

# Newsletter 196

## 26 May 2015



Dear Members,

### NRCS – Update and feedback

Members should be aware of the letter that was submitted to the NRCS, dated 8 May, in response to their plans to backdate levy payments to 1 January 2014. The letter, which was supported by the majority of SAWPA members, in principle outlined a counter proposal of levy payments effective from 1 January 2015 provided that the NRCS showed a commitment in implementing their administrative and regulatory function, and specifically dealing with the illegal treatment and sale of such timber.

We receive acknowledgment of receipt of our letter on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May indicating that the matter is currently attended to internally and that further consultations are yet to be made with the Ministry of DTI, where after they will revert back to industry. We also received an email from the acting general manager stating they will give attention to the illegal activities reported by SAWPA by the end of June, when they have completed processing all the industry applications and issued the letters of approval (LOA).

**Please note** that the NRCS indicated to SAWPA that LOA's will only be issued to those plants who have paid their initial application fee and requested that we pass this on to our members. This is in line with what was previously communicated to members by SAWPA, i.e. the application fee for approval will have to be paid, and the NRCS requires that all plants, whom have not paid their application for approval fee prior to this meeting, are required to pay the fee as published in October 2014, i.e. R 1134.00. This is in response to the concession given by them of decreasing backdated levy period from January 2012 to January 2014. Plants who are not in possession of an LOA or a sales permit (for those in process of obtaining their certification), by the end of June may therefore be regarded as non-compliant.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Members are most likely aware of the controversial proposal for amendment to the National Road Traffic Regulations that was published in GoN 411 of 11 May 2015. The proposed amendments in short relate to the following:

- Reg 107D. Manner and contents on which applicant will be evaluated for the renewal of a driving licence.
- Reg 247. Circumstances under which a person may be carried in a goods vehicle – Not more than 5 people in the goods compartment of a goods vehicle with a gross mass of less than 3500 kg.
- Reg 250. Persons not to be carried in goods compartment for reward unless allowed in terms of the NLTA – School children not to be transported on back of bakkie.
- R 292. Reduction of speed limits: 40 km/h in urban areas, 80 km/h outside urban areas, 120 km/h on freeway and 100 km/h on freeway that passes through a residential area.
- Goods vehicles with gross mass that exceeds 9000 kg prohibited from operating in peak hours, i.e. 06h00 – 09h00 and 17h00 – 20h00, Monday to Friday.

At least 2 of the above proposals will have a detrimental effect on most industries including our own. SAWPA will be lodging an objection against the proposed amendments, but instead of reinventing the wheel, it was agreed by the SAWPA executive that SAWPA will submit a letter of opposition that in principle supports the detailed response and comments drawn up by Forestry South Africa's transport committee in this regard and which already incorporates all forestry and related processing industries.

### BBBEE CODES – EXTENSION OF DEADLINE & CORRECTION NOTICE

Following the outcry by industry and business in general regarding the GoN 396 Notice of Clarification in respect of black participants in Broad-Based Ownership Schemes and Employee Share Ownership Programmes and the reduced points scored under the ownership scorecard sanity seems to have prevailed.

The Minister has acknowledged that this was an error on behalf of DTI, and published a revised notice i.e. GoN 444 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May in which the specific reference to Broad-Based Ownership Schemes and Employee Share Ownership Programmes have been retracted.

The essence of the revised clarification notice conveys the following:

- a) Confirm that the Amended Codes of Good Practice (generic) published in October 2013 came into effect on 1 May 2015.
- b) That all verifications in respect of financial year ending 30 April 2015 can be conducted using the old Codes of Good Practice published in 2007, and that verifications in respect of financial year ending after 1 May 2015 must be conducted using the revised codes, **with the exception of the sector codes**.
- c) Extending the transitional period for the alignment of Sector Codes, e.g. the Forest Sector Charter Code to 30 October 2015. From 1 November Sector Codes that are aligned shall become effective in accordance with b) above.
- d) Determine that during the inaugural year of the Amended Codes of Good Practice, all valid B-BBEE certificates issued under the old Codes of Good Practice, as well as relevant Sector Codes, should remain valid and should therefore be accepted and treated as conferring empowering supplier status. In respect of EME certificates which were issued without Empowering Supplier status, the interpretation "Exempted Micro Enterprises and Start-ups are automatically recognised as Empowering Suppliers", will apply.

