

# NEWS FROM THE PIPELINE

NOVEMBER 2021

The official newsletter of the Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association (SAPPMA)

## FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Another financial year is behind us and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve this extremely important industry. With the national elections still fresh in everybody's minds, it was clear in the run-up to Election Day that the uninterrupted supply of clean water to our homes and the uninterrupted removal of waste water, remain an indispensable part of public health, a big privilege, but also a major issue that influenced the decisions of voters. It is our industry that makes this possible.

As was reported at our recent Annual General Meeting, a lot of work had been done in this past year and we will continue to do so. In a limited way, we work to put into action the well-known words "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We once again thank all our members for their on-going support and the pleasant way in which we could interact during 2021 in order to achieve what we did. Thank you also to the Board of Directors for their invaluable support and the SAPPMA colleagues for the very capable way in which you fulfilled your functions during an unusual time. We trust you will enjoy reading about the latest news and industry developments in this newsletter.

We look forward to sharing with you the latest stories early in 2022. Until then, please stay safe and happy reading!

Jan Venter  
Jan@sappma.co.za

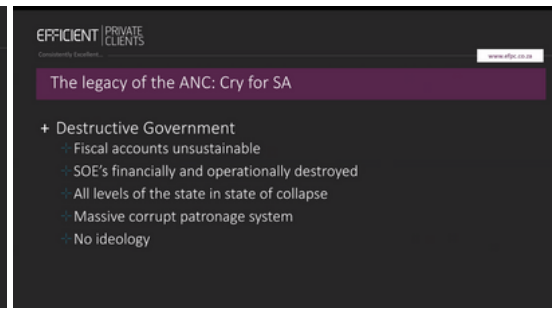
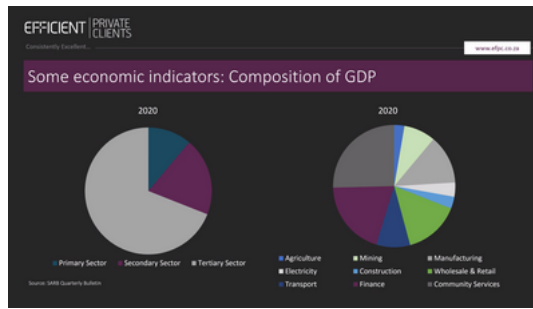
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- Introducing a new standard of HDPE Seamless bends in SA
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*Disclaimer:*

*The opinions expressed by individuals in this newsletter are strictly the view of such persons and do not necessarily represent those held by SAPPMA*

# SAPPMA HOSTS 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SAPPMA hosted its second virtual AGM on Wednesday, 27 October 2021, with close to 50 members who were in attendance. SAPPMA Chairman Terence Hobson welcomed guests to the meeting, before handing the screen over to economist Dawie Roodt for his presentation entitled "The South African economy in a nutshell: the legacy of the ANC".

Dawie is a nationally renowned economist who specialises in Government finance and monetary policy and enjoys excellent relations with various role-players in the South African economic and financial environment. He participates actively in media coverage of economic and financial matters in daily and weekend newspapers, financial magazines as well as in electronic media, television programmes and radio stations.

"Economics is about people, and understanding how it works and how it evolves, directly impacts us all," Dawie said. Explaining the difference between primary, secondary and tertiary industries, he highlighted the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the digital world in the years to come.

Looking at the South African economy over the past ten years, it was demonstrated how the economy has contracted and how badly the country compares with the rest of the African continent and the rest of the world when it comes to wealth creation, life expectancy and job creation.

Fortunately, not everything was "doom and gloom", as Dawie also demonstrated areas with growth potential, such as agriculture, medicine and education.

"Artificial Intelligence, robots and skills will continue to grow in importance and are vital for any industry wishing to survive and thrive in future. There are opportunities for businesses who are willing to embrace this new way of doing things. Join pressure groups, be informed, identify risks and stand up as a united front against corruption, the mismanagement of resources and incompetence," Dawie concluded.

## The year in review:

SAPPMA Chief Executive Officer Jan Venter reported that the past year has been difficult for the association and its members. In addition to COVID-19 forcing everybody to adapt to new ways of doing things, ongoing polymer shortages, high raw material prices and tight gross margins contributed to added pressures.

"Despite these difficult trading conditions, our members continued to hang in there and managed to survive. We thank them for their loyal support over the past year and are pleased to announce that we have only lost one member owing to the company withdrawing its operations internationally," Venter reported.

