



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 5/2008
30 June 2008

NEWSLETTER



John Smith
National Chairman

Please take note of the following decisions that were taken at the National Committee Meeting of 11 June 2008

2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND NATIONAL CONGRESS

The next Annual General Meeting and National Congress will be held in Gauteng at the CSIR Conference Centre on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 May 2009. The National Committee felt that the time has arrived to realize the dream of an International Conference and sponsorship will be found to invite a speaker (s) from abroad.

Demonstration of the execution of the ASTM E 108 tests on fire retardant products

Mr Kobus Strydom of the Firelab agreed to demonstrate and explain at one of the Workshops of how fire retardant products are tested as well as the requirements for a product to comply with the ASTM E 108 test prescribed by the SANS10400 (National Building Regulations)

The Firelab is situated on the premises of the CSIR. That was the determining factor for the AGM and Congress to be held at the CSIR. This will enable all the Congress participants to attend the demonstration. Accommodation will be arranged in guesthouses in close proximity for those coming from distant areas.

PHOTO- AND NATIONAL THATCH ROOF CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION

The Photo competition is reserved for TASA members only and photos of a high resolution must be submitted to be suitable for publishing in magazines.

The previous National Thatch Roof Construction Competition was so successful and of such high standard that it was decided to also include the Architectural and Engineering Faculties of Universities. There exists a lack in expertise and basic knowledge in the Industry specifically with regard to pole construction.

The emphasis of this competition will be on the following:

- To introduce TASA to a wider audience.
- To address construction problems
- To demonstrate and explain specification requirements
- To generate interest in this specific Trade

SA TIMBER HOMES & PROJECT MAGAZINE

The next issue, number 12 of the magazine will include an Annexure about TASA and will be available in shops country wide on 21 July 2008. This issue will be posted on 16 July 2008 to subscribers. It will also include inter alia the entries for the two competitions.

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION / CERTIFICATION

The National Committee is in the process of compiling a Manual with guidelines and the final concept document will be available by the end of July 2008. The purpose of the Accreditation action is to protect members, enlarge exposure, pre-qualification for contracts, more business, etc.

WEBSITE ADVERT COSTS

It was decided at the recent National Committee Meeting to increase the advert cost on the TASA website to R1 000 for bona fide Thatch contractors and to R3 000 for Associate members. Members are encouraged to advertise on the TASA website as experience indicates that more and more prospective clients are visiting the website in the wave of the increased awareness of the existence of TASA.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Members are encouraged to invite bona fide Thatch Contractors to join TASA. Membership is at the moment 58. In the event of membership numbers not increasing the fees will have to be escalated in the next financial year.

- **Tightening of membership admission requirements**

The integrity of TASA must be protected so as to remain relevant. Stricter membership admission requirements are introduced as follows:

- Evidence must accompany the submission of a prospective member that he has been a Thatch roof contractor for at least two years
- A probation period of six months will apply before permanent membership will be gained. The proviso being that no complaints being brought against the aspirant member during this period.
- **In the event of the prospective member not being a thatch contractor for two years, the necessary experience must first be gained before temporary membership will be considered.**

USE OF POLYPROPYLENE TWINE

Mr Abrie Visagie has been requested by the National Committee to investigate the use of polypropylene twine. It is the experience of the North West Region that the treated sisal twine breaks under tension when maintenance is undertaken. Decay is present especially where in contact with the metal sways. This is not the case with polypropylene. SANS 10400-T : 2008 does not allow for the use of polypropylene twine.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Regional meetings will be held during July 2008 and dates will be provided as soon as the Agendas and dates are received from the areas.

A sincere effort must be made to get speakers that can come and discuss topics of interest, especially those topics about matters that are of concern to us. Members must also invite guests to attend these meetings.

Kind regards

John Smith
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Thatchers Association of South Africa
P O Box 13334
CLUBVIEW 0014

Fax 086 6409 151
Mobile 083 283 8429
E-mail admin@sa-thatchers.co.za
Website: www.sa-thatchers.co.za