



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter3/2018
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NEWSLETTER

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date of our next Annual General Meeting has not yet been established. This may take place during June 2018, as some of our members will not be available during May. Discussion points that you would like to post on the Agenda should be sent to the TASA office with motivation in advance.

„GUIDE TO THATCH CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA“

The translation of our Guide in Setswana and isiZulu is progressing well and will be introduced at our Annual General Meeting. Since our Guide is a live document, some updates will be submitted at our Annual General Meeting for approval. The section regarding Energy values are based on the SANS 10400-XA, which have undergone changes.

THATCH ROOFS ARE BEING ERECTED WITHOUT APPROVED PLANS

Mr Rudolf Opperman of the NRCS expressed his dissatisfaction with lapas being erected without approved plans. His experience is that contractors tell clients that plans are not required.



OUR INDUSTRY CAN NOT LOOK LIKE THIS!

Urgent attention is currently being given to presenting a proposal regarding Training. Information is also gained from role players in the larger Industry, for example the ITC, IHOPSA, etc., whose members are registered as Professional Truss Manufacturers and Professional Plumbers, as they obtained SAQA registration. If the TASA can be registered as a professional body like the above, it will place the Thatching Industry and our members at a much higher level and it will ensure greater bargaining power. This however means that our existing members, like JNA Thatchers and Biggarsberg Thatchers, will have to undergo inspections.

THE THATCHING INDUSTRY INCURRED INCALCULABLE DAMAGE BY CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES SPRAYED ON THATCH ROOFS, WHICH WERE NOT TESTED CORRECTLY

The TASA's office has been inundated with comments on the treatment of thatch and the following allegations were made:

- The cost of chemical treatment to be repeated every 5 (five) years is not feasible and it allegedly shortens the life span of the roofs.



- Roofs are not pre-prepared, or the compaction checked. The opinion is that it does not matter what is sprayed on the roof, if the compaction is not tight enough, it creates a fire hazard. See picture below of how this lodge's treated roof looks like after a few years.



This lodge also gave up on their thatch roofs as a result of what they say the repeated cost of chemical treatment entails and are covering their thatch roofs with lightweight plastic slate roof tiles. Other developments replace the thatch roofs completely with clay tiles or zinc, or place thatch tiles on top of the thatch.

What are your comments as a member? Can you help the TASA to answer the allegations satisfactorily?

Firelab's Mr. Kobus Strydom reported that he had to inspect a pilot roof before spraying a fire-retardant product on the roof. He rejected the roof because the thatch with which it was covered was cut in January 2018 and therefore did not meet specification requirements. So, the quality of the thatch also has a big influence on the lifespan of the roof and not just the chemical treatment. This roof will be rotten even if it is not treated with a fire-retardant product. He further said that the ASTM E 108 test method was replaced by the SANS 10177: 12 and that the SABS had withdrawn all their test reports.

SABS : SANS 10400-XA (Minimum total R-values of roofs and ceilings)

The above standard has undergone changes. Attached is the new table that applies to thatch roofs for your attention

Kind regards

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