## Highlights of the past year included:

- Participating in the Plastics Chamber Report
- Completing and releasing the LHA Market Survey
- Being included in the DTI Water Industry Masterplan
- Forming a partnership with PPCA
- Ongoing cooperation between SAPPMA and Plastics SA

| Category                  | Number |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Pipe Manufacturers        | 19     |
| Fittings Manufacturers    | 1      |
| Polymer Manufacturers     | 2      |
| Suppliers                 | 7      |
| Fabricators/Installers    | 17     |
| Certification Authorities | 4      |
| Individuals               | 5      |

## SAPPMA Board of Directors

Congratulations to Rodger Petre of Continental Compounders who has been voted onto the SAPPMA Board. Don Coleman of Sizabantu Plastic Piping Systems and Terence Hobson of Sun Ace SA (Chairman) were re-elected, along with CP Bandaru, Trevor Woolward, Liesl du Preez and Jan Venter (CEO).

# Thermoplastic Pipe Systems Webinar

Important aspects to understand and keep in mind during design and specification

SAPPMA's CPD Accredited International Webinar on Thermoplastic Pipe Systems took place on Thursday, 21 October 2021. Four industry experts (two from South Africa and two international) presented their expertise on various aspects relating to the topic and important aspects that need to be kept in mind during design and specification stages.

## **Darren Poynton: Managing Director at GoPoly (Australia)**

Darren focused on HDPE pipe data recording in his presentation. "HDPE pipes go through batch testing and quality control to meet the highest quality standards before it is released. Every pipe and injection moulded fitting has quality data sheets available," Darren explained. He discussed the five most common causes for weld failures, including ways to prevent them, before going into details about paper-based recording, its uses and benefits in the digital era.

## **Prof Alessandro Marangoni: Economist & CEO of Althesys (Italy)**

Representing the European Council of Vinyl Manufactures, the leading PVC producers in the EU (ECVM) that was established in 1984, Prof Alessandro focussed the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) of PVC pipes and the cost benefits of recycling PVC pipes.

"TCO is a 'customer-centric' analysis aimed to account for the difference between the purchase price of something and its long-term cost. This is considered the most effective method to provide an analysis of the users' monetary costs throughout the products' lifetime," he said before explaining the methodology of evaluating the economic performance of materials.

## **Peter Fischer: Royal HaskoningDHV (Umhlanga, KZN)**

Peter's expertise lies in bulk conveyance, focusing on pipelines, outfalls, reservoirs, pump stations, canals and intake structures. The presentation focused on unlocking the benefits of HDPE systems and understanding some of the differences compared to the traditional use of legacy materials. For example, although different thermoplastic pipes have diverse characteristics, the designer's role is to understand this and for the design team to unlock the properties of importance for the application.

All thermoplastic pipes properties are related to the base material characteristic, which influences the differences in properties—for example, high strength with low toughness or high toughness with low strength are typical extremes of the spectrum of properties to be considered when designing with thermoplastics. The nett outcome of the design is a 100-year and more life expectancy. In addition, some thermoplastics have characteristics that make them more suitable for abrasion, weldability and relining, he explained.

He went into detail about the pros and cons of different jointing systems, highlighted that some designs need more restraining than others, and highlighted special consideration needs for above-ground installations. One such property often not equated for, is the Poisson effect that results in pipe shortening while the pipe strains circumferentially. The shortening of the pipe and the resultant stress needs to be accounted for with each design.

## **Mike Smart: Sizabantu Piping Systems (Pinetown, KZN)**

Focussing on the role and importance of piping systems made from PVC-O pipes, Mike explained why they are an excellent choice for pressure pipes for drinking water and also well suited for buried non-potable applications such as irrigation and sewer pumping mains.

"The webinar was well-received and attended and resulted in some valuable and relevant feedback of facets of importance to our audience and their specific needs. As a result, we will be investigating the possibility of hosting similar events in future quarterly," said Ian Venter, SAPPMA's Technical manager.



# PVC SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS CONTINUE TO IMPACT MANUFACTURING IN SA AND AROUND THE WORLD



Dr. Brian Sole  
Senior Manager, Polymers Marketing (Sasol)

Sasol’s PVC plant commenced its statutory maintenance shutdown in mid-October. Dr Brian Sole, Senior Manager, Polymers Marketing at Sasol, says they expect the plant to be off-line for approximately 28 days and shares his insight on international supply constraints and the impact on PVC prices.

"PVC supply to the market will remain on allocation through to the end of the year. As inventory levels will deplete further during the plant’s offline period, delivery delays on November and December orders can be expected until grade and pack-size stock levels stabilise." Dr Sole said.

The good news is that Sasol expects that production and supply levels should improve from Q1 2022 once the plant maintenance period has been completed. "We will keep customers apprised on any supply updates as they become available," he appraised.

