

TENDER COVERING LETTER – IFPA MEMBER’S

The plastics industry association IFPA (Installation and Fabrication Plastic Pipe Association) was created in 2008, as a logical extension to the industry association SAPPMA (Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association) formed in 2004, to extend the focus on quality down the value chain and thereby the industry’s sustainability.

IFPA, like its predecessor SAPPMA, has taken time to establish its reputation and value through its drive for quality together with the continual improvement of the customers knowledge of plastics, which enables them to make informed decisions and demand satisfaction. The members value the satisfaction of their customers, the sustainability of their businesses, the long-term sustainability of their industry, and thereby the prosperity of their country.

We wish to record, which we hereby do, we are members of IFPA whose objectives are enshrined in the Code of Conduct that ensures, inter alia, the following:

- Consistently high standards in fabrication and installation
- Commitment to ethical business practices and standards
- Customer support and assistance throughout the supply chain.
- Competition Act 89 of 1998 compliance
- Environmental laws and regulations compliance
- Verification database of current IFPA members

IFPA has created, where none existed, codes of conduct (policies) and standards for members of the association to provide better products and services to their customers. As IFPA members, we comply with all such documents that are available on the SAPPMA/IFPA website. Furthermore, the two associations request members to support each other; IFPA members to purchase SAPPMA products and SAPPMA members to purchase products and services from IFPA members, to better serve our customers and elevate the standard of thermoplastic piping systems supplied and installed.

As IFPA members we have passed an audit of our processes, personnel, systems and standards, that is repeated unannounced periodically, which we must pass to retain our membership; the audit checklist is available on the SAPPMA/IFPA website.

IFPA works with another industry association, Plastics|SA. A requirement of IFPA membership is the company's welders must attend and successfully complete the Plastics|SA basic welding course, are awarded a certificate of competence and their details captured on the Plastics|SA data base. Our welders have a unique welder's number and we have a unique IFPA membership number, both numbers are on every weld, providing secure irrefutable traceability for quality control and assurance.

In addition to our welders possessing a valid Plastics|SA certificate of competence, our equipment must conform to the applicable standard of the SANS 1671 "series" for machines and equipment and the SANS 10268 "series" for our welding processes. These requirements are checked during the association's regular unannounced audits.

With the general raising in standard of the industry the IFPA members are aware they may require further approval, conforming to SANS 10269 "Testing and approval of welders" and SANS 10270 "Approval of welding procedures and welds", before work commences. Each process must be witnessed by a qualified inspector, Plastics|SA "Thermoplastic Welding Inspection" or Approved Inspection Authority, who certifies conformance on completion – this is charged as an extra if required.

The Plastics|SA inspectors course curriculum, created in conjunction with IFPA to ensure relevance and adequacy, has been running since 2014. Theoretical and practical modules must be passed, and a Workplace Experience Assessment Workbook of sufficient standard submitted within two weeks. The course objective is to enable thermoplastic welding assessment by competent people through skills transfer.

Any consultant or customer using the services of an IFPA member is assured of the best opportunity of a conforming project, completed on time, within budget, providing the designed service life of the system.