

# Newsletter 184

2 July 2013



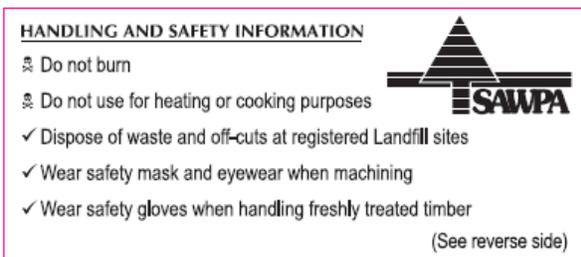
Dear Members,

## LABELLING OF TREATED WOOD

### SAWPA labelling Initiative – Feedback required

As conveyed to our members at the regional meetings in March, and as per the explanatory letter for those who could not attend, the rolls of safety warning labels distributed is part of a trial period to establish whether a) the layout and information contained on the labels are sufficient, and b) whether the labels are suitable and practical, i.e. strong and durable enough to last for a period until the treated timber product is purchased and used by the end-user. SAWPA would appreciate it if you could kindly contact us by phone or e-mail and share your views on the labels, i.e. does it work or not, if not what did you find to be the shortcoming or failure.

We would also appreciate feedback from LOSP and Creosote treaters specifically regarding the performance of the label material since a decision taken at the recent SAWPA Executive committee was that we need to establish a workable system/s for all preservative types before SAWPA may continue with the roll-out of the next phase, i.e. ordering and supplying the labels to our members on a continuous and subsidized basis.



### FYI - Update on EU Biocidal Product Regulations (BPR)

For the purpose of keeping our members informed on developments in other regions of the world on matters similar to what we are dealing with, e.g. above safety labelling. The BPR which replaces the BPD (Biocidal Products Directive) comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2013 and includes new provisions dealing with the supply and labelling of treated timber articles and the following highlights the intent of the changes:

1. Supply of treated wood (article 58(2)) – “From 1 September 2013 treated wood may not be placed on the market unless all the active ingredients in the preservative that was treated with are approved for EU use in wood preservatives.” (In South Africa this is regulated by Act 36 of 1947, which requires all wood preservatives that contain active ingredients to be registered and approved with the Registrar of the Act.)
2. Labelling of Treated wood (article 58 (3-6)) -

These clauses introduce a requirement to label article that have biocidal properties. Up to now it had been understood that the definition of an article with biocidal properties did not include articles that contain biocide purely for the purpose of protecting the article itself, e.g. preservative treated wood, but for articles where the biocide was intended to deter or kill the pest, e.g. a mosquito net. With the new BPR's that come into effect on 1 September it seems that preservative treated wood is covered by the labelling requirements.

It is interesting to note that the Wood Protection Association in the UK (WPA) has sought a revised definition aligned with the previous understanding but this was not supported by the other member states of the EU. The WPA have however undertaken to continue their efforts to persuade other member bodies in their request to have the previous understanding re-instated.

## SAWPA WEBSITE – CCA SAFETY INFORMATION REVISED

We recently revised the CCA Safety information sheet contained on our website which was prepared in 2002. Members are encouraged to make use of and refer customers who inquire on the safety of CCA treated timber to the newly revised version “CCA Treated Timber – All you need to know”. It can be found on our website [www.sawpa.org.za](http://www.sawpa.org.za) or [www.sawpa.co.za](http://www.sawpa.co.za) under the heading “THE SAFETY OF CCA TREATED TIMBER”. The “Safety Brochure” can also be found here.

The revised version deals with matters such as CCA the preservative, CCA treated timber, is it safe, the safety record, disposal, safety and handling precautions, and the alternatives to CCA.

## IRGWP 44 – STOCKHOLM

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the International Research Group on Wood Protection was held in Stockholm, Sweden from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. The meeting started off with a main plenary session followed by a keynote address on *Service life evaluation of wood – an engineering approach*, and a main scientific session. The rest of the conference then ran in two parallel sessions consisting of various working parties dealing with:

*Microbial test methodology*  
*Chemical/Physical analysis*  
*Insect biology and testing*  
*Performance – Field tests*  
*Performance – lab tests*  
*Service life prediction*

*Wood composites, WPC's and engineered wood products*  
*Coatings, hydrophobic treatments and surface aspects*  
*Soft rot and bacteria/bluestain and moulds*  
*Treating processes and treatability of timber*  
*Environment and sustainability*

*Thermal wood modification*  
*Chemical wood modification*  
*Natural durability*  
*New wood protecting chemicals*  
*Advances in molecular techniques*

The various working parties included a total of 109 presentations on scientific papers submitted. The following are just some of the many interesting papers that were delivered over the four days:

