

Newsletter 181

10 October 2012



Dear Members,

Minimizing hazardous waste in a wood preservation plant and the costs involved in disposing thereof

The disposal of hazardous plant waste remains a challenging and costly issue which our industry still needs to address effectively. At the last chemical forum meeting in July it was agreed that SAWPA draw up a guideline to assist members minimizing the hazardous waste generated at the treatment plants. Kesun Govender presented a paper at the IRGWP 37 Conference in Germany on the topic in 2006 and agreed to make it available to SAWPA for this purpose. With the challenges and high costs of disposal, it is critically important that treaters adopt measures to minimize waste at the treatment plants. We extracted the following generic guidelines from Kesun's paper, which we believe will assist with tips on how to do this. If you would like a full electronic copy of Kesun's paper, please contact Sue on 011 974 1061 or sawpa@global.co.za

- Ensure that poles are free of loose bark and that all timber to be treated are free of loose soil and sawdust prior to being loaded on the bogeys – this reduces hazardous waste as bark, and other loose material contaminated with preservative solution is classified as hazardous waste.
- Where applicable, follow the prescribed mixing sequences of preservative concentrate with water or solvents carrier. Solutions containing other chemicals i.e. emulsified wax etc., failure will cause sediment which will accumulate in tanks, causing hazardous waste sludge
- Ensure that emptied 25l drums used for transporting CCA from the supplier are clean and are stored to prevent a contamination risk
- After final vacuum, some timber can have residual liquid present, which when stored, can drip and contaminate soil. Trolleys should be housed within an impermeable drip pad area contained within or flowing into the bund area. Treated timber should only leave this area at least 48 hours after treatment.
- Do not cross contaminate old personal protective equipment with new personal protective equipment in service. Equipment should be stored in lockers when not in use, so as not to contaminate.
- In the case of an accidental spill ensure that only the correct amount of sawdust or soil is used – excess sawdust or soil used in an emergency increases the amount of hazardous waste. An emergency response plan should be drawn up, and emergency drills should be practiced regularly.
- Some preservatives are corrosive, use preventative maintenance techniques which prevent seals and valves from failing. Failure causes excessive contamination

- Keep the pit area surrounding the autoclave clean (this reduces contamination of debris and decreases hazardous waste)
- Ensure that the bund walls are impermeable (this will prevent earth and debris becoming hazardous waste)
- Keep the trolley wheels and rails free of sand and mud (mud accumulates in the treatment cylinder which then increases the hazardous waste)
- The roof over your plant should be designed so as not to allow heavy rainwater to accumulate and enter the pit area
- When off loading drums or receiving a bulk delivery, ensure that this done within the bund walls to prevent accidental spillage under pressure or rupture of drums
- The pit can become a source of contaminated waste especially when wind blows leaves and debris into the pit area causing addition contamination and hazardous waste.
- Machine timber prior to treatment (this prevents treated sawdust and wood shavings from becoming contaminated waste)

Talking Rot

- Plant for sale – Anyone seeking to buy a second hand treatment plant can contact Herman Jooste from Pretoria Timber Treaters at 012 802 0009
- Don't forget to let us have ideas for your "Wish List" of ideas which SAWPA can bring to fruition for industry
- Members may like to view an eNews channel link <http://www.enevchannel.co.za/videos/enca-students-assist-making-braai-business-safer> dated 1 October 2012, which has relevance to matter of burning of wood waste by informal caterers previously reported by SAWPA. The link focuses on pavement braais in townships being made healthier and safer by a group of local engineering students who supplied 50 specially-designed energy efficient wood burning stoves. The stoves burn the wood at a high temperature, igniting the toxins before it's released into the air and food. SAWPA has developed the attached brochures which will soon be shipped to the Western Cape for distribution together with such stoves.
- Hits to the SAWPA website during August and September were 42239 and 48711 respectively. This is a 300% increase in web traffic to 2010, and 150% increase from last year. Of interest is that 23000 of the hits in September 2012 were from Southern African domains, 732 from Australia, 623 from India, 305 from the UK, 207 from Uruguay and 171 from Germany. The most viewed pages were the DIY pages (563), 'Understanding Timber Preservation' page (481) and the names of treaters and supplies of treated timber (171). Should you wish to list your company profile on this page (**at no cost for members**) contact Sue.
- There is an excellent video clip entitled "Wood - Natures stroke of genius" produced by the Danish Wood Initiative. To view it click on: <http://youtu.be/SQhZ14V7cGw?hd=1>

BRUCE BREEDT

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