



Dear Members,

LATEST SUBSTANTIVE WAGE AGREEMENT - EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2015 to 30 JUNE 2016

The latest substantive agreement on wages and conditions of employment for the Sawmilling Chamber (incl timber treatment plants, sawn or poles), was agreed to and signed by the bargaining parties on the 22nd of July 2015.

Wage increase: The Parties agreed to a wage increase of not less than 7% on the current actual basic wage effective 1 July 2015 for all employees in the bargaining unit, and a further 1% across the board in January 2016 based on the June 2015 wages.

Minimum wage: The industry minimum wage will increase by 12% to R 2800.p.m. with effect 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

A copy of the agreement is available from SAWPA or can be downloaded from our website www.sawpa.co.za by clicking on "INFORMATION", and then "TOPICAL ISSUES". You will 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*".

CREOSOTE – PRODUCT AND SUPPLIER REQUIREMENTS

Although SAWPA has a full understanding of the impact of the shortage of suitable creosote supply from the two approved suppliers, i.e. ArcelorMittal Coke & Chemicals and FFS Refiners, we feel obliged to reiterated and remind our members of the requirements that applies to creosote supplied to and used by the primary preservative treated timber industry as it has come under our attention that non-approved and unknown and unsuitable "creosote" products are being offered to industry.

1. Only SANS 616 type 2 (AMCC) and type 3 (FFS) creosote certified or approved by the SABS or SATAS, and that carries a valid L registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 can be used to treat timber in accordance with the SANS and compulsory VC 9092 specifications
2. Beware of accepting a once off test certificate issued on a small sample of 5 L as proof of compliance of any creosote product offered by other suppliers, even if such a supplier has a L registration certificate.
3. It's important to understand that there may be other suppliers who have L registrations (including "daughter" registrations), but these product do not comply to SANS 616 type 2 or 3 creosote or coal-tar and creosote solutions, and therefore cannot be used for industrial timber treatment by impregnation processes.
4. In some cases "new or unknown suppliers" offer product with an accompanying SABS Laboratory test report. It is important to know that unless the test report is accompanied by a consignment certificate of compliance issued and signed by either of the two certification bodies, SATAS or SABS and their known representatives, the report is only applicable to the sample tested and is not representative of a full batch. The consignment approval certificate should also clearly indicate that the batch referred to in the certificate is related to the same sample and batch indicated on the laboratory test report.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The planned research project which was reported on in the previous newsletter and at the regional meetings, is gaining momentum with a proposal received from the University of Stellenbosch. The research relates mainly to premature failure of small diameter eucalyptus poles, the relationship that sapwood content and possibly tannin content have, as well as establishing the minimum required effective sapwood retentions to ensure protection against soft rot attack. SAWPA is currently in the process of making comments and proposed changes to the proposal in line with what we believe, suits our immediate and most urgent need. We are aiming and hoping for the research project to kick off when the academic year starts in 2016, and for this to happen SAWPA will be engaging with members in Limpopo, Mpumalanga Low-veld, Mpumalanga Highveld and KZN Midlands to assist in sampling the required representative sample needed for the research project for collection and delivery to the University with the start of the 2016 academic year.

SAWPA REQUESTS AMENDMENT TO VC 9092

Following recent discussions with the inspectors from the NRCS it became clear, that there could be potential ambiguities or shortcomings within the current VC 9092 compulsory specification. They relate to the definition of preservative treated timber, especially when viewed against the wording that was contained in the old Forest legislation up until 1998 on the preservative treatment. Some of the inspectors questioned whether they had the authority to act against “twilight” treaters if such treaters didn’t claim or state that the products they are selling is preservative treated timber. SAWPA has submitted a proposal to the NRCS asking that they consider amending VC 9092 to clearly state that any timber to which it is averred to, or gives the impression that it is treated, shall be treated in accordance with the VC 9092 and SANS requirements.

BEWARE OF FRAUDSTERS BUYING TREATED TIMBER

An email was circulated to all treaters and chemical supplier members on the 3rd of November advising them of reported fraudulent dealings by a supposed construction company who trade under various names such as “Heartland Construction” and “Mobula Construction” with the contact person using the name “Scott Buchanan”. Since then SAWPA has received numerous responses from other members who have also had run-ins with the fraudsters. They also operate under names such “Bedrock Construction” and “Bullock Construction” with the contact persons going under the names “Schalk Van Nieuwenhuizen” and “Deon De Beer”, and are apparently all part of a large syndicate wanted all over the country.

Case files have been opened in Sabie, Nelspruit and Boksburg, and members who have more information that can assist in strengthening the case can contact Sue at SAWPA for the case numbers and contact details of the investigating officers. Members who have been fortunate not to be defrauded by the syndicate are asked to be vigilant and aware of the activities.

NEWSLETTER OFF-CUTS

- Hits to the SAWPA website in August, September and October 2015 was 45 638, 37 751 and 33 543 respectively.
- LCA study poster: Attached is an interesting poster produced by the Forestry and Wood Science department of the University of Stellenbosch on the life cycle assessment between simplified SA Pine roof structures and light gauge steel trusses.
- SAFETY LABELS: Be proactive and prepared and request your rolls of the safety labels from SAWPA. The labels are at no cost to SAWPA members. Remember that the safety labelling of treated timber will become a requirement when the revised Edition 8 of SANS 10005 is finalised and will no longer be a recommendation.
- WoodEX for Africa 2016: Members interested in visiting or taking part in the exhibition running from 9 to 11 June 2016 can visit the website www.woodexforafrica.com for more information. SAWPA has already secured our space and we hope to see more of our members at the exhibition.

BRUCE BREEDT

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