



## South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members

### SANS 1288 NON-STRUCTURAL POLES

There have been complaints of recent, regarding the treatment and sale of SANS 1288 poles in the open market, where consumers are not made aware of what a SANS 1288 pole is, i.e. non-structural ungraded pole. The allowance for the treatment of pole material was introduced in SANS 1288:2000 edition 3 following a request from treaters to allow the treatment of poles that cannot comply to SANS 457. This request was specifically made to allow for cases where there is a requirement from a consumer/end-user for a pole in an end application that requires a rustic aesthetic look, e.g. manufacture of outdoor furniture. The intention was never to allow for the mass production of poles under the SANS 1288 standard, and the flooding of the market with such poles. This however seems to be the modus operandi of a small number of pole treatment plants. The only logical explanation for this is for commercial gain, with a total disregard for consumer safety, and future industry and product integrity.

The building regulations and all building related standards are very clear that when a pole is specified in a structure it has to comply with SANS 457-2 or SANS 457-3. With the imminent publication of the revised SANS 1288:2019 Ed4 we are hopeful that the revision, including clear definitions and segregating specific treatment requirements for structural poles (SANS 457) and non-structural poles, will reduce this practice. If not there is a case for further amendments to SANS 1288 once the new addition is published i.e., wherein the definition for a non-structural pole can be amended to clearly state "not intended for poles that can comply to SANS 457", and possibly the inclusion of wording under Annex A - Notes to purchasers, that requires a purchaser to specify when non-structural poles are required for specific applications that do not fall under the SANS 457 scope of applications.

### NRCS LEVIES

The NRCS amends their tariffs annually, however to date the NRCS has not published any new amended tariffs since the 2018 tariffs published in December 2017. What this means is that the 2018 tariffs are applicable for the first quarter declaration period of 1 January to 31 March 2019 and will remain effective until such time as amended tariffs are published in the government gazette upon which SAWPA will communicate such changes to all members.

### STATUS OF NRCS LOA DUE TO CHANGE OF CONDITIONS

The NRCS has issued a notice to SAWPA stating that any changes to the conditions of a Letter of Approval (LOA) will render the LOA outdated and invalid. This means that any change to the conditions will require an application for an extension or an amendment to the LOA. Changes include the extension of your certification agreement by including an additional preservative type, treatment process or H Class, as well as changing your certification service provider. In addition, when a plant is taken over by a new owner and the company details and names are changed, it may also require a new application to be submitted. As in the past, members are welcome to contact SAWPA to assist with the process of submitting the application for amendments or extensions.

## SAWPA MEMBER SURVEY

The SAWPA Executive Committee met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. One of the issues that was discussed was whether SAWPA as an Association was keeping abreast of the member's needs and expectations. To assist in determining this, it was agreed to do a survey among the members in the form of a short questionnaire. The questionnaire is in the process of being developed and will be circulated to members shortly. Members are requested to partake in the survey once it is distributed. The results of the survey will assist and guide the SAWPA Executive Committee on how to proceed going forward, i.e. are the members happy with the current offering or is there a need to expand the offering to members.

## IRG50 QUEBEC CITY, CANADA – 12 TO 16 MAY 2019



This year IRG50 takes place in Quebec, Canada from 13 to 16 May 2019. Bruce will attend the conference on behalf of SAWPA and will already be attending IRG-WP Executive Council meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Due to the success of IRG49 that was hosted by SAWPA in 2018, we are in a position to channel some of the profits toward a Bronze sponsorship for IRG50. As usual a report on the IRG50 study presentations would be included in the next newsletter. For more information on the IRG50 conference visit the website at <https://irg50.com>

## NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- SAWPA recently joined social media with its own Facebook page. The main focus is to use it as a platform to share information on timber preservation and preservative treated timber. The page is still in its infancy stage but will develop as time goes on. Members are encouraged to visit the page, like and share the information posted on the page as wide as possible. <https://www.facebook.com/SAWPA-South-African-Wood-Preservers-Association-804121316426548>
- Members are reminded of the on-product safety labels available from SAWPA. Please contact Judy at [admin@sawpa.co.za](mailto:admin@sawpa.co.za) or 011 974 1061. With the imminent publication of the revised SANS 10005 Ed 9, the on-product safety information will become a requirement and no longer a recommendation.
- Please take note that the email addresses to SAWPA have changed. The main e-mail address is now [admin@sawpa.co.za](mailto:admin@sawpa.co.za) and Bruce's email is now [bruce@sawpa.co.za](mailto:bruce@sawpa.co.za). The old [sawpa@global.co.za](mailto:sawpa@global.co.za) and [vbb@global.co.za](mailto:vbb@global.co.za) addresses will terminate in a couple of months.

Regards

**BRUCE BREEDT**

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