



South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members,

PROGRESS ON STANDARDS UNDER REVISION

The long overdue Draft South African Standard (DSS) of SANS 1288 ed4 was gazetted for the 60-day public comment period from 12 December to 12 February. If no public comment is received by the closing date, the standard will be prepared for final approval and will hopefully be published by the end of the first quarter, or at latest early in the second quarter.

SANS 10005 ed9 has already passed the DSS stage and is awaiting approval and publication at present. Once these two standards are published electronic copies of all the newly revised standards, including SANS 457-2&3, SANS 753 and SANS 754 will be distributed to all SAWPA class 1 members, as per the applicable commodities produced. As previously reported, this will be at no additional charge to members, and under a user license agreement that SAWPA has undertaken with the SABS, meaning copyright use restrictions will apply to SAWPA members only.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON ILLEGAL TIMBER TREATMENT

Members may have noticed the awareness campaign that SAWPA launched from the end of November and again from mid-January on Facebook. There are currently two posts running that conveys the same message, but with a slightly different visual portrayal (see attached). It differentiates between proper and correctly treated vs illegally treated timber, with supporting text providing some background to the problem with reference and links to more information on the SAWPA website. Since the inception of the campaign the posts have reached over 130K people, prompted over 10K engagements, including likes, shares and comments.

Members can view the posts on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SAWPA-South-African-Wood-Preservers-Association-804121316426548/>, and are encouraged to share, like and comment on the posts.

You are reminded of the leaflets that was produced in various languages that is available for distribution. If you require pre-printed copies, please inform Judy at admin@sawpa.co and indicate the language preferences, i.e. English, Zulu, Xhosa, Venda or Sepedi. These leaflets are also available at <https://sawpa.co.za/wood-preservation-and-the-law> where there is another leaflet describing the legislation applicable to treated timber.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON WAGE INCREASES

Recent reports in the media regarding a 5% increase proposed by the NMQ commission and it being rejected by trade unions, demanding 12.5% is not factually correct. This, according to the head of AGRI SA's Labour and Development unit and member of the NMW commission; and reported as follows:

“This update should be read in conjunction with the previous NMW update and does not replace any of the information in that update. Certain media statements by union confederations represented in the NMW Commission necessitated us to emphasise a few points:

1. *It is very important to remember that the NMW commission is not a negotiation forum. There isn't an offer of increase made which is negotiated and can then be rejected in public. Adjustments to the NMW can only be made if proper research shows that it will not increase unemployment and cause damage to vulnerable sectors (like agriculture). The recommended adjustment is 3.8%, not 5% as is erroneously stated in the media. Furthermore, the 90% dispensation for agriculture cannot be done away with without proper research indicating it will not harm the sector.*
2. *A recommendation for adjustment would logically be a compromise in the first year given that all the information relating to the effect of the NMW is not available yet.*
3. *It is very disappointing that unions would attempt to destabilise the work of the NMWC and the NMW commissioners in this way. Please see the media article here: <https://www.fin24.com/Economy/nedlac-slams-proposed-5-increase-to-national-minimum-wage-20200128> (Partially corrected as Nedlac has made no such statement. This is solely from union confederations. News24 has been contacted to rectify this information and the 5% vs 3.8% should also be rectified today.)*
4. *Lastly, a national protected strike on the NMW adjustment is not possible and the NMW Act does not contain such a dispute procedure. Adjustments are solely the prerogative of the minister, properly advised by the NMWC.”*

2020 REGIONAL MEETINGS

Preliminary dates for the 2020 SAWPA regional meetings are detailed below. Final confirmation of the meetings and the details of the venues will be made available closer to the time. The regional meetings form a platform where members can raise and discuss industry matters. Members are encouraged to attend. If you have any specific agenda item that you would like to raise, please let us know.

March 2020 Regional Meeting Schedule

Limpopo	Monday, 02 March
Mpumalanga	Wednesday, 04 March
KZN	Friday, 06 March
Western Cape	Monday, 09 March
Gauteng/North West	Wednesday, 11 March
Southern & Eastern Cape	Monday, 16 March

September 2020 Regional Meeting Schedule

KZN	Monday, 31 August
Gauteng/North West	Wednesday, 02 September
Southern & Eastern Cape	Friday, 04 September
Limpopo	Monday, 07 September
Western Cape	Friday, 11 September
Mpumalanga	Monday, 14 September

Meetings usually start at 10:00 am. Coffee/tea and something light to eat will be available before the meeting, and a lunch will be served upon conclusion, normally from around 12:30 to 13:00. Once the details of the meetings have been confirmed, please RSVP with Judy for seating and catering arrangements (011 974 1061/admin@sawpa.co.za), stating whether or not you will attend and stay for lunch.

IRG51 BLED, SLOVENIA – 07 TOT 11 JUNE 2020



The 51ST Annual conference of the International Research Group on Wood Protection will be held in Slovenia in the beautiful lakeside village of Bled from 07 to 11 June 2020. For more information on the conference please visit the website at <https://www.irg51.si>

NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- We trust that all our members have received their 2020 SAWPA Calendars by now. If not remember to keep a look out for the calendars and to collect them at your postal boxes. Members who would like additional calendars can request it from Judy at admin@sawpa.co.za
- Members are reminded to review their member information on our website <https://www.sawpa.co.za> and inform us if any changes or additions are required. Treater members will note that there are regional lists that list all members, but if you scroll down on the same page containing the lists, only information on companies that have requested so are given, with logos, contact details, commodities etc. Any class 1 treater member not listed here yet are welcome to forward the relevant details and logos to admin@sawpa.co.za and it will be added.
- The annual calendars are well received by industry as well as architects, engineers, coops etc. It is becoming quite a challenge to source suitable photographic content showcasing the use of treated timber for the calendars. Any contributions of high-resolution photos are welcome and can be sent to SAWPA for future calendars. Contributors of photos will be given acknowledgment if photos are used on a calendar.

Regards
BRUCE BREEDT

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

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