## International supply constraints

Internationally, PVC supply availability remains extremely tight in most regions. While new capacity is expected to come online in the USA through Q4 (providing some relief to this market), downstream global demand has remained relatively robust. In Europe, tight supply due to production challenges, combined with strong residential demand has supported all time high prices for PVC. This has been further exacerbated by high energy costs prevailing in recent weeks.

In Asia, further supply tightness in export availability of PVC could become prevalent as China implements their "dual control of energy consumption" philosophy and enforces energy cuts on certain industries. This has already impacted on the PVC producing industry with many production units either forced to shutdown or to idle production at lower rates.

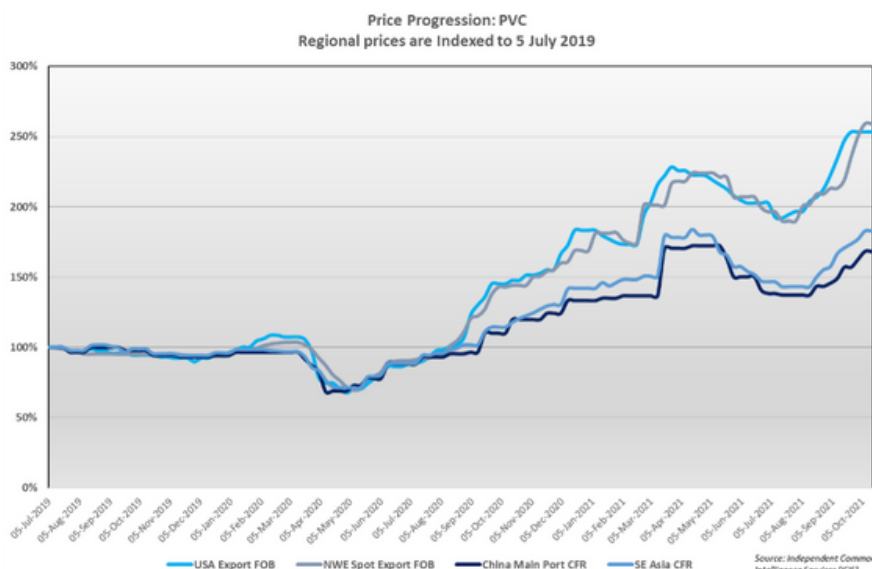


## Impact on PVC prices

While this international supply tightness remains in force, PVC prices continue to stretch upwards. Over the last quarter (July-September) international prices have once again been driven upwards by lack of supply, and we are now well into a regime of all-time record high prices in most markets.

"While supply-side factors are prevailing now, it should also be noted that the current constraints on shipping container availability and increasing sea freight rates have also contributed strongly to the regional pricing levels.

"We expect that this impact will continue to be felt well into 2022 as trade imbalances, shipping container and vessel availability problems persist," Dr Sole concluded.



# SAPPMA COMMENTS ON PVC PRICES AND SHORTAGES

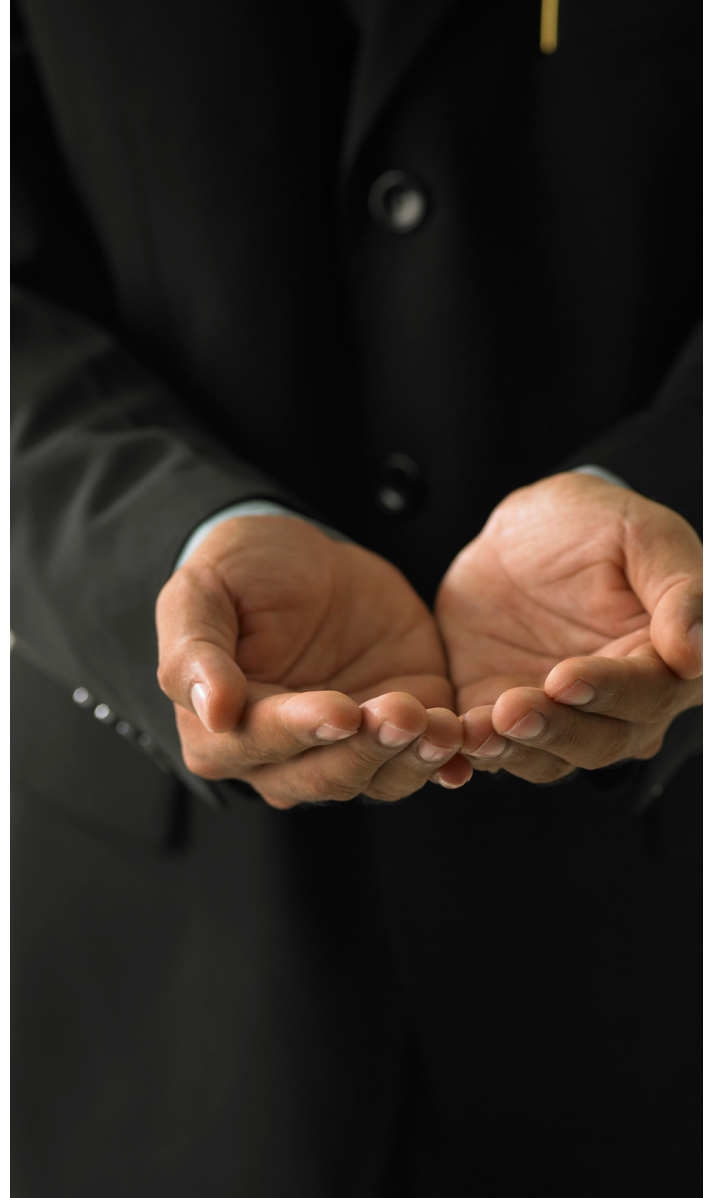
In February this year SAPPMA issued a communique to members relating to the supply problems of PVC polymer, which impacted very negatively on the plastic pipe industry.

