



## South African Wood Preservers Association



Dear Members,

***SAWPA would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and holiday season.***

Please note, the SAWPA offices will close on Friday, 13 December and will re-open on Wednesday, 08 January 2019.

### REVISION OF STANDARDS

As reported in the previous newsletter, the comments received on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Draft (CD) of SANS 1288 were resolved at a SABS 218SC1 meeting on 08 October. Unfortunately, and subsequent to the meeting, we were informed that the meeting did not represent a quorum, and a 4<sup>th</sup> CD incorporating the agreed changes, was circulated for ballot and comments on 15 November. Due to intervention by SAWPA with the SABS Standards Executive, the project was given priority status. This ensured that all votes were cast within less than a week, and the Draft South African Standard is at final edit prior to being gazetted for public comments. It is expected that SANS 1288 by all accounts will be approved and published by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

As far as SANS 10005 ed 9 is concerned, the public comment (DSS) stage has been completed. It is currently at final editing prior to being submitted for approval and publication. Once SANS 1288 is also approved, electronic copies of all the latest revised standards, i.e. SANS 457-2, SANS 457-3, SANS 753, SANS 754, SANS 10005 and SANS 1288, will be issued to all SAWPA class 1 members. Members are therefore again reminded not to purchase copies of the standards.

### NRCS & ILLEGAL TIMBER TREATMENT

**Report on meeting with NRCS:** On Monday, 25 November SAWPA attended a meeting at the NRCS. The meeting requested by SAWPA, and also attended by an official of the DTI, was to discuss the ongoing lack of regulation by the NRCS. I can report that the following was discussed and agreed upon:

- It is the NRCS's mandated obligation to regulate illegal timber treatment, and whilst they have not effectively regulated the illegal timber treatment and trade, they need to ensure that this is addressed as a matter of urgency.
- Their lack of logistical capacity to effectively regulate is a problem they need to address and overcome.
- The NRCS endeavoured to find solutions and implement resources to address the deficiencies by the end of the first quarter of the next financial year.
- They will engage with senior levels of all the relevant government agencies that have a vested interest in timber preservation and compliance, i.e. DTI, DEFF (environmental and forestry), Department of Agriculture (Registrar of agricultural remedies), etc to engage assistance and collectively ensure that illegal treatment and trade is effectively policed.
- The compulsory specification VC 9092 will be reviewed to address loopholes, i.e. to include wording that states any timber that gives the impression that its treated, or avers to be treated by its appearance, shall comply.

It was also stated by the NRCS management representative that should it be established that the NRCS is ultimately not capable of regulating, then they need to acknowledge this, and subsequently request that the compulsory specification and regulation of such a commodity be repealed. Such a decision will however be a last resort, after all other avenues have been exhausted. The NRCS however believes that they will be able to address their regulatory deficiencies within the coming months.

**Awareness campaign on illegal treatment and trade:** The possibility of a collective effort by industry, DTI, the NRCS and other stakeholders to launch awareness campaigns was also discussed and the NRCS indicated that they will be issuing media releases as part of their obligation to regulate. This will include making use of information brochures already developed by SAWPA and which are available in various languages e.g. English, Zulu, Sepedi, Xhosa and Venda. SAWPA has also launched two Facebook postings aimed at the worst affected areas in KZN and Limpopo. These posts aim to create an awareness of the sale of illegally treated timber; to educate the users on knowing how to spot the difference between legally and illegally treated timber; and to dissuade consumers in supporting the illegal trade. Since the inception of the posts on 31 November (KZN) and 05 December (Limpopo) they have respectively reached 15 232 and 5 680 by 9 December. Please visit the [SAWPA – South African Wood Preservers Association](#) facebook page to view, share and support the posts.

## NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE 2020 – LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The NMW Commission meeting scheduled for 21 November, with the aim of deciding on what to recommend to the Minister, was cancelled as they did not make a quorum. It is therefore likely that the meeting will only take place in January 2020. This means that should a recommendation be submitted to the Minister by the end of January, and the minimum 30 day notice period for public comment is also considered, it is likely that the NMW will not be implemented before 1 March 2020.

In terms of current legislation, the NMW can then be backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. Although there has been no indication of what the NMW increases may be, if at all. It's probable that it could at least be in line with the latest CPI figure of 3.7%. Companies who in anticipation want to consider increases, and who are not in financial distress, may want to consider implementing a 3.7% increase from 01 January 2020.

With regards sectoral determinations there has also been no notice of agreements reached to date, e.g. the sawmilling sectoral agreement, which is normally backdated to 01 July. This, together with the basic conditions of employment stating that sectoral agreements must be increased proportionally to any adjustment to the NMW, employers falling under sector agreements may also want to consider implementing an anticipated increase of at least the CPI figure of 3.7%.

Companies who cannot afford increases should consider applying for an exemption through the normal channels.

## NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- The SAWPA Calendar for 2020 has been posted and we trust that you received your copy by now. If not remember to keep a look out for the calendars and to collect them at your postal boxes.

Regards  
**BRUCE BREEDT**

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

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