



FIRECHANGERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter // 2019
24 July 2019

NEWSLETTER

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT IMPANGELE LODGE, MULDRSDRIFT ON SATURDAY, 20 JULY 2019 AT 09:00

We had a very fruitful and successful Annual General Meeting during which urgent matters were discussed. We were fortunate to have experienced fire and lightning experts who took part in the discussions.

It was also nice to be able to reconnect with fellow members and we would like to express our appreciation for those who have come from afar. Also special thanks to Bill and Margaret Bragge for their hospitality and their facility which they made available to us.



MATTERS DISCUSSED

1. SANS 10400-T:2017 EDITION 4

Paragraph 4.12.2.1

“Where the thatch is provided with a **fire-retardant system** which is tested in accordance with **SANS 10177 Part 12, exposure test**, the safety distances shall be calculated in accordance with the respective fire loads depicted in Table 2, Clause 4.2, based on the classification of roof as follows:”

Definition of a fire-retardant system:

A fire retardant is a **substance** that is used to slow or stop the spread of fire or reduce its intensity. This is commonly accomplished by chemical reactions that reduce the flammability of fuels or delay their combustion. Fire retardants may also cool the fuel through physical action or endothermic chemical reactions.

The intention of TASA with the wording of this paragraph was that *systems* include other fire-prevention systems such as fire blankets, drencher and sprinkler systems, etc. But the argument was that eg fire blankets are *not a substance* and therefore cause confusion.

Advice given was that the wording should be changed to for example fire *management* systems instead of fire *retardant* systems and then the description of the protection / detection systems must follow.

2. **SANS 10177 :Part12 Exposure test**

An *adapted* test method is used which do not meet the requirements of SANS 10177 part 12.

DECISION: Messrs. Kobus Strydom (Firelab) and Ian du Plessis (SABS/TC 021/SC 03 Fire Safety – Fire properties, testing and classification for buildings) will assist us with the correct wording of this part of the standard relating to thatch roofs.

3. **TILES PLACED ON TOP OF THATCH ROOFS**

After a detailed discussion during which the focus and purpose of the TASA was discussed, taking into account that some of our members are not only building traditional thatch roofs, the next decision has been reached.

DECISION:

- a) The TASA will only promote thatch roofs and that all inquiries received are answered to promote and benefit the Thatching Industry.
- b) Inquiries about other roofing materials will be referred to those associations or industries.
- c) It is recommended that our members who also build other roofs divide their business into two separate units. One for thatching and one for roofing.

4. **LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS**

Mr. Alexis Barwise (B.Eng (E&E) I IEC) expressed concern about thatch roofs without lightning conductors with metal sways in the roofs and wire mesh in cement ridges. He will send us the updated flash density table that will replace the existing one in our Guide to Thatch Construction.

He emphasized that thatch roofs on which tiles are mounted, must still have a lightning conductor even though the spray layer is only 50 mm thick.

Mr. Ian du Plessis mentioned that he have discussed the effect of lightning on metal tiles on roofs with a cape reed underlayer with a senior high voltage engineer at NETFA. (SABS NETFA is a testing facility within the Electrotechnical Cluster of SABS Commercial. This facility consists of three (3) specialized Laboratories, Short Circuit, High Voltage and Materials Installations accredited to ISO 17025:2005 by SANAS.) This engineer was of the opinion that lightning will not ignite a building so covered and it therefore recommended that this matter be researched before changes in legislation is considered.

5. SAQA REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

Due to the current financial situation in our country, it was decided not to increase the membership fees. Many of our members suffer heavily. As SAQA registration will also need to include inspections that will incur further costs, the general feeling is that we have to deal very carefully with the funds we have at our disposal.

We will look at the process and what it entails, but no decision has been made at this stage.

Our members' participation and standing together during these difficult times are highly appreciated. Our thatching industry has been around for so many years and will go from strength to strength despite setbacks and competition with other roofing materials.



André Friis
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Thatchers Association of South Africa
Private Bag X 1015
LYTTELTON
0140

Fax 086 6409 151
Mobile 083 283 8429
Email address admin@sa-thatchers.co.za
Website www.sa-thatchers.co.za