Regretfully the situation is yet again far from ideal. The Sasol October shutdown for more than a month for their annual maintenance does not assist in meeting the total demand of pipe manufacturers at present.

This is a regrettable situation that is completely beyond the control of any pipe manufacturer. In support of its members, SAPPMA wishes to confirm that quoted prices of pipe are not in any way inflated.

It remains a matter of great concern that average selling prices of certified pipe do not reflect its long-term value. As an industry we feel that it is surely justified to make reasonable gross margins on products that are required to last up to a hundred years and that are indispensable in the overall well-being of all citizens. This is something we as the main industry body will have to give serious attention, but trust the situation will be resolved in due time.

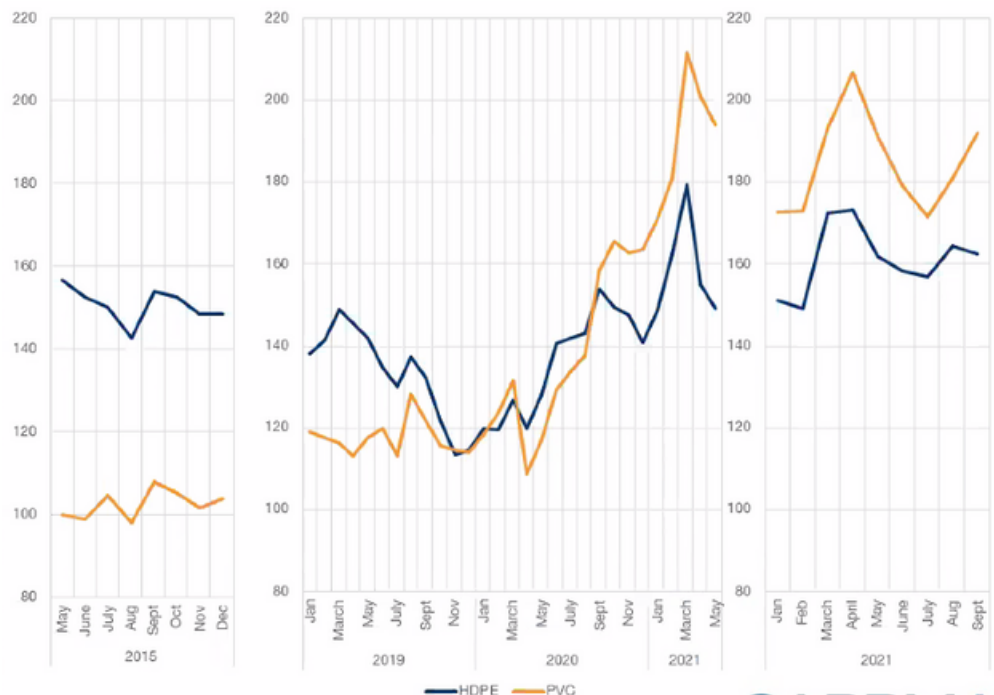
We once again assure customers of the bona fides of the plastics pipe industry and our mission to improve and maintain the long-term quality of pipe systems.



Graph right:

## Polymer Price Index

A synopsis of the polymer prices of HDPE and PVC over the past few years. For the first time in memory, PVC prices have exceeded those of HDPE due to supply shortages on a global scale.





# INTRODUCING A NEW STANDARD OF HDPE SEAMLESS BENDS IN SA

## PIPESTAR AFRICA

Linesco Pipeline Engineering Supplies, a leading supplier of steel backing flanges to the HDPE pipe market in Southern Africa, has increased its product offering to include HDPE pipe fittings.

