

Newsletter 172

19 April 2011



Dear Members,

REGISTRATION WITH NRCS

Members are reminded that at a NRCS industry meeting held on 16 February, industry was informed that the new NRCS Regulations require all manufacturers of products subject to compulsory specifications to register with the NRCS. The registration must be done by each producer directly and the registration forms can be completed and submitted electronically on the NRCS website at www.nrccs.org.za. Members who don't have access to the internet and did not take a copy of the form at the regional meetings can contact the NRCS at 012 428 6723 or contact the SAWPA office for a copy. Unfortunately the NRCS does **not** except faxes or scanned e-mails of the completed forms. Please post the forms to NRCS Registrations, Private Bag X25, Brooklyn, 0075.

Please note that the registration process is not the application for approval by the NRCS (see below). All NRCS registrations must be completed by the 30th of June 2011.

NRCS APPROVALS

SAWPA has noted that the processing of the applications for approval, which started early in 2010 and of who the majority of members submitted their applications through SAWPA, has finally started. We trust that members will be receiving their letters of approval shortly. Please note that there are no reference numbers for your submissions but all submissions received a signed acknowledgement of receipt from Mr Simon Odendaal of the NRCS, which was e-mailed to you by SAWPA.

CONSUMER INFORMATION

With the recent publication of the Consumer Protection Act there have been various requests from SAWPA members on what is required from them as treaters with regards informing the buyers and consumers of treated timber on the safety and correct use of treated timber. The request was discussed at the Chemical Forum as well as the SAWPA Executive Committee meetings on the 7th of April and a decision was made to relook the current "Consumer Safety Information Sheet" available on our website as well as developing a "Product Use Information Sheet" containing information which members can then use to inform their clients.

In the interim we suggest that you make use of the "Consumer Safety Information Sheet" which is the last document on the SAWPA website under INFORMATION/TOPICAL & SAFETY ISSUES. (see www.sawpa.org.za/topical.html)

SAWPA PROMOTIONAL A1 SIZE POSTER

4000 copies of the recently launched A1 Poster were distributed as a folded insert in the February edition of Wood SA and Timber times. Copies were handed out the regional meetings and the poster was so well received and one member has already requested and distributed a further 100 copies of the poster to retailers and merchants to whom he supplies. Copies were also posted to members who could not attend the regional meetings. Should any member require more copies of the poster for distribution and display at retailers, and timber depots, please contact Sue, who will then post the requested number of poster to you. The main intention of the poster is to inform and educate users and buyers on the product use information. Interest was also shown by members on the possibility of a smaller A4 version which can be handed out at the point of sale. We have already started on a slightly revised A4 version and is in the process of obtaining quotations for the development and printing thereof.

“TREATMENT AND THE LAW” BROCHURE

The “Treatment and the Law” brochure has been revised to take out reference to previous treatment regulations in “The Unfair Business Practices Act” and to incorporate the new treatment regulations, i.e. VC 9092, *The Compulsory Specification for Preservative Treated Timber*, (National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act), as well as section A 13 of the Building Regulations which also addresses the treatment of timber.

SAWPA posted a copy of this brochure to all members on 15 April. If you require additional copies of this two sided brochure with the information in both English and Afrikaans, please do not hesitate to contact Sue for copies.

TALKING ROT

- Hits to the SAWPA website during March totalled 16990.
- For your information: Dr Harry Greaves, a Wood Products Consultant and well known expert in the Wood Preservation Field from Australia compiled a Relative lifetime risks document based on US data back in 2003 (including using CCA treated timber for decks, handrails and playgrounds)

Activity	Risk Estimate
Risk of cancer from 1 light beer a day for 1 year	1 in 50,000
Risk of being struck by lightning	1 in 10,000
Risk of cancer from eating a peanut butter sandwich per day for 1 year	1 in 100,000
Risk of cancer death from smoking 1 pack/day for 30 years	1 in 10,000
Risk of death from an accident during 50 years of driving	1 in 100
Risk of dying from cancer	1 in 4
Estimated lifetime cancer risk from As at 3ppm in soil under playgrounds	1 in 105,000
Risk of skin cancer from playing in soil under decks	1 in 1,000,000
Lifetime cancer risk from airborne As emissions from a treatment plant	1 in 2,000,000
Lifetime bladder or lung cancer risk from daily intake of drinking water containing 3µg/L As – National Research Council	1 in 1000
Lifetime risk of cancer for a baby crawling on a deck - Maas	1 in 850
Lifetime bladder cancer risk from a playground – US CPSC	1 in 10,000
Lifetime lung cancer risk from a playground – US CPSC	1 in 500,000
Lifetime risk of cancer for an adult using a handrail – Maas	1 in 1275
Risk of death from cancer from 5 years exposure to soil containing 25ppm As beneath playgrounds equipment	1 in 1,000,000
Risk of injury requiring emergency room treatment to a child playing on playground equipment over a 5 year period	1 in 250
Risk of death from injury on playground equipment over a 5 year period	1 in 3,000,000
Risk of lung cancer from occupational exposure to CCA-treated timber wood dust, EU workers	4-6 in 10,000

Source Timber Preservers Association of Australia www.tpaa.com.au/ccarisks.htm

NEW MINIMUM WAGES FOR THE FORESTRY WORKERS W.E.F 1st APRIL 2011

With effect from 1st April 2011 the minimum wage applicable to forestry workers will increase by 4.6%. This increase, as shown in the table below, is derived from applying the January 2011 CPI figure (excluding owners' equivalent rent), as published by Stats SA on 16th February 2011, of 3.6% plus 1%.

Period	Previous 1/4/2010 - 1/3/2011	New wages 1/4/2011 - 1/3/2012	Increase Rands
Per Month	R 1 221.83	R 1 278.03	R 56.20
Per Week	R 281.98	R 294.95	R 12.97
Per Hour	R 6.26	R 6.55	R 0.29

Please note that an employer must pay a forestry worker who is 15 years of age or older, and who works for 35 hours per week or less at least the new hourly rate of R6.55.

Source www.forestrysa.co.za

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that due to the public holidays, and the fact that all the other organisations in the SAFCA building will be closed, the SAWPA Office will be closed on the 26th, 28th and 29th of April.

BRUCE BREEDT

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