

Newsletter 242

May 2024



South African Wood Preservers Association

WOODEX 2024

WoodEX for Africa, acknowledged as the foremost gateway and pivotal event for machinery, tools, forestry, and timber supplies across the Southern African continent is scheduled to take place at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, South Africa, from June 4th to 6th, 2024.

WoodEX coincides with the Big 5 Construct that caters for the wider construction industry and this ensures that the wood related industry has an extended stage to promote and market our industry and products to. SAWPA will once again have an exhibit at the show to showcase, share information, and create awareness for the primary wood preservation industry and SAWPA members.



PROPOSED AMENDED HCA REGULATIONS PUBLISHED

STAATSKOERANT, 5 APRIL 2024

No. 50431 13

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

NO. R. 4598

5 April 2024

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 85 OF 1993)

DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL AGENTS

The Minister of Employment and labour published a notice on the 5th of April stating his intention to revise the Hazardous Chemical Agent Regulations and that persons who wish to make comments must do so in writing within 90 days from the date of publication of the Notice, i.e. by 5th of July 2024. Members who would like to view the proposed Regulations can contact SAWPA for a copy thereof as well as a prepared version that compares the current 2021 version with the proposed draft 2024 Regulations.

The HCA Regulations apply to (a) an employer who carries out work at a workplace which may expose any person to an HCA at the workplace; and (b) a manufacturer, importer, supplier or retailer of an HCA that is intended for use at a workplace. Most wood preservatives used in our industry are classified as hazardous and as such treaters and chemical suppliers are advised to review and take note of the proposed regulations.

SANS 10255:2024 Ed3



The latest edition of SANS 10255, *Health, safety and environmental guidelines for the construction and operation of timber treatment plants* has been approved and published. As per the decision taken by the SAWPA Executive Committee in 2017, we plan to supply all Class 1 members, to whom the standard is applicable in the operation of a treatment plant, with an electronic copy purchased under a user license agreement.

The revised version has been long in the making, but with the proposed changes to the HCA Regulations as reported in the article above, there may be a need to amend SANS 10255:2024 again once the proposed draft 2024 HCA Regulations have been finalised and gazetted.

IRG55 MEETING

It's not long before the 55th meeting of the International Research Group meetings on Wood Protection in Knoxville, Tennessee in the USA will kick off. Those interested in knowing more about the meeting can visit the official IRG55 website <https://www.irc-wp.com/IRG55/>

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Philip Van Niekerk, a past MSc Wood Science graduate from South Africa and currently doing his PhD at the University of Göttingen in Germany was selected as a Ron Cockcroft awardee for 2024 and will be presenting at IRG55. SAWPA will be represented at the meeting and will give a report back following the meeting.



SAWPA CONTACT DETAILS ON BROCHURES AND POSTERS

Members' attention is drawn to contact details on older printed versions of SAWPA brochures and posters. At the time of printing older versions, SAWPA's e-mail address was sawpa@global.co.za and website address www.sawpa.org.za. Now all new material reflects our correct e-mail and website addresses as admin@sawpa.co.za and www.sawpa.co.za respectively. Members who have older versions are requested to kindly contact us so that we can send updated material to you.

Regards
BRUCE BREEDT

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