Linesco is no stranger to HDPE pipe manufacturing, as they form part of the Rare Plastics group of companies who is a leader in terms of HDPE pipe manufacturing in South Africa.

Linesco has recently entered into a license agreement with Pipestar International based in Winnipeg, Canada to locally produce Arc Bends\* and Super Arc Bends\*. Arc Bends\* and Super Arc Bends\* are HDPE 3D long radius seamless sweep bends, and will be manufactured by utilizing the technology owned by Pipestar International.

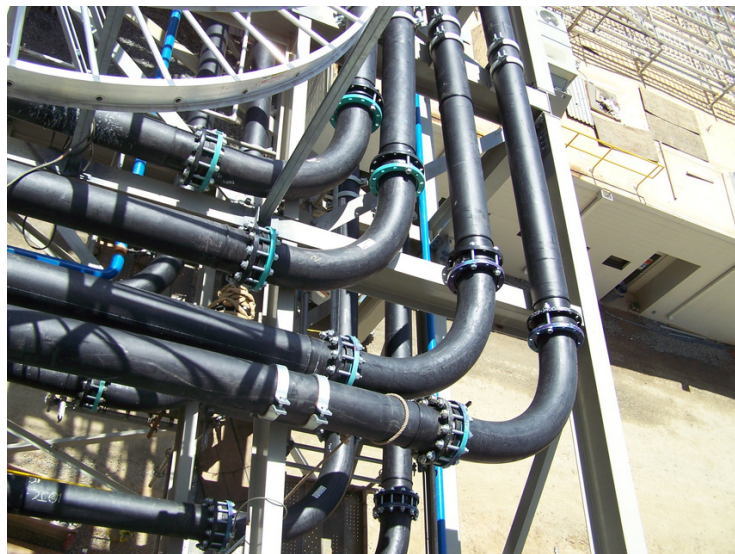
In terms of the agreement Linesco has been rebranded and will in future be known as Pipestar Africa. The Arc Bends\* and Super Arc Bends\* will be produced in Pipestar Africa's facility in Kliprivier, south of Johannesburg.

### Who is Pipestar International?

Pipestar International was formed when a group of associates with over 60 years of combined experience in the distribution and manufacture of HDPE pipe and fittings, acquired a unique process for manufacturing 3D seamless long radius High Density Polyethylene bends.

The group formed Pipestar International Inc. in 2000 and set up a manufacturing facility in Canada.

Initially the product offering of seamless Arc Bends\* was limited to sizes up to 14" (350 mm). However, over the past 21 years, Pipestar International Inc. has continued to improve and modernize its manufacturing processes. In 2013 Pipestar's product offering increased to include 16" (400mm), 18" (450mm), and 20" (500mm) Super Arc Bends\*. Arc Bends\* and Super Arcs Bends\* in IPS sizing, from 1" to 20", produced in every imaginable angle, have been sold worldwide and are now the preferred 3D long radius sweep bends in North America.



Pipestar's "State of the Arc\*" bends have been used in a multitude of industries, mining, oil and gas extraction, power generation, infrastructure piping systems, to name but a few.

Given Pipestar International's recent association with Pipestar Africa, Arc Bends\* manufactured in metric sizes are available for these same industries and applications all over the world.

Initially the locally manufactured Arc Bends\* will be available in both SDR11 and SDR17 in sizes up to 280mm. Pipestar Africa has already commenced manufacturing the equipment to expand the size range to 630mm.

Arc Bends\* are non-reversion bends that will maintain their bending angle without the need to be restrained. Due to their exceptional dimensional stability and roundness the Arc Bends\* are fully pressure rated and offer increased flow capacity. Arc Bends\* are manufactured to within 2 degrees angular tolerance as opposed to the market norm of 5 degrees tolerance, and they are suitable for both butt fusion welding as well as electro fusion welding.

**"When we first saw the Arc Bends\* and Super Arc Bends\* manufactured by Pipestar International Inc. we knew that we had to have them. It was love at first sight! Our dream was to offer our market locally manufactured Arc Bends\* that were of a similar quality to our pipes that we produce at our Rare Plastics facility in Meyerton, Gauteng. I believe that this will improve the integrity of HDPE pipe systems in our region as a whole. We are extremely proud that these world class Arc Bends\* will now be locally manufactured in South Africa and we believe that it will be the new standard for sweep bends in our market..."**

*Renier Viljoen  
Director, Pipestar Africa.*

\*Arc Bends and Super Arc Bends are registered trademarks of Pipestar International Inc.

