



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 6/2007

31 July 2007

NEWSLETTER

Situations have developed that impact seriously on the Thatching Industry. From different angles problems have arisen affecting our Industry.

- First of all the devastating fires that occurred, will result in a shortage of construction poles
- Further more the negotiations to establish a practical and workable Specification acceptable to the Thatching Industry are still in progress.
- Safety Legislation is being enforced. Non compliance thereto will result in prosecution and heavy fines.

Safety Legislation Workshops are being arranged in the different Regions to inform members of the requirements and implications thereof. The importance of these workshops cannot be over emphasized and members should attend for their own benefit. This opportunity can also be utilized to market the benefit of TASA to non members and related industries.

DATES OF WORKSHOPS IN THE DIFFERENT REGIONS

CAPE	:	15 August 2007
GAUTENG	:	23 August 2007
OFS & NORTHERN CAPE	:	30 August 2007
NATAL	:	Unknown
MPUMALANGA	:	31 August 2007

SHE Vision, Technology & Support, who will present the Gauteng workshop, advise as follows:

THATCHERS, CONTRACTORS AND THE OHSAct

The OHSAct stipulates safety harnesses and safety boots be worn whenever there is any danger to the employees.

Every employer has a legal and moral obligation towards his employees to ensure the health and safety in the workplace by preventing / minimizing occupational incidents and occupational diseases.

Every industrial operation, activity and process carries with it an element of risk. Employees have certain expectations. When employees start a shift, equipped with ten fingers and ten toes, they may reasonably expect that the employer will take all due care to ensure that occupational health and safety procedures and incident controls are in place so that they may complete the shift, and be in the same physical state when they do so.

Therefore the Act stipulates:

GENERAL DUTIES OF EMPLOYERS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES
(SECTION 8 OF THE OHS ACT 85 OF 1993)

1. Every employer shall provide and maintain, as far as is **reasonably practicable**, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of his **employees**.
2. Without derogating from the generality of an employer's duties under subsection (1), the matters to which those duties refer include in particular
 - a. providing such information, instructions, training and supervision as may be necessary to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of his employees;

GENERAL DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES AT WORK
(SECTION 14 OF THE OHSACT 85, 1993)

Every **employee** shall at work

- a. take reasonable care for the health and safety of himself and of other persons who may be affected by his acts or omissions;

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993

General Safety Regulations

2A. Intoxication

- 1) Subject to the provisions of sub regulation (3), an employer or a user, as the case may be, shall not permit any person who is or who appears to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, to enter or remain at a workplace.
- 2) Subject to the provisions of sub regulation (3), no person at a workplace shall be under the influence of or have in his or her possession or partake of or offer any other person intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- 3) An employer or a user, as the case may be, shall, in the case where a person is taking medicines, only allow such person to perform duties at the workplace if the side effects of such medicine do not constitute a threat to the health or safety of the person concerned or other persons at such workplace.

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993

General Safety Regulations

13A. Ladders

1. An employee shall ensure that every ladder is constructed of sound material and is suitable for the purpose for which it is used.

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993

General Safety Regulations

13D. Scaffold Framework

1. An employer shall ensure that -
 - a. Scaffold standards are properly propped against displacement and are secured vertically on firm foundations: Provided that putlog scaffolds shall incline slightly towards the structure;

2. No employer shall use a scaffold, or permit it to be used unless it -
 - a. is securely and effectively braced to ensure stability in all directions;

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993
General Safety Regulations
13E. Scaffold Platforms

1. An employer shall ensure that -
 - a. every plank of a solid wooden scaffold platform is at least 275 mm wide and 38 mm thick;

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993
General Safety Regulations
13G. Trestle Scaffolds

1. No employer shall use a trestle scaffold, or permit it to be used, unless -
 - a. it is soundly constructed of solid material, and
 - b. all reasonable precautionary measures have been taken to prevent the unexpected spreading of its supporting legs when it is in use.
2. No employer shall use a trestle scaffold or permit it to be used, if it -
 - a. is higher than 3 m; or
 - b. consists of more than two tiers.

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993
General Safety Regulations
6. Work in elevated positions

No employer shall require or permit any person to work in an elevated position, and no person shall work in an elevated position, unless such work is performed safely from a ladder or scaffolding, or from a position where such person has been made as safe as if he were working from scaffolding.

We are sure that you will benefit from the information to be gathered from these workshops and we depend on your support.

Kind regards

Abrie Visagie
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Thatchers Association of South Africa
P O Box 13334
CLUBVIEW 0014

Fax 086 6409 151
Mobile 083 283 8429
E-mail admin@sa-thatchers.co.za
Website www.sa-thatchers.co.za