

SAPPMA Technical Manual available

The 5th edition of the Technical Manual, compiled and published by SAPPMA (Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association), has been released.

Jan Venter, chief executive officer of SAPPMA, said the publication is a valuable tool aimed at assisting designers and the end users of plastic pipes in producing pipelines that will last for years.

"It is now 11 years since SAPPMA started publishing an independent, technical manual on the manufacturing of plastic pipes, and we believe the 2017/18 edition is yet another big step forward — both in terms of accuracy and ease of use of this handbook. It offers information, guidance, and best-in-class technical information on how to select the right material, produce accurate designs, and choose the correct installation procedures," Venter said.

Although plastic pipe materials have widely been used for more than 60 years, SAPPMA believes it is still somewhat of an unknown in certain circles. It is of particular concern to the association that engineering students do not seem to receive adequate teaching about the ins and outs of selecting the right plastic material, completing an accurate design, and ensuring the correct installation procedure is followed.

"The purpose of publishing the SAPPMA *Technical Manual* is not to replace other publications and codes on the subject. Instead, our hope is that it will serve as a basic, user-friendly guide throughout the various steps of design," Venter explained. He highlighted that the

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information contained in the manual is objective and free of any commercial influence (SAPPMA is a registered non-profit organisation).

"The importance of plastic pipe systems in the infrastructure of a country cannot be over-emphasised. This is underlined by the fact that well over half of all the pipelines worldwide used for water, sewage, and gas distribution are constructed

with plastic pipe. Pipe designs must be carried out by properly qualified persons who have specific experience in the design, detailing, specification, construction, quality control, commissioning, operation, repair, and maintenance of piping systems. For this reason, we have strived to ensure that all the information contained in this publication is verified and accurate." **PA**