## Manufacturing of stub ends

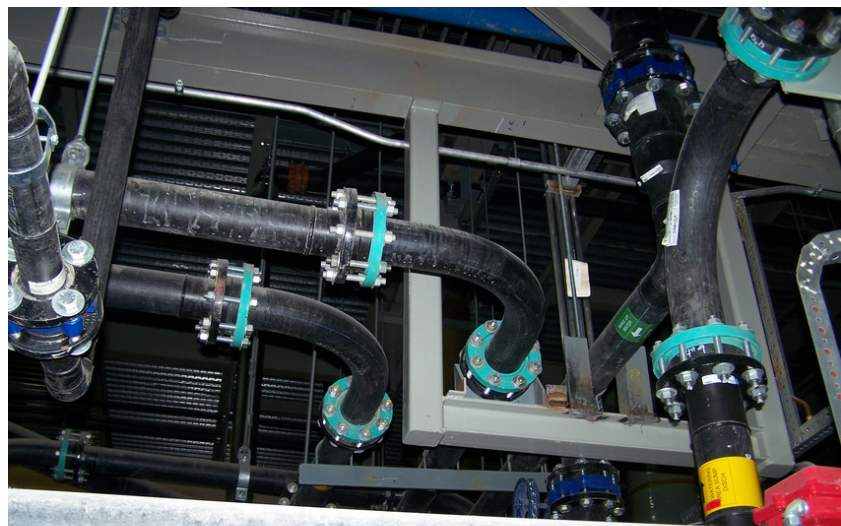
In addition to Arc Bends\*, Pipestar Africa has also commenced the manufacturing of stub ends up to 315mm in diameter in both long and short form at their local facility.

"We will be the only manufacturer in our region that will offer full traceability back to the raw materials used in the manufacturing of our stub ends as a standard practice.

The stub ends will be branded as PSA. In addition to Arc Bends\* and stub ends, Pipestar Africa will continue to supply the full range of steel backing flanges as well as fasteners suitable for HDPE pipe sizes.

A pipeline is only as strong as its weakest link and if we are to improve the integrity of our industry, we need to ensure that we focus on all the components that make up a pipeline and not just the pipes. Our market should be driven by quality if we are to build infrastructure to serve generations to come" says Ashin Tasdhary, Director of Pipestar Africa

**For further information, please email [info@pipestarafrika.com](mailto:info@pipestarafrika.com)**



# SAPPMA'S UPDATED CODE OF CONDUCT

SAPPMA (Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association) is a voluntary self-regulating Association incorporated under the laws of South Africa as a Section 21 Company and represents plastics pipe manufacturers and other stakeholders in the value chain. The members of SAPPMA agree to bind themselves to this Code of Conduct, the Memorandum of Incorporation and the production and marketing of highest quality products.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- To ensure members only produce and market top quality products, fully compliant to all relevant standards and specifications
- To promote and ensure ethical business activities in all areas of operation
- To differentiate between quality producers and others

## SAPPMA MEMBERS AGREE TO:

- Be listed under the ISO 9001:2015 scheme, or at least pass a special SAPPMA systems audit. In any event should members work to achieve ISO 9001
- Comply with all requirements of relevant national and international product standards that are recognized by the Association
- Comply with all internal standards and requirements in addition to the above, which might be introduced after consulting at TC level
- Not supply counterfeit products and pay due regard to trade mark, copyright, patent ownership and all other intellectual property rights
- Maintain the highest ethical standards and refrain from negative marketing, misleading advertising or the spreading of rumours about competitors or their products
- Comply with all national and local laws and regulations, including environmental laws or regulations
- Refrain from any form of corruption with customers, suppliers, competitors, legal authorities and any other persons
- Refrain from any anti-competitive behavior, including the fixing of prices or other trading conditions, the division of markets through the allocation of customers, suppliers, territories or types of goods, or collusive tendering
- Maintain the highest ethical standards in all areas of operation
- Allow all SAPPMA factory audits, whether announced or unannounced, including sampling and testing of products

## OBJECTIVES OF SAPPMA

- To promote and monitor the best possible quality of plastic pipe products produced, marketed and sold by its members
  - To promote ethical business activities in all areas of operation of member companies
  - To encourage compliance with the relevant national and international standards and specifications within the plastic pipe industry
  - To play a key role in upgrading and amending existing standards and specifications, or develop new standards applicable to the plastic pipe industry
  - To provide technical design information to the plastic pipe industry by way of consultations, conferences and technical literature
  - To work towards the long-term sustainability of the plastics pipe industry in Southern Africa
  - To act as a forum and voice for and within the plastic pipe industry
- Suspect quality encountered in the market should be factually brought to the attention of SAPPMA who will have supplied samples independently tested
  - Pay the prescribed membership fees within the stipulated or agreed period, failing which action might be taken in terms of clause 1.5.4.2 of the SAPPMA MOI.

