



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 8/2012
25 January 2013

NEWSLETTER

The new year being in full swing started off badly unfortunately with severe flood damage in various provinces. TASA sympathises with everyone affected as well as those involved in the fires that raged in St Francis Bay towards the end of last year.



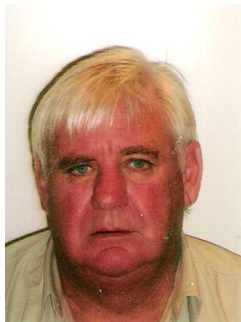
Flood damage in Limpopo



Thatch roof development in St Francis Bay

The 2013 TASA Management Team

The Management team wish you the very best for 2013. Be assured of our support. We are confident that the TASA will go from strength to strength with our member's involvement and cooperation.



Kosie Theunissen
National Chairman
Cape



Bertus Nieuwenhuis
National Vice Chairman
OFS & Northern Cape



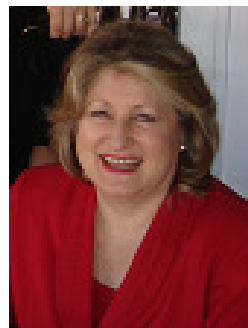
John Smith
TASA representative
Natal



David Hoffman
National Treasurer
Mpumalanga & Limpopo



Cobus Maritz
Additional member
Gauteng



Elzabie Meintjes
Administrative Officer

2013 Annual General Meeting

Natal will be afforded the opportunity to be the host region for 2013 Annual General Meeting. The TASA financial year ends on 28 February 2013 and the AGM will take place soonest.

Reservation forms will be issued in the course of February 2013 to enable members to make the necessary travel arrangements. Accommodation will be made available at the AGM venue.

Important matters are going to be decided upon affecting each member closely. The message is thus clear - be there to be counted upon.

Revised Constitution and Source Documents

The TASA Constitution and Source documents have been revised and will be made available to members for comment before being tabled at the AGM for approval.

The above documents have deficiencies and some clauses are open for misinterpretation.

U- and R-Values – Energy Efficiency in Buildings

All thatched roofs must comply with the SANS 10400-XA and SANS 204 Standard requirements. The correct U-values must be available to the Industry. Air permeable roofs like thatched roofs, are not provided for in the above Act.

Discussions were held with the various relevant authorities such as The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), various Committees of the SABS, representatives of the Thermal Test Laboratory, etc.

The relevant Regulations were published and are enforceable. The Regulations as it stands must be complied with until the next paragraph therein included as requested by the TASA is legalized, (which can take a few months). That means that the Regulation as it is currently, is enforceable.

The paragraph minuted and included in the SABS SG59-G (Energy Efficiency) and SC60-L (roofs) Committee Meetings reads as follows:

“A problem arising at plan approval stage with the absence of a R-value for various thatching applications.

Paragraph 4.4.5.5 A thatch type roofing assembly will be deemed to satisfy if it complies with the minimum thickness described in SANS 10400 part L”.

A written request from TASA is attached.

Discussions are taking place meanwhile with the various Institutions like the Agrément Board and laboratories to establish a correct value for thatched roofing. The test apparatus available in the RSA and existing testing methods cause problems.

An in depth discussion on this matter will take place at the AGM

Feedback on Adverts in the Newsletter and changes of format

At a Special Meeting in November 2012, three Associate members namely Firelab, Micon Coatings and Alternative Structures proposed that the format of the Newsletter be changed to provide for adverts for extra income.

No comment was received from bona fide members. Only Alternative Structures (Associate Member) indicated their interest.

This aspect was discussed a long time ago and the decision was taken not to include adverts in the newsletter and to keep the latter as short as possible.

Kind regards

Kosie Theunissen
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Ref. SABS: SANS 10400-XA

21 January 2013

Mr Llewellyn van Wyk
Chairperson SABS SC59G
Construction Standards
Energy Efficiency and Energy Use in the Built Environment
C/o SABS
Private Bag X191
PRETORIA

Dear Chairperson

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SANS 10400-XA EFFICIENT ENERGY USAGE IN BUILDINGS

The Thatcher's Association has been inundated, by disgruntled member, who indicate that Thatch roofing as a system has been excluded from the SANS 10400 XA. No performance is also not described in SANS 204.

The Building Control Officers across South Africa insist that building applications utilising thatch roofing have to prove that the roof material has a minimum R value as described in SANS 10400 XA.

If our members indicate that no such research has ever been conducted, the Building Control Officers insist that a "rational design" solution be provided to satisfy the regulatory requirements.

We have no means of providing any imperial solutions and have traditionally relied on imbedded memory of the pleasant environment created by a thatch roof. This memory however cannot be empirically proven and provided satisfying solutions to the Building Control Officers.
This has caused untold damage to the Thatching Industry.

We respectfully request the SC 59 G Committee to help this Industry to find a workable solution to this dilemma.

As there is currently no available data on the thermal properties of thatch (air permeable roofing) we respectfully request that the existing requirements described in SANS 10407:2006 (Thatched Roofs Construction) is referred as a normative reference in SANS 10400-XA. This will result in the minimum thicknesses being used to satisfy the required performance set in SANS 10400 XA.

Yours respectfully

Kosie Theunissen
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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