



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 8/2021
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NEWSLETTER

Dear TASA member

“A GUIDE TO THATCH CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA“

Our members have already taken note of the request of the Department of Architecture of the Steve Biko campus in Durban to use the Thatchers Association's "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" for learning and teaching purposes.

We have recently been approached by various Insurance companies to make a webinar available to them in which our "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" is explained in detail for the training of their assessors.

This webinar will also be made available free of charge to all Institutions that request it for instance such as the NHBRC.

South African Technical Auditing Services' (SATAS) assessment checklists, compiled and approved with us, form part of this webinar.

Excerpt from SATAS's foreword in our "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" reads as follows:

“Compliance with minimum standards is a necessity. This practical guide explains the material, processes and test methods to be used in order to comply with those requirements.

This document compliments the National Building regulations as well as SANS 10407. We can expect these standards to become compulsory in the near future. This document will assist the industry to prepare for this. More important, this document will also create a sense of confidence in the industry. End users and Thatchers will be able to use this as a reference document supporting the National Standards.

This became extremely necessary as the level of competency of new incomers into the industry as well as the changing characteristics of the raw material have an enormous effect on the quality of the end product.“

Mr. John Smith of Biggarsberg Thatchers who was largely responsible for setting up our "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" was tasked with compiling this webinar. The ultimate purpose of this is to establish an Insurance Manual in collaboration with the Insurance Institute of South Africa.

In view of the foregoing, we would like to urge our members to carefully follow the SANS 10407 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification requirements, which of course do not exclude the other National Building Regulations of the SANS 10400. In the future, Insurance companies will act more strictly and place insurance claims and construction issues under a magnifying glass.

An example of this is shown in the following photos where Polypropylene was used which was not approved as a binding material. The Polypropylene has weathered and broken especially at the eaves of the roofs. There is no guarantee of how long the Polypropylene will hold the rest of the Cape reed before the reed slides off and no doubt such an insurance claim will not be paid out.

Upon acceptance of membership, each member of the Thatchers Association signed a Code of Ethics and Conduct in which it was undertaken to comply with the SANS 10407 specification requirements.

The Thatchers Association attaches great importance to this and relies heavily on it when inquiries are received in connection with our members.



According to the SANS 10407 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification, the only approved binding materials are stainless steel wire and tar-treated sisal twine.



We rely on our members' cooperation as proven so many times in the past.

Kind regards

André Friis

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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