## REGULATION

Any complaint that a SAPPMA member is in breach of this Code of Conduct shall be reported to the SAPPMA CEO for investigation. Non-compliance with this Code of Conduct may lead to expulsion from SAPPMA, as outlined below (refer to clause 1.5.4.2 of the SAPPMA MOI)



# QUALITY CONNECTIONS

## CREATING ABSOLUTE CUSTOMER CONFIDENCE IN THE PLASTIC PIPE INDUSTRY

The Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association (SAPPMA) is a voluntary, self-regulating association incorporated under Section 21 as a company not for gain, which was launched in 2004 to represent the interests of the well-developed plastic pipe business in South Africa and surrounding countries.

Pipes produced by member companies carry the registered SAPPMA logo for clear identification. SAPPMA members are allowed to use the association's logo on their products only after they have been able to successfully demonstrate that their plastic pipes and fittings comply with the association's quality and manufacturing requirements and that they are fully compliant with all relevant local and international standards and specifications.

This includes:

- Ensuring they are ISO 9001:2015 quality management system compliant (or alternatively, they have passed a SAPPMA systems audit) and as such strive towards successful maintenance and improvement of these systems.
- Agreeing to be independently audited on a regular basis (announced or unannounced), including sampling and testing of products.
- Conforming to additional SAPPMA 'Minimum Standards' to further differentiate members from non-members.

### THE SAPPMA MARK: A GUARANTEE OF QUALITY

The purpose of SAPPMA is to create consumer confidence within the plastic pipe industry and to

promote the production and the use of high quality plastic pipes and pipe systems. SAPPMA members contribute towards the long term well-being of the plastic pipe industry by way of research, technical discussion, analysis and problem-solving. Being a non-profit organisation, it is solely aimed at protecting the customer and the infrastructure of the country.

All SAPPMA members are committed to a strict Code of Conduct whereby they agree to comply with various requirements for national product standards, internal standards and pay due regard to trade mark, copyright, patent ownership and all other intellectual property in order to maintain the industry body's highest ethical standards.

By signing SAPPMA's Code of Conduct, members undertake not to supply counterfeit products, refrain from negative marketing and any form of corruption with customers, suppliers, competitors, legal authorities and any other persons, desist from any anti-competitive behaviour (including the fixing of prices or other trading conditions), the division of markets through the allocation of customers, suppliers, territories or types of goods, or collusive tendering.

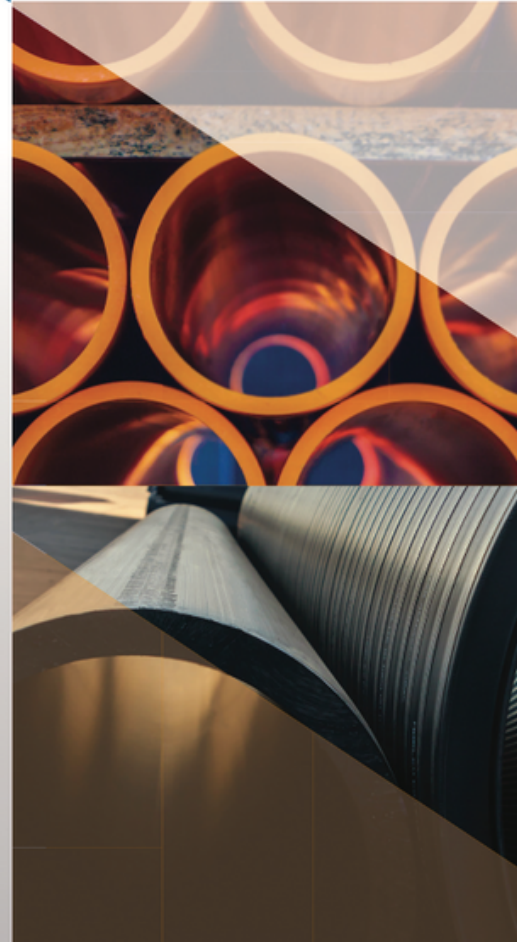
### IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT COUNTS

SAPPMA members only use virgin grade approved polymers and in terms of the relevant product standards no third party regrind PE-HD material. They do not use any fillers, nor heavy metal additives in the production of PVC pipe.

