

Newsletter 195

22 April 2015



Dear Members,

“URGENT” - INDUSTRY MEETING WITH NRCS

Members are reminded of the meeting with the NRCS on the 30th of April at 10:00 to be held at the NRCS (SABS) in Groenkloof, Pretoria. This meeting is as a result of a meeting that was held on 6 March 2015 between the executive officers of SAWPA and SAUPA with the acting General Manager of CMM at the NRCS to discuss the levy return forms and application fee invoices received by industry as well as the general progress or implementation of VC 9092. The key concern that rose from this meeting is the NRCS's intention to implement backdated levy payments on preservative treated timber produced since January 2012. The meeting on the 30th of April is called by the NRCS to further discuss and respond to industry on the aforementioned concerns but also to discuss and share their planned implementation and regulation of VC 9092 and the regulation of preservative treatment of timber. Members are requested to make a concerted effort to attend the meeting in an effort to show the NRCS that we are not in agreement with their intended backdated levy collection, and to make our general dissatisfaction known with their efforts at regulating, or lack thereof, since October 2009.

NOTE: Those attending and flying into ORT can opt to use the Gautrain and busses to and from the SABS/NRCS. Catch the Gautrain at ORT, change over at Marlboro station to the PTA/Hatfield line, then disembark the train at Pretoria station where you catch the Groenkloof bus and get off at the SABS (3rd stop). The cost of a single fare (excluding R10.00 for gold access/recharge card) is R155.00 and R6.00 for the train and bus respectively. Total return fare to and back is R322.00 + R10.00 for gold card.

LATEST SECTORAL DETERMINATION FOR FORESTRY WORKERS

For members who have their own plantations and plantation workers, please note that the latest sectoral determination for Forestry Workers containing the latest minimum wage was gazetted in GoN 208 of 13 March 2015. The new minimum wage with effect 1 April 2015 requires that an employer must pay a forestry worker at least the minimum wage prescribed in the following table.

Table 1: Minimum wage for employees in the Forestry Sector		
Minimum rate for the period: 1 April 2015 to 29 February 2016		
Monthly	Weekly	Hourly
R2606.78	R601.61	R13.37
The wage increase from 1 April 2015 to 29 February 2016 will be 100% of the Farm Workers Wage.		

Members must note that the above is not applicable to workers in sawmills and pole plants but to forestry (plantation) workers only. The sawmilling sectoral determination, as reported in SAWPA Newsletter No. 192 of 29 October 2014, is applicable to sawmill and pole plant workers.

SANS 754:2015 Ed 5.1

SANS 754:2015 Ed 5.1 was approved and published recently and can be ordered from the SABS Standards Sales at <http://store.sabs.co.za> or email: webstore@sabs.co.za or tel: 012 428 6128. All plants certified to SANS 754 are required to have the latest version of the standard available and to ensure that the relevant staff is updated and familiarised with the latest amendments.

GUIDANCE NOTES TO THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT REGULATION

The Guidance Notes to the Pressure Equipment Regulations of 17 July 2009 has recently been revised and was published in GoN 167 of 27 February 2015. Members who wish to obtain an electronic copy of these guidance notes are welcome to contact SAWPA.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON WOOD PROTECTION



Members may be interested to know that the International Research Group on Wood Protection's annual meeting, i.e. IRG46 will be held from 10 to 14 May in Viña del Mar, Chile. The meeting brings together between 200-300 delegates from around the world consisting of mainly scientists from research and academic institutions as well as industry representatives from various chemical, processing plants, industry associations, etc. with a common interest, i.e. wood protection and durability. Annually 100 to 190 papers are presented during the 4 days running in parallel sessions. As a member to the IRGWP, and after approval by the SAWPA executive, I will be attending the meetings in May to ensure that we remain up to date and informed on the latest developments in the world. SAWPA members who require more information on membership to the IRGWP or perhaps attending the IRG46 in May can visit the following website www.irg-wp.com and link to www.irg46.com/

WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS



Forests are essential to life on our planet, to mitigating and adapting to climate change, ensuring adequate supply of fresh water, enhancing biodiversity and providing sustainable incomes and livelihoods, including food security. But they face unprecedented and unrelenting pressures. The XIV World Forestry Congress, hosted by the Republic of South Africa, will bring together the global forestry community to review and analyse the key issues and to share ways of addressing them.

The Congress – the first to be held in Africa - is inclusive of people from all countries, regions and sectors, whether they belong to a government organization, NGO, private company, scientific or professional body, a forestry society, or simply have a personal interest in attending. The broad participation and inclusive discussion on forestry issues will facilitate their mainstreaming in global agendas on sustainable development as well as building new partnerships.

The Congress programme will be professionally and culturally rewarding, with a variety of sessions, events and dialogue, to ensure that all participants are engaged in defining a vision and strategies for the sustainable future of forests and forestry. Visit the official XIV World Forestry Congress website:

www.wfc2015.org.za

NEWSLETTER OFF-CUTS

- Hits to the SAWPA website during January, February and March 2015 were 62885, 53760 and 56062 respectively.
- SAWPA now subscribes to Specifile, one of South Africa's largest publishers of architectural, engineering and construction-related information. Specifile currently hosts 3318 companies made up of suppliers, associations and professional and provides platform where one can browse through the website or search for a specific product or supplier to find exactly what you need. Members can view the SAWPA link on Specifile by visiting <http://www.specifile.co.za/company/83377-south-african-wood-preserved-association-sawpa/>
- Please note that our official website address is www.sawpa.co.za . The old address www.sawpa.org.za will for a transitional period, still be accessible but will only serve as a reference and link to the official site.
- SAFETY LABELS: Members are reminded to request more rolls of the safety labels when finished. SAWPA recommends that at least 10 % of every batch of treated timber should have a safety label attached before being dispatched from your site.

BRUCE BREEDT

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

