



South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members

IRG48 GHENT, BELGIUM

Bruce attended the annual International Research Group on Wood Protection conference in Ghent, Belgium held from 4 to 9 June 2017. IRG48 was attended by 256 delegates from 33 countries, and 108 papers and 20 posters were presented. The sections related to wood protection on which papers were presented, pertained to Biology, Test Methodology & Assessment, Wood Protection Chemicals, Processes & Properties, and Sustainability & Environment. Under Section 2 which deals with Test methodology and Assessment, Bruce acted as a co-convenor for the working party session 2.3 dealing with Chemical and Physical analysis. The following listed papers are just some of the papers of interest that were presented at the conference:

- IRG/WP 17 – 40812 Durability of energy efficient wooden buildings: a building physical point of view
- IRG/WP 17 – 20626 Ensuring quality of treated wood – Regulations, certifications and associative background in the field of wood protection in Europe
- IRG/WP 17 – 50326 A green and novel technology for recovering copper and wood from treated wood waste – Part II: Optimization, copper metal recovery, and process design
- IRG/WP 17 – 30706 Field performance of refractory species treated with MCA (micronized copper azoles)
- IRG/WP 17 – 40805 Studying weathering performance of coatings on thermally modified wood
- IRG/WP 17 – 10896 Fungal growth on coated wood exposed outdoors: Influence of coating pigmentation, cardinal direction and inclination of wood surfaces
- IRG/WP 17 – 20611 Three-dimensional digital image correlation of strains in profiled wood decking exposed to wetting & drying.
- IRG/WP 17 – 20605 The sorption behaviour of wood
- IRG/WP 17 – 20628 The development of potentiometric enzyme biosensor for detection of permethrin preservative in treated wood
- IRG/WP 17 – 40773 Permeability of *Eucalyptus* wood improved by microwave treatment
- IRG/WP 17 – 40800 The effects of pre-microwave treatment on retention levels, and some mechanical properties of spruce wood treated with CCA
- IRG/WP 17 – 50330 Review of leaching experiments of CCA-treated wood and wood treated with copper-based alternatives
- IRG/WP 17 – 20616 Overview of treated wood quality control program in the United States, with recent challenges and advances

Contact SAWPA if you require more information on the full list of papers presented, and/or a copy of papers presented. As a point of interest, during the final plenary meeting Bruce was nominated and appointed as a member of the IRG-WP Executive Council for a period of three years.

IRG49 JOHANNESBURG 2018

With the successful conclusion of IRG48 in Ghent, IRG49, scheduled to take place in Johannesburg from 29 April to 3 May 2018 has now become a reality. As the Local Organising Committee responsible for hosting the conference, SAWPA has already started preparations and planning to ensure that IRG49 is as much a success as previous IRG conferences. Apart from the support of attendees, the hosting of such a conference is not possible without the financial assistance of sponsors. We have already initiated a process of sending out sponsorship letters to potential local and international sponsors, and have already been fortunate in getting both local and international pledges. We would however like to extend this opportunity to anyone who may feel that they would also like to contribute towards the success of the first IRG conference to be held on the African Continent, to contact us for information on the sponsorship packages, which gives ranging levels of recognition to the sponsors by virtue of exposure before and during the conference, depending on the level of sponsorship given. Since this will be the first IRG conference ever to be held on the African Continent, the IRG-WP Executive Council, in an effort to increase local South African and African participation in both delegates and presenters, have allocated incentives with regards reduced conference fees to all domiciled South African and other African delegates, as well as travel assistance for South African and African domiciled students who are successful in their applications to participate as recipient of the annual RCA awards. More information on the aforementioned incentives will soon be made known through communiques and the launch of a dedicated IRG49 website. We are proud to introduce the official logo for IRG49 below, which depicts the Southern Cross, the Nelson Mandela bridge, the Johannesburg skyline as well as annual rings of a log cross section.



REVISION OF SANS STANDARDS

The proposed SANS 10005 Ed 9 was recently circulated as a committee draft for voting and comment by TC 218 Subcommittee 1 members. The draft was sent to all SAWPA members not represented directly on the SABS SC so that SAWPA members can submit any comments that they might have to SAWPA for collation and submittal by the 23rd of June 2018. At the same time all four SANS standards pertaining to wooden poles, i.e. SANS 457-2&3 and SANS 753&4 was also circulated to Subcommittee 3, who deals with the development of the physical timber requirement. Unbeknown to us, and due to what seems to be an error, the SABS secretariat removed SAWPA from SC 3 in March this year without us realising this. This error has resulted in SAWPA never receiving notification of the circulation of the committee drafts for ballot due on the 26th of June. We have made an urgent request to the SABS to immediately rectify the status of SAWPA as a voting member on SC 3 and to extend the period for ballot and comments. Members will therefore soon receive the committee drafts of the standard/s relevant to their product certification. You are requested to submit any comments you may have to SAWPA so that we can in turn submit our vote and comments based on the membership responses.

NEWS ON PLANNED RESEARCH STUDIES CO-FUNDED BY SAWPA

As reported at the regional meetings that took place earlier this year, approval has been given by the SAWPA executive to co-fund two studies aimed at assessing and identifying alternative species, including hybrids that will give equal or improved characteristics required for pole material.

The first study related to hardwood poles (eucalyptus) which will initially be a scoping study that if proving viable will commence into a full-blown field study that will span over several years. This study is to be undertaken by the ICFR and we can report that a first workshop has been called to take place on the 5th of July 2017, and SAWPA will be represented at the workshop.

The second Study related to softwood poles and undertaken by NMMU was well on the way to commence with the various identified species being sampled and collected at roadside before being taken to Saasveld for preparation and grading prior to the tests being conducted. Unfortunately, due to the severe fire damage that was recently experienced in the Southern Cape, the sample poles lying in the plantations were affected by the fire and as a result the study will be delayed pending full assessment of the damage, and if necessary resourcing of samples. We are hopeful that all is not lost and that this study will commence soon.

NRCS LEVIES DUE FOR PERIOD 17A (1 January to 30 June 2017)

The 30th of June will mark the end of the first period for NRCS levies due. All plants are hereby reminded to submit form 17B (type 5), and pay the declared levies by the end of July 2017. The levy declaration form 17A should be sent out by the NRCS soon. Should any treater not receive the form by the end of July a generic form 17A can be obtained from SAWPA. You can also contact Magda Spies at the NRCS for a copy of the 17A form containing you company details at magda.spies@nrccs.org.za or 012 482 8890.

NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- A marketing and sales position is available at Arch Wood Protection – LONZA. Interested parties must contact the General Manager, Doug Sayce at doug.sayce@lonza.com for more information.
- Just a friendly reminder that the Cape Construction Trade Expo is being held in Cape Town at the CTICC from the 23-24 August 2017.



- Wanted: If you are selling a second-hand Bell 225, please contact Harmeet Grewal on grewal@foresttz.com
- Over the past 6 months, hits to the SAWPA website have averaged at 33700 per month.

Regards

BRUCE BREEDT

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