



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 8/2006

NEWSLETTER

16 August 2006

Since the establishment of the Thatchers Association of South Africa, the following questions are frequently requiring.

‘Should I become a member?’

The establishment of the SANS 10407:2004 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification, gave rise to the revival of the Thatchers Association of South Africa. The above specification, published and implemented in October 2004 is now incorporated in the SANS 10400 as thatched roofing was the only type of roofing not covered by a certification process. Ignorance about the application and implementation of the SANS 10407:2004 Specification prevailed in the past, not only among the Thatchers but the Building Trade and Authorities in general.

Workshops have now been organized to enlighten all concerned including Municipalities, Fire Brigades, Architects and Building Plan Controllers, etc. A positive attitude is experienced from the Authorities towards the implementation of the Specification and tends to only authorize registered Thatchers to build thatched roofs. Thatchers will have to be registered as authorized practitioners as is required from Architects, Engineers, etc.

“Why do not all Thatching Companies want to be members?”

More and more Thatchers will become registered members when the SANS 10400 becomes official and published in September/October and the Authorities insist on registration.

“Is TASA affiliated to other organizations such as the Master Builders Association, NHBRC, or any others?”

The Thatchers Association of South Africa works in close collaboration with the above organizations and is also an affiliated member of SAWPA (SA Wood Preservers Association) which in turn is also affiliated with TASA.

“Is TASA purely for Thatching Companies and individuals or are there other Industry Associations such as Pole Suppliers associated with this Association?”

All businesses related to the thatching of roofs and has any vested interest in the trade are involved. This includes structural engineers, wood treatment companies, etc.

“Is TASA in place to protect the Industry or the Consumer or both?”

The country is divided in seven areas each with its own Regional Committee. This provides a national presence and representation.

A Constitution, Code of Conduct, Registered Trademark, Grievance Procedure, Financial Policy, etc. have already been put in place. Final approval and acceptance will take place at the Annual General Meeting to be held in March 2007.

With the above authorized and in operation, TASA will be in a position to promote and protect the Trade as well as the Consumers with the much needed co-operation of the Building Authorities.

Is it the correct approach to service the Industry as a whole and not simply the ‘top dogs’ for want of a better phrase?”

TASA’s strength and effectiveness is dependent on its National and Regional Committees. With members that are active and concerned about the wellbeing of the Trade as well as the interest of the Consumer, TASA will become a force that will grow from strength to strength. The participation of members is the cornerstone of the Association with an attitude that regards the wellbeing of the Trade in the broadest sense above short term personal interest.

“More info regarding TASA and the benefits thereof”

The SANS 10407:2004 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification and. ‘A Guide to Good Thatching Practice’ can be obtained in black and white in pdf format from the TASA website as well as the draft SANS 10400 Specification. Newsletters, Minutes, the Constitution, Code of Conduct, Logo Guidelines, etc., are also available from the website.

At the Western Cape Regional meeting held on the 19th July 2006 in Stellenberg, it was decided to request the relevant authorities to allow TASA to produce a separate document that will consist of all the relevant clauses of all the Specifications pertaining to thatch roof construction, for example the SANS 0400:2005, etc. (In other words, not a separate Specification, but only extracts). With the above requested permission obtained TASA will then produce the document which will then be submitted for final approval by the authorities.

The reason being, that the SANS 10400 Specification (National Building Regulations) comprises of approximately 22 chapters, covering regulations regarding all building construction; making it difficult to ascertain which regulations are applicable to thatch roof construction only.

It was proposed that the principle of a written guarantee be enforced to accompany quotations. The guarantee must be binding for at least a one year period.

Benefits

- Members receive monthly Newsletters.
- Members may advertise on the website at a very reasonable cost of only R400 per year.
- A member’s name on the membership list serves as a link to the member’s own website
- TASA’s webmaster assists members in the design of their own website at a very reasonable cost
- Members are allowed to use the registered trademark of TASA on their own stationary and vehicles subject to the provisions laid down
- Members can place their own articles on the website as well as in the SA Timber Homes Magazine. The National Committee will edit articles.
- Members are assisted in disputes provided they have complied with the Specifications and Regulations applicable. In the absence thereof, the member will be requested to rectify the problem.
- Workshops are arranged to enlighten members on Specification requirements, Regulations and relevant matters. The attendance register will be screened on the website to indicate attendance. Attendance list will act as an indication of those interested to be updated on intricacies of the Trade.
- Area meetings provide a platform for members to enhance the interest and efficiency of the Trade and therefore of TASA.
- Discussions during these Area meetings will establish good relationships between competitors in the Trade and foremost provides for valuable exchange of information.

- Complaints received from Consumers as well as grievances among members can also be discussed and rectified.

TASA needs members as above and wants to encourage Thatchers and related businesses to join us. Come and help us build an Association recognized locally and overseas as the representative of the Trade. Your assistance will have a great impact on Members, the Trade and the Consumers.

BUILDING AUTHORITY SEMINARS

A letter was sent to every District Municipal Management in the RSA, advising them of the reason for the seminars as well as the content thereof. Notices of the seminars to be held will be given. Attendance list will also appear on the TASA website to indicate those expected to be well informed and up to date with all aspects related to thatch roof construction.

Building Authority Seminar : Ekurhuleni

A workshop will be held on the 29th August 2006 at 08h30 in Kempton Park. The venue will be the Auditorium of the Kempton Park Municipality. Please contact the TASA office for information and directions.

AREA MANAGEMENT WESTERN CAPE

A vacancy occurred with the election of Mr. Abrie Visagie as National Chairman. The new Management Team will now comprise of Mr. Oliver Adams, Chairman, (Braaf Thatchers), Mr. Richard Nel, Deputy Chairman (Somerset Thatching) and Mr. Kosie Theunissen (Theunissen Thatching), the latter being elected as Secretary.

VOTE OF APPRECIATION

We are proud to announce that the minimum number set for membership has been exceeded which allows us to continue with our activities. The National Committee expresses its appreciation to those members for their tireless and unselfish endeavours to establish a sound foundation for TASA. As a result of that, more and more local authorities are supporting the concept of stricter control over thatch roof construction and they gave us their blessing on our efforts.

TASA OFFICE

Our Chief Executive Officer, Me. Elzabie Meintjes is on leave from the 4th September to 14th September 2006. During this period of absence you can contact Mr. Abrie Visagie (083 675 0518) or Mr. Pat Wilson (082 552 2209). E-mail received will still be directed to them.

Kind regards

Abrie Visagie NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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