



South African Wood Preservers Association

NRCS Levy returns for period 25A

Members are reminded that the submission and payment of NRCS levies for treated timber produced for period 25A i.e. 1 January to 30 June 2025, is due by the 31st of July 2025. Kindly note that the levy amount of R1.26 remains applicable and that the amended type 5 levy of R1.32 published on the 30th of May 2025 will be payable for period 25B starting on 1 July 2025 up to 31 December 2025.

It is recommended that the online declaration and levy return platform be used which is available at <https://www.nrccs.org.za/>. If you however have a problem with the online system you can still submit the return manually. A generic 25A levy return form is available on the SAWPA website at <https://sawpa.co.za/industry-information/>, under the section containing NRCS Levy return forms. Kindly note that if you use the generic form it is important that you complete your allocated HEF and customer number to ensure the return and payment is allocated to your account.

Pest Control Operator Registrations

Up to now 82% of SAWPA members' PCO applications has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture and on Tuesday 1 July the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 telephonically confirmed that he approved all the PCO applications submitted for Wood Preservation to date.

On the outstanding 18% we are constantly following up and assisting members to get their PCO applications submitted and will continue to do so. In most cases the delays are because of lapsed product certifications that need to be renewed and/or NRCS LOA's that need to be reissued or amended. It remains critical that all outstanding PCO registrations are completed as soon as possible. Not having a valid reason on why a PCO application has not been submitted, may lead to the non-supply of preservatives restricted for PCO use only.

On this matter, please note that although it was previously accepted that the supply restriction will only apply to CCA which is a restricted use product as well as a substance of concern, the latest information received from the Registrar's office is that all substances of concern will be restricted for supply to registered PCO's only. This restriction will likely impact on Creosote, Copper-Azole-, Borate- and Azole & permethrin based preservatives.

Derogations for Substances of Concern

Unfortunately, the derogation process has not been finalised. The due date was 30 June 2025, and the delay in respect of applications for derogation on wood preservatives was solely because of the Department of Agriculture being able to meet their own deadlines. Expectedly this has resulted in a very stressful and difficult situation for our industry, as legally the supply of all substances of concern for which derogation and renewal of registrations was not complete by the 30th of June was not allowed, putting the chemical suppliers and registration holders of wood preservatives in a very difficult position. A late notice by the Registrar received on the 1st of July, a day later than the deadline, informed SAWPA that the department was in the process of issuing the derogations for all wood preservatives for which derogation application and renewal of registration was submitted. Some changes on the labels of the products still needed to be

corrected, but the department would be liaising with each chemical registration holder directly on what had to be corrected.

Ultimately the outcome is a positive one for our industry as it means the supply and use of timber preservatives will continue. Measured against the issues that other affected sectors have, and still need to sort out with their derogations and therefore not being allowed to legally supply and use affected agricultural remedies, the timber treatment industry can stand proud of the fact that we are an example to the rest.

Moisture meter verification devices

At the regional meetings held in March we reported that SAWPA will be supplying each member plant with a verification device that can be used to verify the accuracy of moisture meters. The device has five different resistance levels equal to moisture contents of 12%, 14,5% 18%, 20% and 29% (fibre saturation point). These resistance levels cater for sawmills drying timber to low moisture levels up to pole producers needing to verify that poles have been seasoned to fibre saturation point or lower. We are pleased to report that the VeriMoist devices have been acquired, and distribution will commence shortly. The initial distribution will most likely be by handing the devices out at the regional meetings to be held in August/September, followed by courier service.

IRG56 Meeting held in Japan



The 56th meeting of the International Research Group on Wood Protection was held in Yokohama, Japan from 22 to 26 June 2025. This year the conference was attended by 213 people representing 28 different countries and 98 papers and 35 posters were presented. The papers presented were categorised under the following sections and applicable working parties:

- Section 1. Biology: *WP 1.1 Microorganisms, WP 1.2 Insects & Marine borers, WP 1.3 Natural durability, WP 1.4 Microbial test methodology*
- Section 2. Wood Protection: *WP 2.1 Wood preservatives, WP 2.2 Fire retardants, WP 2.3 Other protecting chemicals, WP 2.4 Treatability of wood & quality control of processes & materials, WP 2.5 Wood protection by design & new concepts*
- Section 3. Wood Modification: *WP 3.1 Thermal modification, WP 3.2 Chemical modification, WP 3.4 Surface modification*
- Section 4. Application & performance: *WP 4.1 Laboratory & field performance, WP 4.2 Service life, WP 4.3 Wood-based composites, WP 4.4 Analysis and standards*
- Section 5. Sustainability & Environment: *WP 5.3 Environmental impact, Health & safety aspects, WP 5.4 Circular economy in wood products*

Special Session 1. Circular Economy in Wood preservation

Special session 2. Novel technologies in wood protection and modification

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

- 25-11070: Detecting wood-decay fungi in walls: a non-destructive approach with an electronic nose
- 25-50401: Recycling wood treated with copper-based preservatives to produce hard carbon materials for energy storage applications
- 25-20747: Hot and cold treatment with ACQ
- 25-20748: Wood phytosanitation: which standard should be applied?
- 25-50409: Timber reuse and circularity: Insights from Norway's SirkTre and CircWood initiatives
- 25-20743: CIOL Wood – Scientific innovations in wood modification for enhanced performance and usage
- 25-11061: Microbial symbionts in the shipworm gut: a new finding resolving a century old mystery explaining how shipworms digest lignin
- 25-30815: Decay resistance of thermally modified Eucalyptus grandis in closed and open systems
- 25-20735: Mitigating the risk of decay in CLT buildings affected by trapped construction moisture using a diffusible borate preservative
- 25-39820 CIOL Wood – Industrialization of sustainable wood products: Progress and prospects

Attached is a list of all the papers that were presented. Members who are interested in any of the papers can contact us at admin@sawpa.co.za

Regards

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

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