



South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members,

WE SAY GOODBYE TO SUE

We begin this newsletter on a sad note as we say farewell to Sue Kindervater who has been part of the association's staff for close to 23 years. Sue has decided to join her husband Dirk who is going on early retirement. She will be leaving in January and they plan to travel extensively through Southern Africa in a campervan, which is a lifelong dream of Sue's. A farewell message was delivered by David Bergman, the SAWPA Chairman, at AGM on the 27th of September, but on behalf of all the members who could not attend I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue for her dedication and service to SAWPA over the past 23 years. Sue will surely be regarded as a part of SAWPA, and we wish her well on the travel adventures and retirement.

With the departure of Sue there is also the opportunity for a new change of hands. I am pleased to inform the members that we have already gone through the process of finding a replacement. We have appointed Miss Judy Davies, starting on the 1st of November. This will allow her to work with Sue until January, thereby ensuring a smooth transition. Judy has vast experience gained from working for two large non-profit organisations operating in the Business Leadership field for the past 15 years. We believe she will be a great addition and asset to SAWPA, and trust that she will enjoy the environment at SAWPA and be a part of the association for many years to come.

SOUTHERN CAPE FIRES

I am sure that all our members and stakeholders in the forestry and related sectors support me when I say that we are truly dismayed and saddened by the destruction and loss of life as a result of the fires that yet again raged in the Southern Cape. One cannot even try to imagine the loss and sorrow those directly affected must be feeling, and we are well aware that some of our own members have been severely affected in the latest fires. We ask that we all keep the people of the region in our thoughts and prayers, and ask they remain strong and resolute to get through this tragedy for the better.

ADVISORY NOTE ON MANAGEMENT OF TREATMENT PLANT WASTE

I am pleased to report that the attached advisory note was approved by both the Chemical Forum and Executive Committee and trust that it would assist our members in managing their hazardous plant waste. The advisory note will be added to the SAWPA website under the "SAWPA Members and Industry Info" section. Like the eight Guidance Notes that we have already developed, and that is aimed at informing the end-user, the Advisory Notes are aimed at our members and industry, and we hope to develop many more in time to come.

ILLEGAL TIMBER TREATMENT

SAWPA is represented at government and industry forums where we get to liaise departments such as DAFF, DTI, etc., and it's at these forums that SAWPA raised our concern over the escalating problem of illegal treaters and traders dealing in illegal timber, highlighting not only the risks facing our industry, but also the consumers

who are buying these products. DTI's department dealing with forestry based industries has taken note of our concerns, and engaged with the NRCS and SAWPA to discuss the extent and reason for the problem, i.e. why regulation is not effectively imposed by the NRCS, and finding amenable solutions to the problem. A meeting was held on the 25th of October where SAWPA and the NRCS were asked to each table their views and challenges facing both the industry and the regulator. What transpired is that the NRCS acknowledged firstly that their communication and feedback to SAWPA and industry is not what it should be, despite numerous requests from SAWPA, and critically they again acknowledged and confirmed that the reason for the NRCS being in-effective in regulating treated timber (poles), is because of a deficient sanctioning structure for the specific commodity. When dealing with illegally treated poles, unlike most other products they regulate, there are major challenges related to the confiscation of illegally treated timber, how to deal with it when found, i.e. where is it taken to for containment and storage, how is it transported, how is it disposed of, re-used, recycled and if possible destroyed in a legal and acceptable manner, taking into consideration factors related to dispossession of and transfer of ownership, environmental concerns, consumer protection etc. Although we were made aware of these challenges previously, and indicated to the NRCS that we are willing to work with them to find solutions, no effort and willingness to engage with the industry and other stakeholders had been made by the NRCS up to now.

Thanks to DTI's intervention we are hopeful of the process going forward and finding solutions. The first plan of action is for DTI to convene a meeting with DAFF as a primary stakeholder to determine to what extent the department may be able to assist in dealing with the immediate problem regarding logistics on confiscated product in the affected areas. If such assistance is not possible then all stakeholders, including industry, need to find and ensure alternative measures. The NRCS has also committed to implementing unannounced raids in the affected areas. These raids will be done in collaboration with enforcement authorities/regulators, e.g. SAPS, SARS etc.

PEST CONTROL OPERATOR REGISTRATION

At the recent regional meetings members were reminded of the requirement that all timber treatment plants needed to be registered as a pest control operator in accordance with the PCO Regulations. This was a requirement in the previous PCO Regulations, and remained relevant in the new Regulation published in 2011. However the new Regulation specified that for a wood preservation plant to register, it had to be certified by a SANAS accredited body, and be in possession of a NRCS Letter of Approval (LOA). Due to the NRCS's delayed issuance of LOA's, which was only started in 2015, it was agreed that the PCO registration process was not possible until all plants have applied for, and were issued with a LOA.

There is however some uncertainty and possible contradiction between the qualification criteria stipulated for timber treatment plants in the regulations, and what is required on the specified application form. In order to get clarity and prevent any unwanted misunderstanding between industry and the Registrars office, the SAWPA Executive Committee agreed that the matter be taken up with the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947. The Registrar has agreed for a meeting on the 9th of November, the first available date for him to meet with us. Following the meeting members will be kept informed on the outcomes and the process going forward.

NEW CLASS 1 CHEMICAL SUPPLIER MEMBER

SAWPA is pleased to welcome a new addition to our class 1 preservative supplier members. Industrial Distillers and Refiners (IDR) is a creosote supplier registered with the Department of Agriculture, and their product was recently certified in accordance with SANS 616 type 2 creosote. We trust that IDR will have a longstanding and beneficial relationship with the Association and its members, and look forward to engaging with them.

NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- The hits to the SAWPA website for August, September and October was 26 453, 38 550 and 48 992.
- **The 2019 SAWPA calendar** was recently completed and posted to all our members and other interested stakeholders. Please be on the lookout for your copies of the calendar and collect them from your postal box before they are returned to SAWPA. We would like to thank Biggarsberg Thatchers who provided the beautiful photos used in the 2019 calendar.
- SAWPA attended the recent Knysna Timber Festival held from the 5th to the 7th of October at the timber village in Knysna. We believe that by attending this festival we have also increased an awareness of SAWPA as an industry association for our members and the products produced by the members.
- The AGFO Expo focusing on the Agriculture and Forestry sectors is will be held in White River from November the 8th to the 9th. Members who would like to attend or perhaps participate as an exhibitor at the show, please go <https://www.agfo.co.za/> for more information.

Regards

BRUCE BREEDT

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

SAWPA, PO Box 686, Isando 1600
Tel: 011 974 1061 Website: www.sawpa.co.za Email: sawpa@global.co.za