



## **THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA**

Newsletter 8/2007

19 October 2007

**NEWSLETTER**

### **LAST REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR 2007**

The last Regional meetings for the year 2007 will take place during November. Decisive answers must be obtained regarding pressing issues affecting the Thatching Industry. The annual general meeting will take place during March 2007 in the Cape and the selection of Regional committees will take place in February 2008.

<b>GAUTENG:</b>	<b>22 NOVEMBER 2007</b>
<b>MPUMALANGA:</b>	Notice will be given as soon as a date has been received
<b>NATAL:</b>	Notice will be given as soon as a date has been received
<b>OFS &amp; NORTHERN CAPE:</b>	<b>22 NOVEMBER 2007</b>
<b>WESTERN CAPE:</b>	<b>14 NOVEMBER 2007</b>

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

At the General meeting of March 2007 a decision was taken against the establishment of a Technical Committee. There exists therefore at present not a TASA representative body to inspect quality of workmanship on sight. The National Committee is at present burdened with the task to investigate regulations and specifications affecting the Trade and to negotiate with the Authorities any considered improvements on behalf of the Thatching Industry. In special cases, the expertise of specialists are called upon on an ad hoc basis.

You are urgently requested to again consider the possibility of establishing a Technical Committee to undertake inspections on site. The following must inter alia be taken into account:

1. Must the onus be on the client to request for an inspection?
2. Must the Technical Committee only act after a complaint has been received?
3. Must the Technical Committee be empowered to visit /enter any premises/site where thatching is undertaken and then to submit a written report?
4. Who must pay for the inspection cost?
5. What must the qualifications/requirements be of a member elected to the Technical Committee?
6. How must TASA react to a report received from the Technical Committee taking into account that TASA is not a legal person and can therefore not institute legal actions?

At present, the guidelines as established in the TASA Complaints Procedure are followed when called upon.

**The above are crucial principals that must be debated as TASA stands accused of being without clout and therefore meaningless as an institution when it comes to enforcing standards and in resolving disputes.**

**It will then require for TASA to be *converted into a Statutory Body* to exercise its legal rights. There is merit in the above argument and members are requested to give serious thought to the possibility of following this route.**

## **THATCH ROOF CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION**

The SANS 10407:2006 will be in force until the new Building Regulations (SANS 10400) is promulgated. TASA has as yet not received any feedback from the SABS and will keep members informed of developments.

## **MARKETING OF TASA**

Preventative measures to eliminate bad workmanship in the Industry must be undertaken of which marketing of TASA as an Association and the principals adopted is one means of doing. Another is for members to get actively involved to bring the specification requirements to the attention of the public and contractors. TASA is also dependant on membership fees and the number of members determines the scope of activities that can be undertaken. *At present very few members join the Association.* Membership fees are payable on the date of joining in the following year and pro rata payments are not required anymore between financial years. As a result the payment of fees cannot be argued as a stumbling block.

Your comment on the above will be appreciated.

## **INFO REGARDING THE THATCHING INDUSTRY**

All information or comment that members want to share with or communicate to others in the Association, must first be submitted for scrutiny to TASA's Executive.

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT**

*(With due regards to OFS and Northern Cape Region)*

#### **General obligations of the Employer towards the employee**

- Identify safety risks and dangerous conditions in the working areas.
- Provide work procedures, machinery and equipment with safety aspects in mind.
- Provide safety equipment.
- Provide information, instructions, supervision and training.
- Ensure that the workers comply with the stipulations in the Act.
- Ensure that only trained employees use machinery.
- Ensure that all work is undertaken under the supervision of a trained person.

#### **General obligation of the Employee**

- Do not undertake or do anything that can hurt people.
- Co-operate with your employer and obey instructions.
- Execute lawful instructions.
- Obey Health and Safety rules and procedures.
- Report any unhealthy and unsafe situations.
- Report incidents before end of duty.

## **Obligations on Safety Representative**

(Occupational health and Safety Act-Article 17 (4))

- Must be a fulltime employee.
- Must be conversant and well informed about circumstances at the work place and how matters are managed.

## **Appointment of Health and Safety Officer**

Minimum ratio of Safety and health officers to workers

- One Health and Safety officer per 21 workers or more

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- Industry: 1 Representative for every 50 workers
- Shops and Offices: 1 Rep for every 100 workers.

## **Duties and Responsibilities of Representatives**

- Investigate complaints from workers.
- Report these problems
- Attend Health and Safety Committee meetings.
- Discuss problems at monthly meetings.
- Give feedback to employees.
- Be present at all health and safety investigations, audits, inspections and formal investigations.
- Participate in internal Health and Safety audits.

## **Appointment of first aid helpers/officers**

- for 1-9 workers one first aid box must be provided
- for more than 10 workers one trained first aid helper and one first aid box must be provided.
- For every 50 workers one trained first aid helper and one first aid box must be provide
- NB No pills must be included in the first aid box

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One First Aid Helper for every 50 workers

## **Causes of Accidents**

- Dangerous conduct - 88%
- Dangerous conditions - 10%
- Freak accidents - 2%

## **Steps to be taken**

- Identify requirements
- Consult the Act
- Plan ( what, who, when)
- Implement (rules and training)
- Monitor (Inspect, and Meet)

- Evaluate
- Make adjustments
- Do everything in writing.

### **Fall Protection Plan-Construction Regulation 8**

The contractor must ensure that:

The responsible person drawing up the plan has an appointment letter.

The plan must be implemented, updated and maintained.

Steps be taken to ensure compliance with the plan and duly execution thereof.

### **The Fall Compliance Plan must include the following:**

- Risk evaluation of all work done in elevated positions and must address all procedures and methods to reduce risks.
- The process to evaluate the physical and psychological disposition of the worker to work in elevated positions and records must be kept.
- Programmes for the training of workers expected to work in elevated positions as well as records thereof.
- The procedures applied in the inspection testing and maintenance of all fall preventive equipment.

The Contractor must ensure that the appointed construction supervisor is in possession of the latest updated plan.

### **The Contractor must also ensure that:**

- All unprotected openings in floors, corners and steps are properly protected to prevent workers falling through them such openings.
- No person is allowed to undertake work in an elevated position unless the work can be executed in a safe manner and/or is provided with a ladder or scaffolding.
- Warnings must be put up at all openings risking the possibility of a worker falling through it.

### **The Contractor must ensure that the Fall Protection Equipment:**

- Is suitable and strong enough for the intended use, also indicating the weight it can safely support.
- Securely attached to a structure or equipment strong enough to support the intended weight to be carried.
- Fall catching equipment may only be used where it is not reasonably possible to use fall protection equipment.
- Ample steps must be taken to avoid as far as possible unnecessary injuries to the person involved in a fall accident.
- Where roof construction work is undertaken, the contractor must ensure that over and above the applicable sub-regulations
  - The roof is properly planned
  - That the construction workers are properly trained for the job.
  - The workers are not allowed to work on the roof in adverse weather conditions or whether posing a health and security risk to them.

### **Scaffolding: Construction Regulation 14**

**Any Contractor using scaffolding must:**

- Ensure that it complies to the safety standards according to SABS 085
- Ensure that work needing the use of scaffolding is undertaken under the supervision of a qualified person, appointed in writing, and that erecting personnel, team leaders and inspectors are included

We trust that the above will be of benefit to you.

Kind regards

**Abrie Visagie**

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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