

Newsletter 204

14 July 2016



Dear Members,

SAWPA WEBSITE REVAMPED

We are pleased to announce that our website www.sawpa.co.za has recently undergone a total makeover. The new look website has not just been aesthetically revamped, but also functionally, resulting in a more user friendly site. The ease of use is for all the users of treated wood as well as for the industry stakeholders, and for us to maintain and make additions on subject matter when needed in the field or area best suited. The website now consists of 3 areas to access, depending on the need of the website visitor, i.e. ABOUT SAWPA, GENERAL PUBLIC, and SAWPA MEMBERS & INDUSTRY INFO.

As the main focus areas, GENERAL PUBLIC speaks to all users of treated wood and those who would like to know more about timber preservation, how it's made, what it is, how to use it, where to find it etc., whilst the SAWPA MEMBER & INDUSTRY section as the title suggests is for subject matter of importance and relevance to our members and related industry stakeholders in general.

TREATED WOOD WASTE

Members may recall that SAWPA has, as a result of some indecision or even contradictory opinions from various sectors, engaged with experts such as INFOTOX and ENSAfrica with regards the classification of treated wood waste. We are pleased to say that following a scientific review and study of the matter by INFOTOX, and consultation with ENSAfrica on the legal aspect, they concluded and confirmed SAWPA's opinion that treated wood waste is a general waste, and if and when disposal is the only consideration, it can be disposed of at normal municipal landfills.

The completion of the review and the conclusions could not have come at a more appropriate time as an enquiry has recently been received from the Dept of Waste Management Planning in the Western Cape. They are in the process of drafting a status quo report on hazardous waste focusing on the waste streams identified as problematic, and have requested SAWPA to submit information on the management and disposal of treated wood waste. We are currently preparing a formal response with the assistance of the toxicological and legal experts with whom we consulted.

MOISTURE OF SAWN TIMBER PRIOR TO TREATMENT

It has been brought to our attention that wet off saw pine timber, not produced or graded in accordance to any specific product specification e.g. SANS 1783-2, is being treated at moisture contents exceeding the allowable MC specified in SANS 10005 and SANS 1288. It seems that this is especially prevalent in cases where the timber is supplied to the treatment facility by a third party, who then requests that it be treated for them. We would like to implore our members to refrain from this practice as it is in contradiction to the SANS 1288 requirements, certification conditions and also the VC 9092 specifications and can have undesirable implications. The timber may only be treated once it has reached the prescribed moisture level.

SANS 1288 specifies that the MC of timber (excl round timber, e.g. droppers, poles etc.) shall not exceed the maximum value recommended in SANS 10005. SANS 10005 states where drying defects such as warp and splitting are critical, it is recommended that the average moisture content should not exceed 170 g/kg for class O preservatives and 280 g/kg for class C and class W preservatives.

PROGRESS REVIEW - RESEARCH BY UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH

Bruce and Willie Conradie from Timberlife, representing the SAWPA executive and chemical forum on the research project, recently attended a progress review meeting with the University of Stellenbosch where a presentation was done by the MSC student responsible for the project. It was reported that the sample preparation required for the various tests have been completed. Some of the physical aspects of the study have proceeded well and are almost finalised, and an interim report will be made available by August/September that gives detailed breakdown of the results pertaining to eucalyptus pole sapwood ratios, average sapwood densities as well as tannin content in the sapwood of poles ranging from 50 to 150 mm top diameters. By this time the specimens treated at various retention levels for fungal decay evaluation should have been prepared and undergoing the fungal tests. The fungal tests should render final results by April 2017.

Whilst this study has been going on we have also been fortunate to gain information from renown experts in Australia who have gone through similar situations and were able to give us valuable insight into their findings that also resulted in changes to their standards. This information together with the study done by Stellenbosch will hopefully collaborate what we believe should be implemented in South Africa.

UPDATE ON REVIEW OF SANS TREATMENT STANDARDS

Members will recall at the regional meetings in February we reported a planned review of all the SANS treatment specifications. The review will deal with unnecessary duplications of performance requirements, and grey areas that result in unwanted and incorrect interpretations, and also complicate the general understanding by industry and various stakeholders of the various standards. As per the resolution taken at the SABS TC 218 meeting in April, a working group has been formed to look at the concept working drafts, which Bruce Breedt was tasked to prepare, and then come up with suitable recommendations in the form of committee drafts for consideration by the TC and industry. The concept documents have been drafted and the working group will meet on the 25th of July.

AMENDED FOREST SECTOR CHARTER

At a recent Forest Sector Charter Council meeting attended by Bruce, it was reported that the amended Forest Sector Charter Codes could be completed and published by the end of August going into September. This will mean that the new codes will, as per the date to be announced in the government gazette, replace the previous Forest Sector codes and all entities that fall within the forestry sector, including sawmills and pole treatment plants, will be measured against the new codes.

NEWSLETTER OFF-CUTS

- SAWPA will be exhibiting at the Homemakers Fair in PE from the 28th to the 31st of July, and is being held at the Boardwalk Exhibition Centre. This show is aimed at the general public, and is an extension of exhibitions previously held in JHB and Cape Town during 2015, which were aimed at reaching and educating the home owner on the attributes and wide applications of treated timber around the house.
- SAWPA is again exhibiting at the Cape Construction Expo to be held on the 11th - 12th of August 2016 at the CTICC in Cape Town. For free entrance to this expo, members need only to print out the E-ticket attached and take it with them for free entrance and registration at the Expo, or alternatively members can pre-register on the website, using the link in the E-ticket attached.
- We have free tickets for members to attend the Interbuild (Wood World) which is being held from the 17th - 20th August 2016 at Nasrec in Johannesburg, at which SAWPA will also exhibit. Please find the E-ticket attached.
- Staying with the Cape Construction Expo and Wood World at Interbuild, Bruce Breedt will be presenting a talk at the workshops being held at both these exhibitions, titled Wood Deterioration, Durability and Preservation. The talk is aimed at informing the building contractors and professionals attending.
- SAWPA CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION! Every year SAWPA distributes an annual calendar which is very well received. If you have a photograph or photographs showcasing treated timber in use, which is in high resolution, and which you think would make a great calendar picture please email them to sawpa@global.co.za.
- A very interesting article on a \$60 mil mega sawmill built entirely of wood and titled "A sight for SAW eyes" is attached for your reading pleasure.

BRUCE BREEDT

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