou dit voorkom of hulle egter belangstel om meer te focus op reguleering van die gestruktureerde bedyf.
- Die NRCS verteenwoordiger het genoem dat hulle selfs in die toekoms meer inspekteurs mag aanstel om die kwaliteitsverifieëringsaktiwiteite van SATAS en die SABS totaal oor te neem.
- ‘n Heffings van R1,71/m^3 is voorgestel deur die NRCS (voorheen was ‘n heffing van 30c/m^3 genoem). Die verskil is enorm en totaal onaanvaarbaar en sal ‘n negatiewe effek op die koste en winsgewindheid van die bedryf hê wat reeds swaar gebuk gaan onder die nagevolge van die ressesie en afname in die konstruksiebedryf. Die heffing is in skrille kontras met die inhoud van hulle eie impakstudie waar dit gestel is dat die kostes vir regulering minimaal sal wees.
- Die breë industrie was verteenwoordig, maar etlike van die verteenwoordigers was telke male stilgemaak en nie die geleentheid gegee om hulle saak te stel of ‘n opinie te gee oor wat reeds by vorige vergaderings bespreek is.

SAWPA het ‘n amptelike klagte by die NRCS bestuur ingedien. Kontak ons asseblief indien u ‘n afskrif van die brief wil sien. Die NRCS het reeds geantwoord op ons brief en gevra om met SAWPA op die 17de Mei 2010 te vergader.

21 Mei 2010 BELANGRIK

"n Uitnodiging aan die bedryf vir die volgende vergadering geskeduleer vir die 21ste Mei was eers vroeg op die 13de Mei deur SAWPA ontvang. SAWPA het reeds ons misnoeë oor die kort kennisgewing aan die NRCS oorgedra en hulle meegedeel dat indien die vergadering sou voortgaan en daar nie voldoende en gebalenseerde verteenwoordiging is nie, ons sal aandring op 'n opvolg vergadering. Lede word ernstig versoek om indien die vergadering voortgaan, dit by te woon sodat ons as 'n bedryf ons bekommernisse kan opbring en ook verseker dat ons 'n invloed op die NRCS se toekomstige betrokkenheid in ons bedryf het. Sien asb aangehegte uitnodiging vir meer inligting rakende die vergadering (let asb op RSVP nota).

TALKING ROT

Die houtverduursamingsregulasies wat onder die Verbruikers (onbillike besigheidspraktyke) Wet geproklameer was, is onttrek en vervang deur VC 9101, die Verpligte spesifikasie vir die behandeling van hout waarvoor aansoeke vir goedkeuring tans by die NRCS ingedien word.

Dit is belangrik dat verskaffers van behandelde hout seker maak dat hul kliënte (herverkopers, kontrakteurs en eindverbruikers) deeglik ingelig word oor die gevaar en eindverbruikklasse van die behandelde hout aan hulle verskaf en dat herverkopers ook die inligting aan die verbruiker sal deurgee. Die rede is om te verseker dat u as behandelaar nie kwalik gehou word vir voortydige faling van hout omdat dit verkeerdelik aangewend was nie, bv. H3 in H4 grond kontak.

U word herriner dat SAWPA plakkate en inligtingstukke beskikbaar het waarin hierdie inligting vervat is. Die materiaal beskik ook oor oop spasies waar u maatskappy se kontakbesonderhede aangeheg kan word.

SAWPA het onderskeidelik 20258 en 18204 besoeke aan ons webtuiste gedurende Maart en April 2010 gehad

DVSA Konferensie

SAWPA het die Dekkers Vereniging van Suid Afrika se jaarlikse kongres, algemene jaarvergadering en prysuitdelingsdinee op die 8ste Mei te Pringle Baai in die Wes-Kaap bygewoon en 'n aanbieding oor houtbehandeling gedoen. Die aanbieding het in breë trekke gehandel oor die redes waarom ons hout in SA moet behandel, die metodes, chemikalieë en gevaarklasse, ens; en was goed ontvang.

INDUSTRIE STATISTIEKE VIR 2009

Die van julle wat die streeksvergaderings bygewoon het, sal onthou dat een van die besprekingspunte die voortdurende samestelling van jaarlikse statistieke vir behandelde hout was, en dat die metode (volumes gebaseer op totale chemikalieë verkoop) wat in die verlede gebruik was, nie meer gebruik kan word nie aangesien Dolphin Bay Chemicals nie bereid is om hulle volumes vir 2009 bekend te maak nie. By al die streeksvergaderings was die metode om van die twee sertifiseringsliggame, wat toegang tot die produksie volumes het, se dienste gebruik te maak om die totale volumes van hulle afsonderlike merkhouers bymekaar te maak en dan die groot totale aan SAWPA (en ander liggame wat die data sou wou gebruik) deur te gee vir bekendmaking aan die bedryf en ander belangstelendes. SAWPA het reeds 'n formele versoek aan beide die SABS en SATAS gerig en hulle het reeds hul bereidwilligheid te kenne gegee. Slegs totale volumes van die bedryf, sonder enige verwysing na individuele maatskappye sal beskikbaar gemaak word. Die verwagting is dat die invordering van die data tyd sal vat en dat die finale produksiesyfers vir 2009 eers einde Julie/Augustus beskikbaar wees. Indien die projek suksesvol is, sal dit veel makliker en vinniger gaan om die 2010 syfers reeds vroeg volgende jaar beskikbaar te stel.

BRUCE BREEDT

SAWPA aanvaar geen verandwoordelikheid vir enige aanames wat in die brief gemaak word nie

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