- IRG/WP 13-10811: Focus on the European Standardization. Towards a revision of the EN 350 natural durability standard: a different approach to the inherent resistance and performance of wood and wood-based materials.
- IRG/WP 13-30622: The Concept of Copper and Boron Synergy: Why copper naphthenate and borates are a couple made in heaven.
- IRG/WP 13-30634: CT scanning of decay in creosoted poles for overhead lines
- IRG/WP 13-40621: The resistance of high performance acetylated wood to attack by wood destroying fungi and termites
- IRG/WP 13-10803: Use of acoustic emission (AE) to detect activity of common dry-woodboring insects: some practical considerations.
- IRG/WP 13-30633: Durability of alternatives to CCA-treated wood – Results from field tests after 11 year exposure.
- IRG/WP 13-30610: Pre-treatment decay and strength loss of railroad ties, and their prevention.
- IRG/WP 13-10801: An assessment of soft rot in preservative-treated poles in two test sites and two network areas in New South Wales.
- IRG/WP 13-40631: Evaluation of barrier systems after 71 months of exposure.
- IRG/WP 13-20525: Predicting the rate of decay, and the potential for misinterpretation of proper scientific method.

Members interested in obtaining any of the papers delivered can contact SAWPA for the full list of papers to see which papers may interest you.

The IRG WP 45 will be hosted in St George, Utah from 11 to 15 May 2014. These conferences are scheduled at least two to three years in advance and we have been approached by members of the IRG Executive Council on the possibility of hosting the IRG in South Africa in 2017 and will seriously consider the opportunity once we have had time to consider exactly what it entails, especially the financial commitments.

## WoodEX 2014

The dates and times have been tentatively set for WoodEX 2014 and SAWPA members would be pleased to note that the exhibition has been moved from the long weekend and holidays in March to early June. The tentative dates have been indicated as Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June through to Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2014. The dates are to be tested with the wider industry before the final dates are set. Many in industry believe that this will have a positive effect on both the number of exhibitors as well visitors to the show since it will not fall over a public holiday and start of the school holidays.

We have also attached a photo of the 2013 SAWPA stand for those members who could not attend the exhibition in held in March 2013.



SAWPA stand at WoodEx for Africa 2013

## TALKING ROT

- The 2013 AWPA Book of Standard has been published in both hard cover and on CD. Members interested in any standard/s referenced in the AWPA book of Standards can contact SAWPA as we have obtained the updated CD version for reference purposes.
- Agri24 launched a website in 2011 to supply the broader agricultural community with a platform to access a wide selection of products and service providers. SAWPA has taken advantage of this platform to promote our association, our members and preservative treated timber. Visit [www.agri24.co.za](http://www.agri24.co.za) to view our advert on the slideshow shown on the top of the page. SAWPA's details can also be found under "Pole suppliers" in the "search by product" area. We hope to also add our contact details in various other relevant product categories soon.
- CCA/Boron treatment plants for sale: 1<sup>st</sup> plant is 9.45m x 1.42m and in excellent condition; the 2<sup>nd</sup> plant is 15.42m x 1.5m with double door system and in good condition. Various other pole manufacturing equipment is also available. For more information please contact [david@pletttimbers.co.za](mailto:david@pletttimbers.co.za)
- Cross laminated timber skyscraper (CLT) consisting of 10 storeys were recently opened in Victoria Harbour, Melbourne (See attached article sourced from edition 257 of The Timber and Forestry News, Australia).
- Hits to the SAWPA website for the period February to May 2013 was 159 707 in total.

## BRUCE BREEDT

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

# Weekend festival marks opening of CLT skyscraper at Victoria Harbour

A STREET festival will welcome the opening of the tallest timber apartment building in the world in Melbourne's Docklands next week.

Lend Lease will launch its \$11 million, 10-storey tower Forte at Victoria Harbour.

The complex, with 23 apartments and ground floor retail space, is a showpiece for cross-laminated timber which is manufactured using layers of timber to create solid panels.

According to Lend Lease, the material reduced CO2 emissions by more than 1600 tonnes compared to structures built from concrete and steel.

The company's operational excellence head Daryl Patterson said Lend Lease took on the project because it was keen to explore more energy-



***Up she goes .. construction starts on the CLT Forte building in Melbourne.***

efficient production processes. Because CLT was designed and built in a factory, he said, the building process was also

faster and safer.

"The state of the art production processes of CLT ensure a very high precision outcome

compared to steel or pouring concrete on-site," Mr Patterson said.

He said the material would benefit future residents.

"Using CLT offers better thermal performance and requires less energy to heat and cool which means reduced energy and water costs which averages savings of \$300 a year or up to 25% less than a typical code-compliant apartment," Mr Patterson said.

Should the 23 apartments and four townhouses in the 32.17 m, 10-storey building be snapped up quickly, it is likely that Docklands will see more timber constructions – particularly on the Victoria Harbour peninsula, which is ear-marked for low-rise luxury dwellings.