



South African Wood Preservers Association

SAWPA REGIONAL MEETINGS AUG/SEPT 2024

Please take note of the dates **and times** for the 2nd round of SAWPA 2024 regional meetings as given below.

The SAWPA regional meetings are a platform where report back and discussion takes place on matters that effect the preservative treated timber industry, and members are encouraged to make the time and effort to attend.

Regional Meeting Schedule Aug/Sept 2024

Gauteng/Northwest	Monday, 26 August @ 10:00	SAWPA Boardroom
Southern/Eastern Cape	Wednesday, 28 August @ 10:00	Pine Lodge - George
Western Cape	Friday, 30 August @ 09:30	Mowbray GC
Limpopo	Monday, 2 September @ 10:00	Pietersburg Club
Mpumalanga	Wednesday, 4 September @ 10:00	Badplaas
KZN	Friday, 6 September @ 09:30	Victoria CC PMB

Kindly ensure to RSVP with Nellie at admin@sawpa.co.za at least a week prior to the meeting dates given as this will assist in ensuring sufficient seating and meal arrangements. Members are also welcome to submit any specific regional or national agenda items that they would like to be discussed.

NRCS WORKSHOP

Members would have received the invitation attached to the NRCS workshop scheduled for the 31st of July. This is just a reminder for those who still intend or considering attending the meeting (Teams or physical), to RSVP with the NRCS or DTIC officials as indicated, by the 15th of July 2024. Apart from the NRCS giving an overview of their mandate, the requirements of VC 9092, the effect of illegal treatment of timber may have on the environment and the economy, and to receive feedback from stakeholders on the overall impact of the VC and enforcement thereof, it also aims to get stakeholders inputs to collectively develop an action plan to resolve the current enforcement challenges.

SAFCOL BBBEE FACILITATOR STATUS

On the 19th of June the previous Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition finally granted BBBEE Facilitator status to SAFCOL (see attached GoN 2577). This is something which the forestry sector has been waiting for, for more than five years. This Facilitator Status gives SAFCOL ownership rights held by black people as follows:

- 100% Black People
- 40% Black Women
- 20% Black Designated Groups
- Without any acquisition debts and
- Without any third-party rights

This means companies procuring timber from SAFCOL can now claim their preferential procurement points. As a result, Reporting Entities will no longer be scored on half the targets on the Preferential Procurement sub-elements and will allow those producers who procure raw material from SAFCOL to use this when completing their annual BBBEE status reports.

IRG55 MEETING

The 55th International Research Group meeting on Wood Protection was held in Knoxville, Tennessee (USA) from 19 to 23 May 2024. The conference was attended by 137 people representing 24 different countries, and 75 papers and 10 posters were presented. Papers and posters were presented in work-party sections on:

1. Biology: *Microorganisms, Insects & Marine borers, Natural durability, Microbial test methodology*
2. Wood Protection: *Wood preservatives, Other protecting chemicals, Treatability of wood & quality control of processes & materials, Fire retardants, Wood protection by design & new concepts*
3. Wood Modification: *Thermal modification, Chemical modification, Other penetrating modifications, Application & Performance and Sustainability & Environment, with special*
4. Application & performance: *Laboratory & field performance, Service life, Wood-based composites*
5. Sustainability & Environment: *Environmental impact, Health & safety aspects, and a special session Towards a circular economy for wood protection*

The following listed papers are only some of the papers of interest that were presented:

- 24-11044: On the use of miniaturized wood specimens in fungal decay experiments – mini-blocks versus EN 113 tests specimens
- 24-20709: Barriers of polyglycol/borate treated wood prevent termite attack to untreated wood above them in 10-year field tests
- 24-20710: Benefits of borate dual treatment
- 24-41001: Evaluation of vacuum borate treated spruce or pine CLT in an above ground protected test in southern Mississippi
- 24-50387: Keeping wood greenest: Maximising the unique benefits of preserved wood through end-of-life planning to realize carbon sequestration and a circular economy
- 24-50389: Levels of copper arsenate in aged radiata pine vineyard posts
- 24-50398: Timber circularity discussion: Waste hierarchy and prioritizing reuse opportunities

Philip Van Niekerk who is doing his PhD at the University of Göttingen, and recipient of a RCA Award to attend IRG 55, presented a paper titled “*Changes in decay risk of wood in ground contact over Europe, from analysis of historic climate conditions*” (24-41008) in the scientific main session on the first day.

For a full list of the papers and posters presented see attached document IRG 24-60546. Members who would like to receive a copy of any of the papers presented at IRG55 can contact bruce@sawpa.co.za listing the required paper number/s.

Regards

BRUCE BREEDT

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