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON WOOD PROTECTION

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I was privileged to again attend the annual International Research Group on Wood Protection Conference IRG46 held in Viña Del Mar, Chile from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2015. This year's conference was attended by 160 delegates from 30 different nations and a total number of 85 papers were submitted and presented. The conference comprised of an opening plenary session and then proceeded in two parallel sessions consisting of various working parties dealing with:

<i>Microbial test methodology</i>	<i>Wood composites, WPC's and engineered wood products</i>	<i>Thermal wood modification</i>
<i>Chemical/Physical analysis</i>	<i>Coatings, hydrophobic treatments and surface aspects</i>	<i>Natural durability</i>
<i>Insect biology and testing</i>	<i>Soft rot and bacteria/bluestain and moulds</i>	<i>Bacidiomycetes</i>
<i>Performance – Lab &amp;Field tests</i>	<i>Treating processes and treatability of timber</i>	<i>Organic Preservatives</i>
<i>Prediction of service life</i>	<i>Environment and sustainability</i>	<i>Cultural artefact protection</i>
<i>Special session on fire protection</i>		

For the second year in a row I was honoured to be the convener the Chemical/Physical Analysis working party session. The following are just some of the many more interesting papers that were delivered over the four days:

<i>IRG/WP 15-40700</i>	<i>How to increase the lifespan of exterior wood coatings</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-50310</i>	<i>Environmental fate of Micronized Copper</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-40703</i>	<i>Termite and insect resistance of acetylated wood</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-40704</i>	<i>Durable fibre for durable MDF - Testing Tricoya<sup>®</sup></i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-10839</i>	<i>Interpretation of moisture monitoring data – Relevance of moisture content thresholds for fungal decay</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-40691</i>	<i>Remedial treatment of difficult to access timber in buildings</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-40706</i>	<i>Impact of early lignification of ray parenchyma on the treatability of Scots pine sapwood</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-40713</i>	<i>Steam accelerated borate diffusion optimizing dry tie treatment</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-30663</i>	<i>Factors affecting performance of preserved wood decking against decay fungi</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-30667</i>	<i>The effect of preservative treatment on mechanical strength and structural integrity of wood</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-50311</i>	<i>Effect of exposure site on metal migration from copper azole, alkaline copper quat or chromated copper arsenate treated southern pine decking</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-50311</i>	<i>Recycling of used railroad ties via two-staged pyrolysis for fractionation of wood preservatives and bio-oil</i>
<i>IRG/WP 15-50309</i>	<i>A green and novel technology for recovering copper and wood from treated waste – Part 1</i>

Members interested in obtaining any of the above papers or a full list of all the papers delivered can contact SAWPA. The next IRG47 will be hosted in Lisbon, Portugal from 16 to 19 May 2016.

## WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS



A reminder to those members who may be interested in attending, the XIV World Forestry Congress will be hosted by South Africa and will be held in Durban from 7-11 September 2015. Visit the official XIV World Forestry Congress website [www.wfc2015.org.za](http://www.wfc2015.org.za) for more information.

## NEWSLETTER OFF-CUTS

- Hits to the SAWPA website in April 2015 was 47253.
- WOODDEX for Africa – The organisers of WoodEX for Africa have decided to showcase the exhibition on a bi-annual basis therefore there will be no WoodEX for Africa in 2015. The official date for the next WoodEX for Africa has been set for 9-11 June 2016 to be held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand. As with the previous exhibitions, SAWPA has already committed its participation for at this exhibition.
- The final legal opinion document regarding liability of wood preservers when treated timber fails prematurely due to fungal decay, and which was obtained from Janusz Luterek (Hahn & Hahn) is now available to members.
- 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 bodies, and provides a 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-preservers-association-sawpa/>
- Our official website address is now [www.sawpa.co.za](http://www.sawpa.co.za) . The old link [www.sawpa.org.za](http://www.sawpa.org.za) will remain active for a transitional period to serve as a reference and link to the official site.
- SAFETY LABELS: Remember to order your rolls of the safety labels from SAWPA. This is at no cost to SAWPA members. The new addition of SANS 10005 will soon be published wherein the labelling will become a requirement and therefore no longer just a recommendation.
- *A toothless termite walks into a bar and asks the bar tender, 'where's the bar tender.'*

### BRUCE BREEDT

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