



South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members,

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Following the notice in the previous newsletter of the Department of Environmental Affairs (Green Scorpions) plans to intensify visits to timber treatment plants in Gauteng, we can now also give notice that the NATIONAL DEA Enforcement Section plan to visit all plants in the country. This was confirmed to SAWPA by an official of this department. With respect the issue on whether or not CCA plants must comply with the Air Emission Licence regulations, the official informed SAWPA that they are still awaiting an opinion/decision from an air quality principal expert within the Department.

NRCS LEVIES DUE FOR PERIOD 17B (1 July to 31 December 2017)

The 31st of December marked the end of the second period of 2017 for NRCS levies due. All plants are required to submit the type 5 declaration form 17B, and pay the declared levies by 31 January 2017. The NRCS should by now have sent declaration form 17B to all manufacturers. In the event that any treater did not receive the form a generic form for period 17B can be obtained from the SAWPA website at <http://www.sawpa.co.za/nrcs>. Please remember that if you make use of the generic form on our website, your plant details and specific JDE or HEF number issued by the NRCS need to be completed on the form.

AMENDMENTS TO THE NRCS LEVIES FOR 2018

The annual amendments to the NRCS fees were published in GoN 1413 on 15 December 2017 and are effective from the date of publication. This in effect means that the previous levies and tariffs published in September 2016 are valid for the period up until 31 December 2017, where after the new levies and tariffs become effective on products produced from 1 January 2018.

Commodity description	Unit	Previous tariff	Previous tariff	New tariff	New tariff
		R	Type 5 certified plants R	R	Type 5 certified plants R
		1 Oct 2016 to 31 Dec 2017		1 January 2018 to next annual published increase	
Preservative treated timber (VC 9092)	1 m ³	1.25	<u>1.12</u>	1.33	<u>1.20</u>
Application fee for the approval of a manufacturing facility (LOA) for the preservative treatment of timber – Non-refundable	Per facility	1 275		1 352	
Application for a sales permit – Non-refundable ¹⁾	Per application	2 800		2 970	
1) Typically, sales permits will be required for processing plants that are situated outside South Africa and that supply treated timber to entities in South Africa through a registered associated or partnering business in South Africa.					
NOTE: The higher tariff published additional to the type 5 certified Tariff is assumed to be applicable to new plants who have applied for an LOA and certification, or plants certified by an approved body not accredited as a Type 5 product certification body with SANAS.					

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Members must take note that the first round of SAWPA regional meetings for 2018 are planned for the dates given below. Final confirmation of the dates and venue details will be given closer to the time. Members are reminded that this is the platform where you can voice and discuss industry matters and concerns. Members are welcome to submit proposals for discussions at the meetings. Please specify whether it is intended for discussion in your specific region or if you would like to add it as a discussion point at all the regional meetings. In cases where preparation might be required by SAWPA, the required background details need to be submitted together with the agenda item.

Regional Meeting Schedule

Mpumalanga	Tuesday 6 March 2018
KZN	Friday 9 March 2018
Gauteng	Friday 16 March 2018
Southern/Eastern Cape	Tuesday 20 March 2018
Western Cape	Friday 23 March 2018
Limpopo	Monday 26 March 2018

All the meetings will start at 10:00. Refreshments will be served before the meetings, upon conclusion of which lunch will be served. For seating and catering purposes please notify Sue at 011 974 1061 or sawpa@global.co.za if you will attend.

SECTORAL DETERMINATION FOR FORESTRY WORKERS – NEW MINIMUM WAGES W.E.F. 1 MARCH 2018

After some uncertainty as to whether a new Sectoral minimum wage for farm and forestry workers would be announced prior to the introduction of the National Minimum Wage which is planned for 1 May 2018, the following notice appeared on the Department of Labour's Website on 23 January 2018.

New minimum wages for Farm and Forestry workers sector in March 2018

The new minimum wages for employees in the farm and forestry sectors are set to increase by 5.6 %. The minimum wage will increase as follows:

Monthly: R3 169,19 (2017/18: R3 001,13)

Weekly: R731,41 (2017/18: R692,62)

Daily: R146,28 (2017/18: R138,52)

Hourly: R16,25 (2017/18: R15,39)

The new minimum wages will come into effect from 1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019.

Issued by: Teboho Thejane, Departmental Spokesperson, **082 697 0694**

IRG49 SANDTON – 29 APRIL TO 3 MAY 2018



A further reminder for members interested in research developments in the international field of wood protection, the International Research Group on Wood Protection's annual conference, IRG 49, hosted by SAWPA, will be held in Sandton, South Africa from April 29th to May 3rd 2018. Reduced registration fees are applicable for all domiciled African attendees, ranging from SEK 600 (± R 900) for African domiciled students and SEK 2 500 (R 3800) for other African domiciled delegates. For more information on the conference please visit the website at www.irg49.co.za.

AGRICULTURAL POLES

Due to requirements placed on fruit and nut export markets there has been a rise in the demand for shade net poles for agricultural purposes. It must be emphasised that shade net poles used for agricultural purposes are used in high risk end conditions, and like vineyard poles, shade net poles are exposed to irrigation and fertilising of the soil, which in turn greatly increases the risk of fungal activity. In the case of hardwood poles, which have a high susceptibility to soft rot, a higher preservative retention than H4 is thus required. Due to premature failures experienced in hardwood vineyard poles some years ago, the SABS committee at the time introduced an interim solution of a H4-V class specifically intended for vineyard poles.

This seems to have become an unintended solution for supplying shade net poles, and during a subcommittee meeting held this past Tuesday the issue of using H4-V instead of H5 was discussed. Industry representatives contended that the main problem with treating to H5 was that it was impractical and impossible to produce large orders, as required for shade netting, and still complying with a 20 mm penetration.

Over the past year or so SAWPA has been approached by farmers, as well as a group of agricultural experts responsible for developing articles for the South African Fruit Journal, who we informed and advised that shade net poles must be treated to at least H5, and that the H4-V was implemented to cater specifically for vineyard poles that consist mainly of small diameter high sapwood containing material. After some deliberation by the subcommittee on how to best deal with the matter within the standards it was agreed to stay in line with the originally adapted international H class system. As such a request for amendment will be submitted to the current committee drafts under revision, whereby the introduced H4-V will be removed from the standards, and for H5 an amended penetration requirement of complete sapwood penetration with a minimum of 15 mm sapwood for hardwood poles will be introduced.

Since there will be some time before the revision process is completed and the revised standards published, it is recommended that for the interim the H4-V classification may be used where the current H5 requirement of 20 mm penetration cannot be met due to the insufficient sapwood characteristic of the available resources. In cases where it can be met it's recommended that poles be treated and, marked to H5.

NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- The hits to the SAWPA website for December was 38451.
- Members are again reminded of the on-product safety labels available from SAWPA to all members, free of charge.
- SAWPA will taking part in the Johannesburg Homemakers Expo being held at the Ticketpro Dome in Northriding from 22 to 25 February 2018.

Regards

BRUCE BREEDT

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



Should have used treated timber treated to the correct H class!

Ganvie, Benin - photo courtesy www.open-explorers.com