

## The South African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association

In June 2004 a group of South African manufacturers of plastic pipes, together with several producers of polymers, resolved to take action on matters of common interest, such as product quality, standards, technical information, market education and ethics. They inaugurated the South African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association (SAPPMA). The association is an affiliated member of the Plastics Federation of South Africa.

The mission of the association is “to create absolute quality, trust and integrity throughout the value chain of the South African plastics pipe industry”.

This mission is pursued by:

- the creation of a clear differentiation between responsible and irresponsible manufacturers
- the identification of the products of member companies with the SAPPMA logo
- the promotion of the growth of polyolefin- and rigid PVC products, markets and materials
- the promotion and monitoring of product quality
- providing independent analytical product-testing
- encouraging compliance with all relevant national and international standards and specifications
- facilitating the acceptance of new standards where applicable
- providing independent and reliable technical information
- acting as a forum and voice for the industry.

SAPPMA consists of founder-, corporate- and individual members, who endorse the association’s code of conduct, which *inter alia* binds its members to:

- manufacture and trade in products that comply with relevant product and quality standards
- do so in a responsible and professional manner
- subject themselves to the dissemination to fellow members of the results of tests of manufactured, marketed and **installed** products; and
- allow the association to publicise repeated non-conformance with the code of conduct.

Information about SAPPMA was given to the board of SASTT by board member Ian Venter of Petzetakis Africa (Pty) Ltd, and by the executive officer of SAPPMA, Jan Venter.

Ian Venter told the board that when non-conforming products or installations are reported to SAPPMA, an independent professional is delegated to inspect the work. If the work is indeed found to be unsatisfactory, SAPPMA will request the non-conforming party to take corrective action, which will be verified by SAPPMA. If the code of conduct is not complied with, SAPPMA may terminate the membership of the non-conforming member.

The board of SASTT considered this example of a fellow technical association and decided that in view of the SAPPMA code of conduct as well as the quality management practiced by SAPPMA members, **SASTT recommends to its members that when using plastic pipes, they should give preference to pipes manufactured by members of SAPPMA.**

For the convenience of members, a link to the SAPPMA website is provided on the home page of SASTT.

Additional information for this newsletter was obtained from the website of SAPPMA, viz <http://www.sappma.co.za/>.

Members who require further information can contact SAPPMA through:

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**Should SASTT not, in accordance with its mission to promote trenchless technology, adopt a similar code of conduct?**

The editor would welcome the views of readers on this issue.

Please respond to Joop van Wamelen at [director@sastt.org.za](mailto:director@sastt.org.za).