



Creosote Shortage

AMCC to up their production volume: SAWPA held a meeting with ArcelorMittal on the 16th of April where AMCC indicated that they will be increasing their creosote production by adding a creosote extender from the same raw material stream as was done by FFS in October 2011. It is foreseen that the extender will increase AMCC's production by 40% to 50%. AMCC has done most of their in-house analysis on the product and final independent third-party analysis has also been started at the SABS. Although the extender will have an effect on the final product, the creosote will still comply with the requirements of SANS 616 Type 3 Creosote. AMCC will be communicating their plans to their customers and industry.

Industry Meeting: A meeting has been scheduled for the 7th of May at 9:00 at the SAFCA building, 6 Hulley Road, Isando. The meeting will be attended by representatives of AMCC, FFS and the creosote treatment plants. The intention is to discuss the current situation in the creosote industry regarding the supply and demand. It is important that every creosote treatment plant should attempt to have a representative at this meeting. The proposed agenda for discussions is as follows:

- Creosote market growth from 2005 to 2012. (Presented by Pierre Tullis - SAUPA)
- Discussion on extent of current creosote volume needs and shortage.
- Current constraints on creosote supply by FFS. (FFS presentation)
- Current constraints on creosote supply by AMCC and plans to increase their current production volumes (AMCC presentation)
- Way forward for the creosote industry.

Illegal Treaters

Illegal Treaters Reported: In Newsletter No. 175 of 31 October 2011 we reported on action taken against an illegal creosote treater in the Limpopo region. SAWPA was again made aware of a recently erected operation which has started not far from the previous illegal plant. There is strong reason to believe that this plant was started by the same offenders and the information has been passed onto the NRCS for further investigation, with a request for tough action if found to be true. We can also report that two further plants have been reported, one in the Hluhluwe area and the other in the Soekmekaar area. We are still awaiting progress on these. Although it was assumed that the current shortage of creosote and non-supply thereof to re-packers would put end to the problem, it seems that these operations are using products that aren't creosote per say but other mixtures of similar coal tar based products and sometimes even mixed old used oil. One must also consider that due to the little, if any, retention obtained by these processes, these operations can get far on a small volume of chemical.

Information leaflet in official languages: SAWPA is in the process of engaging the services of translators with the aim to have our information leaflet "Treatment and the Law" available in four common official indigenous languages spoken in the regions mostly affected by illegal treaters. Many of the "twilight treaters" do not understand either English or Afrikaans, which are the only two languages the leaflet is currently available in.

NRCS Approvals - Progress report

During a recent visit to the NRCS to submit the applications of recently commissioned plants, I asked the NRCS officer responsible on the progress of the processing of the approvals. I was surprised at the response, as it seems that the progress is slow and that not many plants have been approved. SAWPA will be keeping a close eye on the situation, especially with the first payment period of NRCS levies expected at the end of June.

National Bargaining Council for the Wood and Paper Sector - Extension of collective agreement

Please be advised that the collective agreement of 21 July 2006, which made it binding for non-parties to be party to the agreement up to 17 March 2011, has been extended by the Minister in GoN 132 of 24 February 2012 with a further period ending 30 June 2012. This extension is in line with the period for the current substantive agreement on wages and other terms and conditions of employment for the SAWMILLING chamber - the chamber in which all preservative plants are deemed to fall under. Details of the substantive agreement were included in Newsletter No. 175 of 31 October 2011. If you need any further information please contact SAWPA.

WoodEX for Africa

SAWPA is very proud to have been a participant at the WoodEX for Africa 2012 exhibition and conference that was held from 22 to 24 March 2012. We believe that the exhibition was a success and that we have achieved what SAWPA as a body representing wood preservation and preservative treated timber wanted to achieve, by increasing the awareness of our industry and promoting the industry and treated timber. SAWPA has already confirmed its participation at the 2013 WoodEX and we would recommend that more members from the industry also consider participation.



The SAWPA Stand at WoodEX

SAWPA Meeting Schedule

Members are advised that because we did not hold a round of SAWPA regional, chemical forum and Executive meetings in March/ April, we are planning to host only one meeting for 2012. These meetings, including our AGM, will however be held over June and July and the dates were planned to work around the School Holidays for those members planning to go on winter holidays with their families. The proposed schedule and venue areas are as follows. Final exact venues, dates, times and agendas will be confirmed in due course.

Regional meetings:

4 June – Limpopo Region (Tzaneen)
6 June – Mpumalanga (Badplaas)
8 June – KZN (Pietermaritzburg)
11 June – Gauteng/North West (Lanseria)
13 June – Southern/Eastern Cape (George)
15 June – Western Cape (Stellenbosch)

Other Meetings:

25 July – Chemical Forum
26 July – Executive Committee
27 July – SAWPA Annual General Meeting

Environmental Authorisations

There seems to be a lot of miss-information regarding EIA or any other environmental authorization which is leading to confusion and members being miss-informed of their obligations. SAWPA advises that you obtain expert advice from the relevant competent environmental authority in your area before commencing with any new plant, or expansion that may lead to an increase in your capacity. Failure to comply may lead to excessive fines and penalties.

2011 Preservative Treated Wood Statistics

SAWPA was hoping to publish the 2011 statistics by the end of the first quarter of 2012, latest end of April. It seems however that there is a small number of plants (2 or 3) not willing to allow for their volumes to be included into the statistics, even though the assurance has been given in the past that the volumes collected by the certification bodies remain confidential and in the hands of the certification bodies. As stated many times before, SAWPA only receives the SABS and SATAS totals. We then combine the data for our annual statistics, as a benefit to the whole industry whether they are SAWPA members, SAUPA members or non-affiliated. The information is also used by other associated industries and bodies who require such information from time to time. At this stage we have not given up or made any hasty decisions, and will continue to be positive and confident that the annual figures including all the plants data will soon become available.

Talking Rot

- Promotional leaflets and posters – Please make use of the informative posters and leaflets which SAWPA makes available to the members free of charge. For more information visit our website or contact SAWPA. We also have some laminated A3 posters available of the recent flyer on CCA Treated Wood – Safety, handling, use and disposal warnings
- Hits to the SAWPA website during February and March was again record volumes at 35058 and 39851 respectively
- Wood preservation animation – SAWPA recently launched an animation of a pressure treatment process on YouTube which can be accessed through our Website in the “UNDERTANDING TIMBER PRESERVATION” page or by going to <http://youtu.be/aCF0kYD6ruY>
- Class 2 Members (non-treaters) will have noticed an increase in their annual membership fees. Please note that this was a decision taken at the 2011 AGM and subsequently communicated through the official minutes.

BRUCE BREEDT

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