



Dear Members,

## 2014/15 SUBSTANTIVE WAGE AGREEMENT

The latest substantive agreement on wages and conditions of employment for the Sawmilling Chamber (incl all treatment plants, sawn or poles), was agreed to and signed by the bargaining parties on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2014. In summary the industry minimum wage will increase to R 2500 p.m. for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. The parties agreed to an increase of not less than 8.5% on the current actual basic wage effective 1 July 2014. A further increase of at least 0,5% based on the June 2014 rate, on the current basic wage effective 1 January 2015 to all employees in the Bargaining Unit whose rates has not reached R2 500 p.m. A copy of the agreement is available from SAWPA or can be downloaded from our website [www.sawpa.co.za](http://www.sawpa.co.za) by clicking on "INFORMATION", then "TOPICAL ISSUES" then find it under the information pertaining to Bargaining Council for the Wood and Paper Sector listed as "*Substantive Agreement on Wages and other Conditions of Employment for the Sawmilling Chamber*".

## REGISTRARS WORKSHOP ON RISK OF CCA TREATED TIMBER TO CHILDREN WHEN USED IN PLAYGROUNDS

In Newsletter No. 191 of August 2014 we reported that a date for the Registrar's workshop still needed to be confirmed. We can now report a date was originally scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, but was subsequently postponed by the Registrar to the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 as they were not fully prepared for the workshop. SAWPA however continued with its normal preparations and had a CCA stakeholder's preparation meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September which included representatives of the three CCA chemical manufacturers, our Chairman Dave Mullin, Bruce Breedt, and an environmental legal consultant from ENSafrica. A preparatory stakeholder consultation meeting was also held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October with the Registrar and this meeting was attended by Bruce Breedt and Willie Conradie from Timberlife representing the CCA manufacturers. The aim of the stakeholder consultation meeting was to discuss the structure and procedural specifics of the workshop, but also to establish the extent of the interaction between the Registrar and other stakeholders, e.g. the complainant, the Public Protector etc with regards SAWPA's submissions, i.e. the INFOTOX Report and the detailed response compiled by ENSafrica to the complaint letters. A further meeting of the CCA proponents in final preparation for the Workshop will be held before of the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 on a date yet to be determined.

## SAWPA SPONSORS TASA'S REVISED GUIDE TO THATCHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Thatching Association will soon be launching their new "Guide to Thatching in South Africa", and SAWPA is proud to be associated with the Thatching Association and their new guide as sponsors of the finishing costs of the guide by a professional. The sponsorship decision of the guide was taken as reciprocal support in return for the support from the thatching industry in using preservative treated poles and laths as the main

substructure components in the construction of thatched roof structures. The sponsorship will entail that SAWPA and its members are acknowledged as a sponsor in the guide, and will include the placement of the SAWPA logo, as well as a one page full colour advertorial space in the guide.

### **UPDATE: RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE FOREST SECTOR CHARTER CODES TO THE NEW GENERIC BBBEE CODES**

The first phase of the process of aligning the Forest Sector Charter Codes with the new generic codes published in October 2013 has progressed well and we can report that negotiations between industry, government, labour and community in the Forest Sector were successful. Agreement without amendment to the current draft version finalised a couple of weeks ago has been reached. The only provision is that a companion document, as was the case with the first Charter, to provide a narrative of actions required to address specific challenges, needs to be developed.

The Council's service provider (AQRATE) will finalise the Sector Code document for approval at the next Forest Sector Charter Council meeting scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. Following Council approval it will be submitted to the DTI where it is expected to be approved by the Minister for Gazetting for public comment. SAWPA will inform its members when this stage is reached so that members who want to comment on the document can do so formally.

The only issues which must still be clarified are the possible impacts which may result from the phase 2 Gazette released on the 12th of October. AQRATE will be tasked to assess any possible impacts on our process and we (council) reserve the right to renegotiate should there be significant impacts. APROS the service provider appointed by industry will look into this with AQRATE and advise us in due course, so that we can draft a written response to DTI. APROS will also work with AQRATE to incorporate the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase Gazetted QSE scorecard into the draft Forest Sector Charter Code.

### **MEETING WITH NHBRC IN WESTERN CAPE RE USE OF IMPORTED IMPERMEABLE SOFTWOODS**

A meeting was held with the NHBRC in the Western Cape on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October to discuss the increasing problem of impermeable softwoods such as Spruce being used in permanent buildings. Although SAWPA supports and advocated the use of timber in construction, the concern is caused by the fact that Spruce is an untreatable softwood, but favoured food source to the same species of wood destroying insects that require all Gymnospermae species (softwood) including SA pine to be preservative treated when used in a permanent building within the proclaimed coastal municipal areas. The NHBRC in the Western Cape has agreed to give more attention to the "unlawful" practice and make their inspectors more aware of all the relevant facts, which SAWPA has agreed to supply to them. Our offer to attend and present at information sessions to educate and inform new NHBRC inspectors on "understanding wood preservation" was also highly appreciated and accepted.

Similar discussions are planned with the NRCS' National Building Regulations section responsible for advising and assisting the national building control officers on the interpretation and correct implementation of the National Building Regulations.

## Why we treat timber:



In Namibia, the termite mounds are as high ...

... as an elephants eye!

- Hits to the SAWPA website during August and September 2014 were 68 193 & 70 673 respectively.
- SAFETY LABELS: Members are encouraged to make use of the safety warning labels available from SAWPA. It is recommended that at least 10% of all treated timber dispatched from your plant is labelled.
- True art of tree hugging - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrwuTbuwX8A> - the YouTube clip is a short video produced by the Australian Forest Products Association sharing the benefits of sustainable forestry and should be shared as far and wide as possible. It challenges some public misconceptions regarding the planting and harvesting practices of the forestry industry, not unlike the South African industry whom have been practicing plantation forestry for far longer than many other countries.
- A version of one of the latest SAWPA ad's placed in various publications is attached for your interest. It highlights moisture content in exterior timbers as the main reason for fungal decay which if treated would be prevented, gives information on the H classes and the quality marks, and also informs on timber being the only true sustainable and renewable natural resource.

### BRUCE BREEDT

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