# SAPPMA

southern african plastic pipe manufacturers association

[www.sappma.co.za](http://www.sappma.co.za)



## PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING SAPPMA MEMBERS WITH CONFIDENCE:



[chemsystems.co.za](http://chemsystems.co.za)

**AENOR**

[aenor.com](http://aenor.com)



**BOREALIS**  
[borealisgroup.com](http://borealisgroup.com)

**bsi.**

[bsigroup.com/en-ZA](http://bsigroup.com/en-ZA)



[bt-industrial.co.za](http://bt-industrial.co.za)



[compounders.co.za](http://compounders.co.za)



[emeraude-international.com](http://emeraude-international.com)



[eurocelt.co.za](http://eurocelt.co.za)



[flostek.co.za](http://flostek.co.za)



[gradcosa.co.za](http://gradcosa.co.za)



[hultec.co.za](http://hultec.co.za)



[inkuluplastics.co.za](http://inkuluplastics.co.za)



[macneil.co.za](http://macneil.co.za)



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[mrstubman.com](http://mrstubman.com)



[nsf.org](http://nsf.org)



[pexmart.com](http://pexmart.com)



[pipeflo.co.za](http://pipeflo.co.za)



[trevor@pipe-tech.co.za](mailto:trevor@pipe-tech.co.za)



[plasco.co.tz](http://plasco.co.tz)



[plastrading.com](http://plastrading.com)



[admin@polyflo.co.za](mailto:admin@polyflo.co.za)



[proplastics.co.zw](http://proplastics.co.zw)



[rare.co.za](http://rare.co.za)



[safripol.com](http://safripol.com)



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[sunace.co.za](http://sunace.co.za)



[swanplastics.co.za](http://swanplastics.co.za)



[vanrynrubber.co.za](http://vanrynrubber.co.za)

# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We are calling on all photographers to submit your creative interpretation of our theme:

**THE VALUE AND ROLE OF PLASTIC PIPES IN SA**

**SAPPMA**  
southern african plastic pipe manufacturers association

**infrastructure  
news.co.za**



A reminder that there is still time to enter SAPPMA's photography competition! You can win your part of R25 000 in cash prizes for entering the winning photograph on one of the following categories: Artistic, Human interest, Installation, Manufacturing, Thermoplastic Welding.

1. Photo captions must accompany all submissions, and should include the subject of the image, the location the image was taken, and the name of the photographer.
2. Photographs must clearly show a plastic pipe.
3. Photographs must have been taken in Southern Africa.
4. Photographs must be submitted in .jpeg, .jpg or .png format, edited for web, at least 2,000 pixels wide and no larger than 10 MB.

Images will be judged on the guidelines above and also on their technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit. An overall winner in each of the above mentioned 5 categories will be selected and will be awarded R5,000.00 in cash. Email your entry and contact details to [Admin@sappma.co.za](mailto:Admin@sappma.co.za)



# G20: CREATING A BETTER FUTURE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

World standards leaders issued a call to action to the heads of state



**The world's leading standards bodies have issued a joint declaration calling on all countries to recognize, support and adopt international standards in order to contribute directly to the three pillars of the Italian G20 presidency: People, Planet and Prosperity.**

Appealing to policy makers and heads of state, the leaders of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC) highlighted the powerful role that standards can play in facilitating recovery on all levels of sustainability. The declaration said that, by referencing standards in policy, governments could significantly support employment, health and education (People), contribute to sustainability (Planet) and enable the economic resilience of businesses (Prosperity).

The WSC leaders emphasized how the current pandemic has demonstrated the benefits of digitalization to all three pillars and the integral role that international standards play in supporting this. International standards are the backbone of digital technologies creating a “common language” that enables quality and compatibility for all users.

“Digital technologies that work safely and efficiently for the benefit of society can ensure a sustainable, equitable and prosperous future. They enable new forms of collaboration and open up new creative possibilities for environmental policy. Digital technologies supported by international standards are powerful solutions for climate action and economic sustainability,” the call to action stated.

**“The international standards community must drive forward its multilateral efforts as we navigate through unstable times and look ahead to a robust, balanced and inclusive global economic recovery. International standards are powerful tools to help realize the commitments that result from such collaboration and enable us to build a sustainable future.”**

IEC General Secretary Philippe Metzger said that the work of international standards and conformity assessment was to support efforts to build a more sustainable and inclusive world.

“For us, that means supporting the realization of an ‘All Electric Society’ with a zero-carbon economy, which will ensure global prosperity by providing universal access to affordable energy generated from renewable and sustainable sources,” he said.

“International standards and conformity assessment can also pave the way to a circular economy that takes better care of our resources. They are powerful tools that can help governments and regulators implement policies more efficiently and reach development goals more quickly.

# SAPPMA

southern african plastic pipe manufacturers association 

## CONNECT WITH US!



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