



South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL - GENERATORS BELOW 20 KG/DAY

As reported at the recent regional meetings, the Department of Environmental Affairs responded to SAWPA regarding the apparent unwillingness of the three approved waste management facilities to accept hazardous waste from plants generating less than 20 kg/day, if they aren't registered on the South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC). In order for the department to issue directives to these waste facilities to instruct them to accept the waste from minor generators, the department requires details and evidence of cases where waste from minor generators (below the 20 kg/day) have been rejected.

Members who have been affected by this are reminded to forward evidence to SAWPA for submittal to the department as none have been received to date. Kindly forward it to admin@sawpa.co.za or bruce@sawpa.co.za so that we can resolve this matter.

As an interim measure the department suggests that plants obtain an affidavit from their local police station wherein you declare generating below the 20 kg/day threshold. The affidavit must be submitted to the waste management facilities, who should accept the affidavit as a legal and official document permitting you to dispose of your hazardous waste as a non-registered minor generator. If any member has followed this route we would appreciate feedback on whether or not it's been accepted by the facilities.

SANS 1288 REVISION PROGRESS

On the 8th of October an urgent meeting was held for SABS Subcommittee 218 SC1 to review the comments received on the 3rd committee draft of SANS 1288 Ed 4. The committee reviewed and resolved all the comments. The minutes of the meeting, including resolutions taken, are currently out for a 30 day approval period, where after the standard should proceed to the final stage of public comment as a Draft South African Standard.

The most crucial issues that were dealt with were a) the Non-structural or 1288 poles, b) the proposed requirements on complete and solid sapwood penetration for ground contact hardwood poles, and c) the exponential increase in retention for ground contact hardwood poles that have high sapwood ratios.

In short, the definition for a non-structural (1288) pole has been amended to only allow for a pole that cannot comply with the requirements of SANS 457 to be produced under SANS 1288. With regards to the proposed complete and solid sapwood penetration, and exponential increase of retentions for hardwood poles with high sapwood ratios, it was agreed that the aforementioned will apply to high risk end application poles, i.e. H5, which will in the new standard include commodities such as foundation poles, vineyard poles and shade net poles.

SAWPA GUIDANCE NOTE - SANS 457 vs SANS 1288 POLES

SAWPA has issued a new guidance note (see attached) that describes the difference between a pole produced under SANS 457 and those that are allowed to be made in accordance with SANS 1288. The guidance note clearly describes the intended end applications as well as the reason why SANS 1288 non-structural poles were allowed. Members are requested to kindly take note of the content of the guidance note and to distribute it to your clients, especially those who want to purchase large volumes of 1288 poles for retail purposes, a practice which are not in line with reason for the allowance and should be discouraged. The guidance note will be added to all the other guidance notes produced and available on our website at <http://sawpa.co.za/guidance-notes>

AVERAGE RETENTION PER CHARGE

There seem to be a misguided and incorrect opinion going around regarding the use of analytical spectrometers that can be applied to determine the average retentions per charge. The SANS standards are very clear on this. Only the approved SANS methods listed can and may be applied, as and where applicable. The methods are SANS 5967 (volume method), SANS 5988 (sample method) and SANS 5989 (weighbridge method), of which the latter two are not widely used. In addition the compliance to the retention requirements are applicable to each charge. If after doing the charge sheet calculations a charge does not comply, it must be retreated to ensure that compliance is met. There is no approved SANS method for the use of analytical spectrometer equipment to accurately determine average retentions of a charge.

ILLEGAL TIMBER TREATMENT LISTED ON PPGI REPORT

We are pleased to report that the problem of illegal timber treatment has been added onto the latest Forestry Progress Report of the Public and Private Sector Growth Initiative (PPGI) projects. The report was discussed at a PPGI Master Plan meeting held at Gallagher Estate on Friday the 25th of October, where industry leaders met with Government. In short, the addition highlights the ever increasing and uncontrolled illegal treatment problem our industry is faced with, the non-regulation by the NRCS, and the slow progress we are experiencing in trying to coordinate Government and NRCS to resolve the problem. This is another level of awareness being created at government where the President himself has a great interest in seeing that the Forestry Sector has been identified as a key strategic sector for economic growth and development. The report formed part of the discussions between Industry leaders and Government at Gallagher Estate on the 25th of October 2019.

NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- The SAWPA Calendar for 2020 has been printed and we are getting them ready for posting over the next couple of weeks. Members must please keep a look out at your post boxes over coming months.

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

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