



Dear Members,

NOTICE OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

Members are invited to attend SAWPA regional meetings which will be held on the dates and at venues as given below. The agendas for the meetings will be circulated closer to the date.

KZN	3 March 2014	Ascot Conference Centre 217 Woodhouse Road, Pietermaritzburg
Mpumalanga	5 March 2014	Badplaas Forever Resort Hotel & Conference Centre
Gauteng	11 March 2014	Shumba Valley Lodge Pelindaba Rd - Lanseria
Limpopo	13 March 2014	Lalapanzi Conference Centre N1 past Polokwane towards Louis Trichardt
Southern/Eastern Cape	18 March 2014	Pine Lodge Cnr Saasveld and Knysna Roads, George
Western Cape	19 March 2014	Wood Sciences Department University of Stellenbosch

ALL THE MEETINGS START AT 10H00

**For seating and catering purposes please advise Sue on 011 974 1061
or at sawpa@global.co.za whether you will be attending or not**

CERTIFICATE OF SAWPA MEMBERSHIP

We have re- issued all current active Class I members (treatment plants and preservative chemical suppliers) with a certificate of membership for 2014. Electronic copies were emailed to you so that they didn't go astray or bend in the post. Please print the certificate and replace your previous undated and no longer valid certificate. If you would prefer that SAWPA post you a hard copy, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will gladly forward a certificate to you. These certificates will automatically be renewed for all members on an annual basis. Class II members will receive their membership certificates on the renewal of their membership in April 2014.

TREATED TIMBER VOLUMES FOR 2013 ANNUAL STATISTICS

SAWPA recently sent an e-mail request to all treatment plants regarding the collection/submittal of your 2013 treated timber production volumes to your respective certification body representative. This is a friendly reminder for your cooperation and assistance as we would like to have the 2013 statistics finalised and available by the end of March 2014. Should anyone be hesitant or have concerns about this process, please do not hesitate to contact SAWPA in this regard.

NEW FOREST SECTOR MINIMUM WAGES EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2014

In terms of the latest Sectoral Determination for the Forestry Industry, with effect from 1st April 2014 the forestry minimum wage will be 100% that of the agricultural minimum wage (it is currently 98% of the agricultural wage). As the new agricultural minimum wage has been gazetted, the following applies:

New Forestry Minimum Wages w.e.f. 1st April 2014

Period	Current 1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014	New 1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015	Increase Rands
Per Month	R 2 229.32	R 2 420.41	R 191.09
Per Week	R 514.50	R 558.60	R 44.10
Per Day	R 102.90*	R 111.72*	R 8.82
Per Hour	R 11.43	R 12.41	R 0.98

*for a 9 hour day

Although the agricultural minimum wage was increased by 6.4%, because the forestry minimum wage has moved up to be on a par with the agricultural wage (i.e. it has moved from a lower base), the increase in the minimum wages indicated in the table above is **8.6%**.

Members should also be aware that they can, apply to the Department of Labour for a **temporary exemption** from these new rates should they be able to prove to the Department's satisfaction that they cannot afford them. Members should contact their local DoL office to make the necessary application in such instances.

AMENDED SANS 457-3 and SANS 1288 PUBLISHED AND AVAILABLE

We received notification letters from the SABS Standards Division informing us that SANS 457-3:2014 Ed7.01 (hardwood poles) and SANS 1288:2014 Ed3.04 has been approved and published. The SABS webstore is currently experiencing problems with uploading the new versions. Members are advised to contact the SABS standards sales department at 012 428 6883/6 or sales@sabs.co.za or webstore@sabs.co.za if they experience difficulty in obtaining the aforementioned editions electronically on the webstore. The Amendments relate to the reversal of the maximum moisture content for round timber products back to 300 g/kg in both SANS 457-3 and SANS 1288 as well as changes to the marking requirements for treated sawn timber commodities in SANS 1288.

BMI – BRSCU STRATEGIC FORUM

SAWPA has in partnership with fellow Wood Foundation Association Members, SSA, ITC-SA and the ITFB subscribed to the Strategic Forum of the BMI Building Research Strategy Consulting Unit. Those who attended last year's SAWPA AGM will recall the interesting presentation by Dr Llewellyn Lewis from BMI-BRSCU as our host speaker. The Subscription agreement gives the four Associations secretariats access to all the website information for use by the Associations for their strategic purposes. Although there is a confidentiality agreement regarding the information available on the members only section on the BMI website, all the information sent to subscribers by e-mail (Sense-making updates, Industry Dashboards as well as a selection of other strategic information)

may be freely shared with the subscriber Associations (SAWPA) own members. We have just received the latest YTD Nov 2013 reports including, Sense-making Update (incl Executive Summery) and The Industry Dashboard, as well as Lumber & Cement Sales YTD which also give a good perspective of the trends in the building and construction industry. We have placed a new field on our website under "STATSTICS AND INDUSTRY REPORTS were members can view the data. Members are also welcome to contact us should they rather we send them the information. Further benefits for subscribers (SAWPA and its members) are the attendance of Strategic Forum Meetings held at the FNB conference centre in Sandton. The dates 2014 will be Friday 28 March, 25 July and 28 November. Members interested in attending the meetings must however notify us at least one to two weeks prior to a meeting so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

BBBEE AMENDMENT ACT SIGNED

The BBBEE Amendment Act (Act 46 of 2013) was signed by the President on the 27th of January 2014. SAWPA has received an electronic copy of the Act from the Forest Sector Charter Council Secretariat. Members who require a copy of the BBBE Amendment Act can contact the SAWPA office.

TALKING ROT

- Hits to the SAWPA website during December 2013 and January 2014 were 30954 & 46507 respectively.
- Two interesting articles from the Australian Timber and Forestry E-News: Issue 301 dated 17 Jan 2014, are attached for your interest.
- Please ensure that you obtain the safety warning labels from SAWPA and that at least 10% of all treated timber dispatched from your plant is labelled. Some of our members are really making use of the added free benefit whilst other is not using it satisfactorily.

BRUCE BREEDT

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