



South African Wood Preservers Association

Dear Members,

We trust that everyone is keeping safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that your businesses are slowly but surely returning to being fully operational. The timber preservation industry is fortunate that some manufacturers were able to remain open from the start of the lockdown, even if only for the manufacture and supply of essential products, e.g. agricultural poles to farmers etc. As the level of lockdown moved to level 4, more preservative treated commodities, including building materials, were allowed to be produced. As we moved to level 3 the increased retail and use of all preservative treated commodities were allowed.

This does not mean that things have fully returned to normal, since the effect of the pandemic to the economy has placed a damper on everything. As it currently stands it can be said that things could have been worse, and hopefully we will see improvement going forward.

LATEST STANDARDS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS

On April the 23rd the latest versions of the product standards were circulated to class 1 treater members. This means that every member plant received an electronic copy of SANS 10005:2020 & SANS 1288:2020, and in addition, based on your certification schedule, each plant received an electronic copy of SANS 457-2:2018, SANS 457-3:2019, SANS 753:2018 and SANS 754:2019, as relevant.

The electronic copies were mailed to a single identified individual within every member plant. The individual is responsible in ensuring that a copy of the standards is supplied to production and quality personnel, and not disseminating it to anyone outside of the manufacturing facility.

The standards were purchased under a user license agreement, i.e. distribution to, and use by SAWPA members only. Only a limited number of standards per user license were purchased, for example only 20 user-licences for one standard, but a 100-user licence for another, determined by the number of member plants certified to the standard. Because of this we are not able to supply a copy of e.g. SANS 457-2 or SANS 753 (pine poles) to a SANS 457-3 or SANS 754 plant (eucalyptus poles) plant or vice versa, unless the plant is certified for the standard.

We had problems with a few of the mails not being delivered, which we resolved, and we trust that every member plant has now received their new standards. If not check your mailbox (incl junk mail) for 23 April 2020. If still not received please contact bruce@sawpa.co.za

NRCS LEVY RETURNS

The end of the 6 monthly 20A levy return period was on the 30th of June, which means all processing plants need to submit their levy returns and payments by the 31st of July 2020. If you did not receive your levy return forms, please make use of the attached generic version, but remember to include your specific HEF client number as issued by the NRCS.

Whilst we are on the subject, we know that most members are unhappy with the lack of regulation, and that some are threatening to withhold levy payments as they are directly affected by illegal activities, including armed robberies of CCA for the illegal markets. The NRCS did undertake to commence and institute inspections and visits to illegal treaters and traders at the end of March 2020, but the enactment of the lockdown put an end to that, or this is the reason the NRCS is presently putting forward for not yet being able to act.

It is generally accepted and likely that the withholding of levies will be deemed an unlawful action as the levies are enacted through regulations under the NRCS Act. SAWPA is in the process of obtaining a legal opinion on the matter and will hopefully be able to give feedback on this soon.

In the meantime the illegal trade continues and are growing. The number of armed robberies at plants to obtain CCA for the illegal market, just in the Harding region of KZN, amounted to fourteen since July 2019, of which nine happened since lockdown ensued. All members are therefore urged to be vigilant and to ensure secure storage of preservatives.

FORESTRY MASTER PLAN - UPDATE

The development of the Forestry Sector Masterplan (FMP), which we reported on briefly at the regional meetings in March, is coming along well and has passed the first three phases of development and is currently entering the fourth and final phase before being finalised for future implementation.

The FMP is in support of the Re-imagined Industrial Strategy (RIS) for South Africa (SA), approved by the Government in June 2019 for the development of sector-focused Masterplans in priority sectors, of which the forestry sector is one. Forestry is also one of the sectors that is being prioritised under the Public Private Growth Initiative (PPGI), which is a partnership between the National Government and the private sector to stimulate investment projects. The DTIC put in place the Masterplan process, working together with other departments and in the case of the forestry sector, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) is the lead department with oversight over both the Masterplan and the implementation of that plan.

As DTIC has noted: *“The primary objective of the Masterplan process is to develop an agreed-upon set of actions, with time frames, that all stakeholders in a sector or value-chain commit to implementing for the benefit of the sector or value-chain. **The objectives of the Masterplan include encouraging sector growth, investment, job creation and competitiveness**”*

For the interest of members, the following seven key focus areas are covered in the masterplan and to give effect, the success statements as well as deliverables and high-level actions for each focus area have been established.

- Focus Area 1: Expanded Forestry Resource and Maintenance / Protection
- Focus Area 2: Transformation
- Focus Area 3: Processing
- Focus Area 4: Timber Theft and Illegal Activities (incl illegal timber treatment)
- Focus Area 5: Research, Development, Innovation and Skills Development
- Focus Area 6: Key Inhibitors
- Focus Area 7: Institutional Development

Members who are interested in viewing the draft master plan are welcome to contact us for a copy.

WOOD IN MY VEINS – MEMOIRE BY DOUG SAYCE

Most of you in the industry will be familiar with Doug Sayce, who recently retired after being part and contributing to the timber preservation industry in South Africa for many years. Doug has written a short book or memoire reflecting on his time in the industry. The book is titled “Wood in my veins” and as a parting gesture Doug has made the book available to anyone interested in reading it. We will be posting the book on the SAWPA website soon, but in the meantime, anyone interested in reading it can contact us for an electronic pdf copy.

IRG51

As with most other activities, the 51ST annual conference of the International Research Group on Wood Protection to be held in Slovenia from 07 to 11 June 2020 was cancelled, or at least the physical onsite 4-day conference. For the first time the IRG-WP decided to experiment and try out a virtual conference in the form of a webinar. The webinar took place over two days on 10 & 11 June. If any member would like to see a list of the papers that was presented, please let us know at bruce@sawpa.co.za or admin@sawpa.co.za

NEWSLETTER OFFCUTS

- **Treated Wood – A Sustainable Choice:** See attached new brochure that we produced to promote the use of preservative treated wood as a sustainable building material. The brochure is an adapted version of one produced by the European Institute for Wood Preservation (WEI-IOE) and the European Wood Preservative Manufacturers Group (EWPM).
- 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, 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.

Regards

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

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