



Dear Members,

SAWPA REGIONAL MEETING CALENDAR

The scheduled dates for the first round of SAWPA meetings are as follows:

7 March 2011 –	Gauteng Region	14 March 2011 –	KZN
9 March 2011 –	Limpopo Region	18 March 2011 –	Southern Cape
11 March 2011 –	Mpumalanga Region	28 March 2011 –	Western Cape

The meetings will all start at 10:00. Venues will be communicated soon.

INDUSTRY RELATED MEETINGS

A NRCS Industry meeting has been scheduled for 9:00 to 11:00 on the 16th of February 2010 at the SABS Head offices in Groenkloof, the Acasia room, A block, 8th Floor. Please RSVP with Manana Makgahlela at 012 428 6377 or makgahmc@nrccs.org.za. SAWPA will be attending and will give feedback in either the next newsletter or at the regional meetings (for the members who will not be able to attend).

Agenda Items for discussion are the NRCS background, Mandate and the new Regulations to the NRCS act that was published towards the end of 2010, as well as the administration of VC9092 approvals and market surveillance. These are all issues which have previously been discussed and gauging from an enquiry to the NRCS, this meeting is more an introduction of the new General Manager to industry as well as part of the quarterly update meetings as agreed upon at previous meetings. Please contact Sue should you require more details on the agenda.

The SABS TC 218 Preservative Treatment meeting will be held on the same day at the SABS from 12:00. The meeting will include discussions on possible changes to preservative retention and penetration requirements for critical end use products i.e. utility poles and vineyard poles, treatment processes, and also the future of SANS 1288 products i.e. H4Y3 garden edging and general purpose poles. If you are not a member and want to attend the meeting please contact Anna Maepa at 012 428 7073 or maepama@sabs.co.za to become P member (voting) or O member (observer). Observers are allowed to take part in discussions and give comment which must be taken into consideration by the technical committee.

STATISTICS FOR 2010

Thanks to all for the cooperation in putting together the 2009 statistics with the help of the certification bodies. The 2009 statistics took much longer than anticipated but we believe that this was because it's the first time that actual recorded volumes were used instead of basing the volumes on chemical sales and data capturing involved more effort. SAWPA is aiming to publish the 2010 statistics before the end of the first quarter and has already engaged with the certification bodies on capturing the data. We would again like to ask the industry in cooperating with the certification bodies and I would once again like to assure you that each treatment plants data collected by the SABS or SATAS inspector is not forwarded to SAWPA but is collated into total volumes of the certification bodies permit holders before being handed to SAWPA ensuring total confidentiality of each individual treaters production data.

USE OF CERTIFICATION BODY LOGO (TRADE NAME) AND QUALITY MARK (TRADEMARK)

Recently a timber merchant was approached for the possible misuse of the SABS trademark and/or logo on his website and asked to remove it. We thought it appropriate to inform members on what is allowed, or not, with regards the use of SABS or SATAS logos or trademarks (quality mark). The **“SABS”** or **“SATAS”** logo or trade name is their distinctive “Brand” and for their use only unless approval has been asked to use it.

The quality marks may only be used by mark holders of these bodies. The mark must be applied only to products for which a manufacturer has a mark permit, but it may also be used on letterheads and other marketing material. In the latter case it must clearly indicate the product/s for which a company is certified. In other words the impression must not be given that a product for which a company is not certified is SABS or SATAS approved. In our industries case this should not be a problem as all treated timber must comply, and carry a certification mark.

Timber merchants and/or depots on the other hand, who are not the legal entity certified, cannot use the SABS or SATAS marks or logos in their marketing material, e.g. websites, billboards, pricelists and printed advertorials. Merchants may however “state” in words that they sell timber that is SATAS or SABS approved. Here is a list of possibilities which could be used:-

- “Supplier/Stockist of SABS, or SATAS approved timber”, i.e. merchants that only source from a specific treater or treaters certified by the same certification body,
- “Supplier/Stockist of SATAS and SABS approved timber”, i.e. merchants that source material from treaters certified by SATAS and SABS;
- Supplier of timber complying to and approved in accordance to National and/or Compulsory Standards.

We advise that treaters inform all merchants/depots that stock their product to contact the relevant certification body and get their approval before using any reference to their trademarks, logos or even trade name.

LYCTUS ACTIVITY

There appears to be an increase in *Lyctus* (powder post beetle) activity in seasoned untreated eucalyptus pole stock due to the favorable ambient conditions. Members are advised to be more alert in their pole grading as *Lyctus* infested timber are not suitable for treatment to SANS 457-3. See annex E of SANS 457-3 for distinguishing between *Lyctus* and *Ambrosia* damage.

TALKING ROT

- **WPA (Wood Protection Association UK) fights for Creosote - Developments in Europe:** The WPA newsletter of 18 January contained a press release on a campaign to prevent EU regulations calling time on the use of creosote as an industrial wood preservative. The question of creosote’s future remains in the balance following an inconclusive vote by EU government bodies last month. The number of votes required for a qualified majority is 255, but there was a shortfall of 36 votes. The shortfall means that the question of creosote’s future now goes before the European Council and could then be referred to the European Parliament. According to the WPA, this is a process that could take at least a further 6 months.
- **Chromium containing preservatives face uncertain EU regulatory future:** The WPA newsletter of 26 January contained a press release on what lay behind the move to chrome-free preservatives in the UK and how the loophole that enables wood treated with chromium to be imported will be closed under forthcoming EU regulations. Whilst the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) in the UK viewed chromium as an active ingredient and maintain this position, some other member states ignore the view and still accept chromium as a fixative subject to very specific EU restrictions.

- During December 2010, the SAWPA website had 13051 hits.

Please contact SAWPA should you wish to receive a copy of the above WPA newsletters and press releases.

LABOUR BILLS RELEASED FOR COMMENT

Thanks to Forestry South Africa we would like to make our members aware of four new labour related bills that were recently released (Notice No. 1112 of 17 December 2010) for comment by 17 February 2011. The bills are:

1. Labour Relations Amendment Bill
2. Employment Equity Amendment Bill
3. Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill
4. Employment Services Bill

The above-mentioned Bills are controversial in that if passed:

- contravention of the LRA, BCEA and EEA will be deemed criminal offences
- penalties for non-compliance will increase dramatically and are punitive;
- employers will have to employ all employees on a permanent basis UNLESS they can justify to DoL the use of fixed term contracts;
- Labour Brokers will be virtually regulated out of existence;
- the definition of an employee and employer will change – a Labour Broker cannot be the employer of someone he places for a client;
- equity regulations will be tightened up;
- the State will become directly involved in the Employment Agency business through the establishment of “Public Employment Services”
- the private sector will have an obligation to provide PES with various information

The Bills, if passed in their current form, will have a significant impact on the employment environment. Their focus is aimed at counteracting what is seen as the threat to worker’s wellbeing through the growing “casualisation” of jobs by regulating contracting, sub-contracting and labour broking activities. Although DoL seems to think that the Bills will result in “decent work for all” as well as a growth in employment (and competitiveness) through the provisions of the Employment Services Bill, it is viewed that rather than encouraging employers to hire more permanent staff, they will do precisely the opposite.

Forestry South Africa has drafted an official response which they kindly made available to SAWPA. We feel strong in our support to the FSA submission and will also respond to DoL in support of FSA’s Submission. Please contact Sue should you wish to see copies of the bills or the FSA summary of the bills and the Draft FSA submission

Regards

BRUCE BREEDT

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