



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 4/2007

8 May 2007

NEWSLETTER

The successful revival and re-establishment of the Thatchers Association of South Africa lead to the National Committee's unanimous decision on the meeting of 3 May 2007 to introduce measures for the efficient protection of its members and the Building Industry in general, which will also promote the growth of the Industry at large.

The purpose for the establishment of TASA is to protect and enhance the interests of Thatch Contractors and the Thatching Industry. Thatchers are therefore obliged to join as Full members and not as Associate members. The reason being that full members can and should avail themselves of all the benefits that can be derived from TASA for the fee of R3 000 per annum.

Groups relevant to the Thatching Industry can however derive much benefit as members of TASA on an Associate membership basis for the annual fee of R1 500. However, they will be deprived of voting powers and can also not be elected to any management positions.

MEMBERSHIP

- **Associate Membership:** *(Not available to Thatchers)*
 1. Pays a reduced membership fee of R1500 per annum
 2. Has no voting powers
 3. Cannot serve on the TASA management but is allowed all the other benefits of membership.

- **Fees payable in installments:**

The option to pay fees through installments is withdrawn and the full amount must be paid by Thatchers (R3 000) and Associate members (R1 500)

- **New members:**

1. Application for membership is subject to the approval by the National Committee of TASA.
2. A probation period of six months will apply before granting full membership. The latter is however depended on complaints/objections received against the applicant.
3. The name of the applicant will in the meantime be published on the TASA website as temporary member.
3. Full payment of the membership fee is a prerequisite for the granting of full membership.

- **Cancellation of membership**

1. TASA must be advised **in writing** of cancellation of membership. In the absence of the above and payment of fees, the name of the member will be endorsed with a “cancellation” note on the TASA website membership list.
2. Cancellation of membership will entail forfeiture of all benefits derived from TASA which includes use of the TASA registered trade mark on stationary, vehicles, advertisements etc.
From the date of cancellation of membership, the use of the name and logo may not be visible on the above and therefore not be used for marketing purposes in any way to the advantage of the deregistered member.

- **Unidentified fees being paid into TASA’s account:**

You are urgently requested to ensure that your name and address appear on the TASA website membership list. In the event of internet facilities not being available to you, please enquire from the TASA office whether your name appears on the list. Absence from the list excludes you from membership privileges.

- **Feigned Membership:**

Complaints are received from the Public of non members pretending to be members of TASA. It is also a pity that some of these contractors are guilty of bad workmanship which is a disgrace and brings the Trade in bad repute.

Measures to counter this abuse are investigated and members are requested to report any occurrence of this nature. The TASA logo is a registered trade mark and the Association will not hesitate to act against wrongdoers. The logo etc. may only be used by its paid up members with written consent.

- **Codes of Conduct and Ethics:**

Members subscribe to the Codes of Conduct and Ethics of TASA and undertake to protect the interests of co-members, TASA, the Thatching and Building Trades.

We advise members to familiarize themselves with the content of the above Codes and to comply at all times to the requirements as stipulated. The success and future of TASA depend on the conduct and quality of workmanship of its members. The National Committee and Area managements can only show the direction to be followed. However, all efforts are futile without the support and co-operation of members.

VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERS THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT AUDITING FIRM

The need for voluntary certification by an approved Auditing firm **independent** of TASA has become more and more a necessity. Guidelines to establish this principle will be drawn up and members are requested to raise their opinions about it and submit their recommendations to TASA. Proposed guidelines will be circulated for comment before being enacted.

The above will obviously be of great advantage to members. However, it will be at your own cost.

FEEDBACK: NEGOTIATIONS APPERTAINING TO THE NATIONAL BUILDING REGULATIONS (SANS 10407:2006 Edition 1.1 &SANS2001-CR3:2007

At the Annual General Meeting of 9 March 2007, the National Committee was requested to start negotiations with STANZA/SABS to prevent withdrawal of SANS10407:2006 Edition 1.1 as well as the dispersing of information under different headings in the National Building Regulations, SANS 10400. The Thatch Industry requires a workable document as Specification that is specifically designed for the Thatching Trade. As such it must function as a compact guide for the Contractors.

The letter submitted to the SANS 10400 Technical Committee is attached for your information. Members will be informed of developments. The complete working document comprises of 39 pages and is available to members on request.

SANS 10400:1990 and SANS 10407:2006 Edition 1.1 (Thatched Roof Construction) THE ONLY VALID SPECIFICATIONS

It has come to our attention that Municipalities apply the proposed National Specification, which is still in its concept form, when approving plans for thatched roofs. Attached is a letter from the SABS to prove the statement that the SANS 10407:2006 Edition 1.1 and SANS 10400:1990 are the only valid Specifications.

SANS 10407:2006 Edition 1.1 can be purchased from the SABS in Groenkloof, Pretoria.. Members are requested to submit comments/proposals to TASA regarding the above Specification as the SANS 10400 Technical Committee is presently busy with revision of the Specification.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

Building Authority Seminars have been suspended pending the outcome of the deliberations around SANS 10407. Workshops relating to Safety Legislation will be arranged in the different regions by the Regional Chairmen.

VEHICLE MAGNETS AND STICKERS

Vehicle magnets and stickers can be obtained from TASA.

Stickers

300 x 600 mm	R70-00 each	
300 x 150 mm	R60-00 each	
210 x 297 mm	R50-00 each	(A4 size)
210 x 148 mm	R40-00 each	(A5 size)

Magnets

300 x 600 mm	R130-00 each
150 X 300 mm	R 90-00 each

VAT included

Postage must be added

TIP OF THE MONTH

1. Cement roof ridges painted white or any light colour do not absorb heat to the extent compared to those painted black, which resulted in less or no cracking of the cement.

2. It is also advisable to have a roof inspected by a Pest Control Officer to certify a roof free from insects, fungi etc .This certificate is then also given to the client at the completion of the work. This action does not only safeguard the Contractor against possible claims but is also a service to the Client.
3. Use copper valley linings on the south side of the thatched roof as well as areas where the thatch will take longer to dry. The copper assists in keeping the PH low thus alkaline. This prevents fungi growth.

CONCLUSION

Growing pains during the first year of TASA provided an opportunity for new procedures and measures to be tried and tested. TASA can now in its second year, build on a sound foundation comprising of regional representation and supported by a reasonable bank balance. With that established TASA can now make an impact and bring about a difference in the Building Industry.

Without the establishment of a National representative Thatchers Association and commitment of members, the specifications / regulations allowed to be adopted in the new Building Regulations, could have been detrimental to the Thatching Industry with devastating consequences.

By accepting co-responsibility for TASA, each and every member contributes to the well being of the Industry **as well as *of his own***. Do not leave matters to members of management only. They are not elected so that you can abdicate your responsibility.

Kind regards

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