



Call for non-affiliated timber treatment companies to join SAWPA

Dear Sir/Madam,

The South African Wood Preservers Association (SAWPA) would like you to consider supporting the efforts of SAWPA by joining the Association and becoming a Class 1 treater member.

SAWPA represents $\pm 70\%$ of the primary timber treatment facilities in South Africa. We endeavor to strengthen and expand our collective membership by gaining your support in becoming a member and thereby further strengthening our collective influence. Through SAWPA's concerted and ongoing involvement in various matters of interest relating specifically to the timber preservation industry, we strive to improve, strengthen and reinforce SAWPA as the primary industry mouthpiece. Our class 1 membership consists of timber treatment companies and wood preservative chemical supplier manufacturers.

SAWPA's main objectives, as taken from our constitution, are:

- to promote the interests of all Members who are treating timber and/or supplying timber treatment chemicals for commercial purposes;
- to promote and encourage the use of properly treated timber products and to take such steps to facilitate the marketing of such products;
- to promote, support or oppose as may be deemed expedient, any proposed legislative or other measure, affecting the interests of Members;
- to promote good environmental practices amongst Members;
- to do such other lawful things as may appear to be in the interest of the Association or its Members, and which are not inconsistent with the objectives or any matter specifically provided for, in this Constitution.

Promotion: Within the stated objectives, promotion of the industry, its activities and products, is our main priority and we strive to fulfil this role by making use of various platforms. These include the participation in various stakeholder exhibitions who have a vested interest in understanding and using treated timber, e.g. WoodEx for Africa, Interbuild, Cape Construction Expo, regional Homemaker Fairs, Bloembuild, Decorex, etc. We seize every opportunity to participate and often present talks on timber preservation and the use of treated timber, at workshops, exhibitions, conferences and seminars, tertiary institutions, etc. In addition, SAWPA frequently places editorials and adverts, related to timber preservation in various print and electronic media. The sectors that we mainly focused on for the promotional activities range from building and construction, engineering, architectural, timber and forestry, export and trade, agriculture and farming, local authorities, as well as those aimed at the public and homeowners. Because of this, our promotional budget is by far the largest single expenditure, and one we consistently and continuously strive to improve and expand.

Centre of information: In addition to promotion, which in some way also addresses advisory and educational information, SAWPA produces brochures, posters, guidance notes on various subjects, and product safety labels, which we make available to all our members as part of the service and benefit of membership. All such information and educational material is also distributed at exhibitions, workshops, retail and sales points, to educate and inform, specifiers, architects, engineers, the man in the street and other end users of treated timber.

Regulatory and legislation matters: SAWPA endeavors to ensure that our members are always kept informed and updated on regulatory and legislative aspects that have, or may have, a potential impact on the commercial activities of our members. If specifically related to the activity of timber preservation and preservative treated timber, we will actively participate and engage with the relevant authorities to represent our members interest to the best of our ability, and endeavor to influence the applicable authorities in their decision and when required, may appoint the services of professionals and experts to assist in achieving this. SAWPA as a representative body from the processing side of the forestry sector, also fully supports and contributes wherever we can, in the efforts of our fellow sector associations such as Forestry South Africa, who represent the growers of the trees that the preservative treatment industry is dependent on for our continued existence.

Standards development: SAWPA, as a representative body of its members, acts as a facilitator and representative on the relevant SABS Technical Committees responsible for the development of standards directly and indirectly related to timber preservation and the use of preservative treated timber. Bruce Breedts is also the current incumbent chairman of the National TC 218 and a member of the three subcommittees responsible for developing and maintaining all standards related to timber preservation, i.e. treated timber and chemical preservative products, processes, and test methods. In many cases we are directly involved and responsible for the actual drafting of standards, new, revisions or proposed amendments, such as the current drafting of the working drafts of the next editions of SANS 10005, SANS 1288, SANS 457-2 &3 and SANS 753 and 754. This activity is done in collaboration with various individuals and experts forming part of the membership and industry.

Standards supply and update program: At the end of 2017 SAWPA investigated the possibility of implementing a system whereby any new, revised or amended SANS standard will be supplied to its class 1 members (treaters and chemical suppliers) as part of the service offering. This system was implemented in 2018 and thus far all standards approved and published since mid-2017 has been supplied to members as per their specific product offering and certification. The system entails a multiuser licence agreement between SAWPA and the SABS standards sales department. Electronic copies are procured and circulated to the member's by SAWPA. The system does not only have a cost saving advantage, but also ensures that members are continuously provided with the latest updated standards.

Research: In 2015, the SAWPA Executive Committee agreed that one of the key objectives for SAWPA will be in the field of research, related to and of interest and benefit to SAWPA members. Currently SAWPA is funding a research project with the Stellenbosch University, looking at the sapwood ratio, density and tannin content of Eucalyptus *grandis* and hybrids, and the effects thereof on the preservative efficacy. As part of future focus areas, other research projects of importance and benefit will be identified to improve the industry and the products it produces. We have already committed to support and fund research, currently in the planning phase, with both Saasveld and the ICFR, which will respectively look at improved species and characteristics for Pine and Eucalyptus poles.

Communication and member interaction: SAWPA communicates information and news of interest and importance to its members via frequent newsletters, e-mail communication, as well as 2 annual regional meetings held in 6 regions in South Africa. Further direct visits to members are undertaken for one-on-one interaction and these are planned and carried out within allowable time constraints. The SAWPA website is a living platform and is also a source of information and communication to both industry and other stakeholders, including end users and the general public, and as such updates and additions are done if and when needed.

As part of our ongoing service to industry, specifically our members, SAWPA recently underwent a strategic review to determine a strategy roadmap for the future, which will address the needs of our members.

Membership levies: To assist the Association in delivering and expanding its objectives the SAWPA Executive Committee appeals to all current unaffiliated non-members to become members of SAWPA. The current membership levy for Class 1 treater members is based on 1,25% of chemical purchases. These are collected and paid over to SAWPA by the applicable chemical supplier. In addition to the treater levy, the Class 1 chemical supplier membership levy, contributes a further 0,25% of all sales made to SAWPA members, which brings the total SAWPA membership levy to 1,5% of all chemical sales to SAWPA member plants.

Your consideration of membership affiliation with SAWPA will be appreciated. Please find attached an application form for SAWPA membership. Should you need to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Breedt
Executive Director