



# SAPPMA

southern african plastic pipe manufacturers association



# PROSPECTUS

# A LIFETIME OF QUALITY & TRUST



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

# INTRODUCTION

Pipelines are one of three key elements of a country's infrastructure, together with the electrical grid and network of roads and rail. Infrastructural elements are long-term investments providing essential services to citizens with minimum interruption. Well-designed plastic pipelines made with modern polymers are capable of lifetimes up to 100 years.

There are many reasons why plastic piping systems have become the material of choice all over the world and conservation of scarce resources is one of them. Electrical energy and water are two of the most precious and scarce resources in many countries and certainly in Southern Africa. With excellent hydraulic properties, remaining virtually unchanged over its long life, the total pumping cost (electrical consumption) is significantly reduced with plastic pipe. It is furthermore noted that the embedded energy (total energy required to produce the raw material and the final product) of plastic pipe is lower than most other pipe materials.

# BENEFITS OF PLASTIC PIPE

Plastic piping systems dominate infrastructure in most countries in the world, because of its exceptional properties, as outlined below:

- Corrosion resistance (one of the most serious problems with pipelines)
- Excellent hydraulic properties. This is maintained throughout its life, resulting in no increase in pumping energy over time
- Ease of transport and handling due to low mass
- Efficient jointing methods enabling leak-free pipelines
- Available in long lengths, reducing number of joints
- Flexibility, toughness and high impact resistance
- High resistance to abrasion
- Long service life
- Low embedded energy

## STANDARDS, TESTING & CERTIFICATION

Well-developed and proven international standards regulate the plastic pipe market and are continuously updated in line with the development of new polymers. In South Africa the SANS standards (South African National Standards) are mostly identical copies of ISO standards (International Standards Organisation) – hence the usual format of titles reflecting both names – ISO and SANS.

A great deal of confusion exists in the market about the terminology SABS and SANS. The fact is that specifications are administered by SANS while testing and certification are done by the SABS. The national standards we daily use is therefore not the property of the SABS. SABS and SANS are actually two separate entities and the role of the SABS can be fulfilled by any other authority, as long as it is accredited by SANAS (South African National Accreditation Services).

## QUALITY

Modern pipe grade materials have such excellent properties that lifetimes of more than 100 years are now possible, provided 100% virgin polymers from certified manufacturers are used. It goes without saying that production equipment and processes applied by the pipe manufacturer must be up to standard.

Even small percentages of non-virgin polymer in the raw material mix can have detrimental effects on the quality of pipe and severely reduce its life expectancy. The same may apply when mixing different brands of polymer.

Because of the huge quantity of pipe produced annually, it is physically impossible for any inspection authority to scrutinize every meter of pipe going into the market. Furthermore, it is very difficult to visually detect poor quality pipe, which means the average person will not know what quality is delivered to him.

This can only be ascertained by way of specialized laboratory testing.

This is why SAPPMA plays such a crucial and coordinating role in this industry.



## WHO IS SAPPMA?

- SAPPMA is a voluntary, self-regulating association incorporated under Section 21 as a company not for gain (registration number 2008/019270/08). The company is registered with the Receiver of Revenue for Value Added Tax (VAT number 4320219878)
- The requirements of the Competitions Act 89 of 1998 are strictly adhered to in all areas of operation. A policy of total transparency is followed and all meetings are minuted in detail as well as digitally recorded
- It is the only major trade association in the very important field of plastic piping systems
- It represents plastic pipe manufacturers and other stakeholders in the whole value chain of the Industry
- The SAPPMA logo is a registered trademark and members who comply with requirements, are allowed to use the logo on pipes and fittings they manufacture. The SAPPMA brand is well known and is recognized by design engineers and customers as additional safeguard against poor quality
- SAPPMA does not seek to take over the role of any accredited certification authority, but to add value to it

## PURPOSE

The main purpose of SAPPMA is to create consumer confidence in the plastic pipe industry and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the industry, with top quality piping systems

## OBJECTIVES

- Act as a forum and voice for the industry
- Promote and monitor product quality of member companies
- Provide high level input at SANS to upgrade and amend existing product standards and to facilitate the development of new standards where necessary
- Provide reliable and objective technical design information to the market by way of consultations, conferences, seminars and technical literature
- Promote the long-term sustainability and growth of plastic piping systems
- Coordinate the interpretation and application of national product standards between certifying authorities, laboratories, manufacturers, designers and users

## SAPPMA MAIN FOCUS AREAS

- Product standards
- Long-term quality
- Reliable technical information
- Responsible and objective marketing
- Training

## MEMBERSHIP

- Pipe manufacturers
- Polymer manufacturers
- Suppliers
- Fabricators & Installers
- Certification authorities
- Municipalities & Water authorities
- Individuals

## BENEFITS OF SAPPMA TO DESIGN ENGINEERS AND END-USERS

- By specifying the SAPPMA mark, assurance is obtained in terms of long-term quality and responsible support
- The availability of reliable, independent, technical information
- Valid complaints, queries or product testing are handled by a central non-profit body
- Opportunity to interact with the main players in the plastic pipe industry and to attend technical discussions

# BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

- Members have a collective voice at engineering associations, consulting engineering firms, municipalities, water authorities and contractors.
- Access to expert technical information: advice/consultations, a comprehensive technical manual, conferences, webinars, technical publications, training
- Access to up to date market survey results and reports
- Assistance with interpretation of product standards, quality systems, test procedures
- Representation at certification authorities and test facilities in terms of standards, testing, monitoring and quality control
- Free access to the latest SANS Standards
- Members are set apart from other players in the market by passing the SAPPMA factory audits and adherence to the SAPPMA Code of Conduct
- Members enjoy extensive media coverage and have access to various marketing opportunities: regular SAPPMA newsletters that reach more than 1000 recipients, advertising in various publications, comprehensive website, monthly press releases and a host of events
- Exclusive use of the SAPPMA logo, which gives customers and end-users the peace of mind that their product meets local and international quality standards. The SAPPMA mark on a product has become a sought after quality guarantee
- Member and customer complaints/queries are handled by a central body with no commercial prejudice
- Regular members meetings that comprise of standing committees to specifically serve each product group in the SAPPMA fold
- Listing on SAPPMA website, linked to members own website
- Priority registration and special discounts for SAPPMA events
- Networking opportunities, social interaction and a sense of community
- Participation in the only representative plastic pipe forum in the country as well as liaison with similar international organisations
- SAPPMA members are supported by an established brand that is solely aimed at protecting the customer and the infrastructure of the country

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Design engineers, specifiers and users should be aware that not all plastic pipes are alike. Pipelines are a long-term investment and modern plastic pipe can easily last 100 years if correctly designed, specified and manufactured. It is not possible to judge the quality of a pipe by appearance only. By entrusting your business to a reputable supplier with SAPPMA branded pipe, chances of hidden poor quality are greatly reduced.

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Registration No 2008/019270/08

An Association incorporated under Section 21

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