



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 5/2009

25 August 2009

NEWSLETTER



John Smith

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

The present economic climate creates a challenging environment for our members. A tendency that appears to surface more and more is that in spite of the difficult times, respected contractors do succeed in getting contracts. There are however those contractors trying to earn a quick buck through taking shortcuts with dire consequences for himself and his client.

REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN ON THATCHED ROOFS BUILT BY OTHERS

As a result of the pressing economic circumstances, clients tend towards the cheapest quotations with dire consequences. Another contractor is then approached to save the roof which in most cases fails to achieve the required results. A written agreement which would normally state the extent of repair work and standards to which the contractor must comply as well as the certification of the work undertaken, is often found lacking. Consequently payment is claimed for bad workmanship.

TASA members are reminded to enter into written agreements with clients stipulating clearly the work to be undertaken. Every roof constructed or repaired by a TASA member must comply with the legal requirements and acceptable engineering practices and standards even if the roof was not originally built by himself.

We recommend with urgency that whenever a TASA member undertakes to repair a roof constructed by someone else, the following should be considered and ensured:

- Consider seriously what **you** are letting **yourself** in for
- Provide for consulting engineering fees
- A detailed and signed contract stipulating clearly what is to be done.
- The person responsible for the engineering certificate.
- That the building plans have been approved prior to commencement of the project
- Compliance with Municipal and National Building Regulations
- Compliance with SANS 10407:2006 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification requirements

Bad practices by TASA members tarnish the image of the Association and cannot be tolerated. At present the membership of two members is cancelled for not complying with laid down and legally accepted norms and practices.

Every TASA member has signed the Code of Conduct and Ethics whereby he is obliged to act within the limits of the laws, specification requirements and business ethics. The document "Choice of a Thatched Roof Contractor" is available to clients on the TASA website. The latter is attached for your attention.

CONSULTING CAPACITY

Mentorship is cancelled and the following Management members have made themselves available **to act in an advisory capacity:**

Mr John Smith	Biggarsberg Thatchers	Biggarsberg Natal	083 270 3826
Mr Hennie v Rensburg	Maranata Grasdakke	Klerksdorp	083 371 3769
Mr Bertus Nieuwenhuis	Recon Thatchers	Bloemfontein	082 558 8484
Mr Danie Meijers	Kim Thatchers	Kimberley	083 273 6243
Mr David Hoffman	Hoffmans Thatching Specialists	Nelspruit	082 608 2053
Mr Darren Wilson	Thatch-it	Pretoria	082 779 6611
Mr Will Andrews	Zambesi Thatch	Pretoria	082 347 2240
Mr Dirk Oosthuizen	Thatchsure	Kuilsrivier	083 270 3947
Mnr Christiaan Munnik	Thatchscapes	Brackenfell	082 887 5155

Professional Engineers who are TASA members:

Mr Abrie Visagie	(Structural Engineer & Thatch Contractor)	Lucas Quality Thatchers	083 675 0518
Mr Mike Hull	(Structural & Civil Engineer)	Hull Consulting Engineers	083 291 1256
Mr Dirk Oosthuizen	(Chemical Engineer)	Thatchsure (Pty) Ltd	083 270 3947

If in any way you are in doubt of the integrity of a structure or require advice and you are not inclined to make use of the above persons' services, you are urgently requested to involve a professional engineer in your project.

Plans must be submitted and approved for ALL thatch roofs.

Only in instances where the example provided in the SANS 10407:2006 Annexure B is used exactly as it is (for a maximum span of 6 meters) then alone, it is not a requirement for a professional engineer to design the roof.

(The above will appear in the SANS 10400-L when the new National Building Regulations are published)
The correct way to plant a pole is available on the TASA website.

REPORTING ILLEGAL STRUCTURES

As a result of work shortage, complaints are received by TASA of illegal structures. These are brought to the attention of the Local Authorities. All thatch roofs must comply with legal requirements and accepted engineering practices and standards. Building Regulations must be complied with. *The approval of the client does not alter the above imperatives.*

TASA WEBSITE

A new website has been developed for TASA with the objective of marketing ability and user friendliness. You are requested to please ensure that your information is correct and up to date on the membership list. Suggestions and articles are most welcome.

ACCREDITATION DOCUMENT

The Accreditation document is published under the section "members only".

The SANS 10407:2006 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification will be withdrawn as soon as the SANS 10400 (National Building Regulations) is published.

The SANS 10400 (National Building Regulations) is a bulky document comprising of different sections. The sections regarding thatch roofs which could not be included in the SANS 10400-T (Fire Prevention) and L (Roofs), are provided for in the new CR3 document.

The TASA Accreditation document serves as a **Guideline** and will be expanded to include the specification requirements for thatch contractors for ease of reference.

TRAINING

The new website is so designed that it can provide for short training videos demonstrating techniques using models. This will only be available to members. Photos depicting problems and solutions will also be published under this section.

I trust that every member will commit himself to the strengthening of the TASA image. TASA on the other hand has a responsibility towards its members to protect and promote their **interests provided that members ensure that they comply with the stipulated requirements as contained in the Specifications, Legal requirements, Codes of Conduct and Ethics to which a member has subjected himself.**

Kind regards

John Smith
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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