



## THACHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 3/2015  
16 April 2015

### NEWSLETTER

Dear member

#### **SANS 10407 (THATCHED ROOF CONSTRUCTION) SPECIFICATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED**

After the specification relating to thatch roofs were withdrawn by the SABS and literally years of negotiations, the latest version is now finally published. It can be purchased at the SABS.

We express our sincere thanks to especially Mr. John Smith for his loyalty and hard work to achieve this goal at his own expense and time.



#### **VERY CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES**

The weather bureau predicted an extremely cold winter. Experts agree that this winter will be long and bitterly cold. Night temperatures will be freezing, with a dry climate in the interior. These conditions will place a huge load on Eskom's power supply.

This coming months will be very strenuous for our members especially in the winter rainfall region and then on top of it, Eskom will most likely proceed with phase 3 load shedding.

This is really a very difficult time for our members but it is not a reason to neglect the quality of our service and workmanship. We're all in the same boat, but it's upsetting that repeated complaints are received involving a few members.

#### **COMPLAINTS**

The complaints concentrated mainly around poor maintenance work on existing roofs and leaking brand new roofs. Second on the list of complaints is extremely poor customer relations.

It is absolutely inconceivable that there are still members who build large roofs without approved engineering plans. This absolutely undesirable practice resulted in court cases which not only harm the TASA, but the Industry as a whole and all the parties involved.

There can certainly be inferred from inquiries received from consultants who prepare tender documents for the government, or semi government organizations, that they generally insisted that contractors should be members of the TASA. Also, membership applications received from thatching contractors to qualify for tenders, is a very positive sign. Membership applications are rejected for the reason that applying members cannot prove that they have built thatched roofs for more than two years, or applying member cannot afford the R4 000 membership fees.

The latest inquiry involves tenders for the upgrading of thatch roofs in all botanical gardens.

When prospective clients inquire at the TASA office of which contractor's services they can make use of, this document is sent to them. It is also emphasized that TASA emphatically stated that our members signed a Code of Conduct and Ethics wherein they undertook to comply with the SANS 10407 specification requirements. Therefore prospective customers expect that when they make use of a TASA member's services, they will receive professional services.

Over the past ten years we worked very hard on the TASA's reputation and we must convey our appreciation to those members who do their bit in spite of extremely tough conditions.

*Careless and negligent members put these members at risk.*

*This document was approved years ago by the Executive Committee. If you want to make any changes to it, you are welcome to send suggestions to the office.*

## **THE CHOICE OF A THATCH ROOF CONTRACTOR**

### **QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE ASKED ARE:**

#### **Whether the Contractor:**

1. Is conversant with the SANS 10407 Specification
2. Is conversant with the National Building Regulations
3. Is member of the Thatchers Association of South Africa
4. What is his membership number
5. Is the Contractor registered for VAT
6. How long has his firm been in operation
7. Has references from inter alia :
  - a. Architects
  - b. Engineers
  - c. Clients
8. Projects completed
9. Has the necessary infrastructure and trained staff
10. Will provide a written contract for the acceptance of both parties
11. Of whom is it expected to provide the necessary structural drawings, and building plans and arrange for the approval thereof by the relevant and appropriate authorities
12. Arrange for the required inspections and obtain the necessary and required clearance and engineering certificates
13. Who will take responsibility for insurance during construction

### **PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED**

1. **Structural drawings or a plan drawn up by an Architect / Structural Engineer and approved by the appropriate authorities must be provided.**

*(Municipalities will not issue an occupation certificate without approved building plans and transfer of property will not take place in the absence of the above.)*

- 1.1 In quoting for the project the Contractor must be well aware of what is expected from him.
- 1.2 The Contractor must ascertain whether the drawings or design is practicable for the construction of a thatch roof

1.3 The Contractor must comply with all requirements / specifications as determined by the structural engineer or architect so that a final certificate of approval can be obtained from them on completion of the project.

**2. Specification**

Construction must comply with the requirements of the SANS 10407 Specification.

**3. Written Contract**

A written contract accepted and signed by both parties is a prerequisite before commencement of the project.

**4. Complaints and Communication**

4.1 Frequent and constructive communication between both Client and Contractor is encouraged.

4.2 Proper, complete and clear documentation regarding requests and alterations is of utmost importance throughout the project to avoid misunderstandings.

**5. What is expected from the Contractor**

5.1 Effective and frequent feedback during progress

5.2 Clients must be made fully aware of the work to be undertaken as well as specification and legal requirements.

5.3 Clients must be provided with a detailed document indicating the price as well as payment requirements. This includes estimates and written quotes.

5.4 Clients must also be provided with detailed time estimates as well as the expected date of completion. A complete timetable must be provided.

5.5 Clients must throughout be advised of any changes that may affect the proposed completion date and update the timetable accordingly.

5.6 The Contractor must accept responsibility for the actions of his workers/staff inclusive of sub-contractors, advisors or agents appointed by him.

**6 Client responsibilities**

6.1 Timely progress payments and final payment as agreed.

6.2 Co-operation and assistance as needed.

**ARTICLE REGARDING FIRE TESTING**

A very informative article by Mr. Erich Seeger, Pr.Sci.Nat-Senior Manager: Civil and Mechanical Testing Laboratories of the SABS, namely „Fire Testing of Roofing and Insulation Materials at SABS Fire Engineering Laboratory“ is sent to our members together with this Newsletter.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 6 JUNE 2015**

Information regarding TASA's Annual General Meeting is recorded in the previous newsletter. We are confident that as many of our members will be able to attend this meeting as the year before. The greater part of the meeting will be devoted to the refinement and adoption of TASA's Guide to Thatching in South Africa.

There is no training institute in South Africa for thatching. This is a great effort to make authorities, professionals, contractors and customers conversant with specification requirements and general thatching practices.

Kind regards

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**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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