



SOUTH AFRICAN PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLAAGBEHEERVERENIGING

# SAPCA



## WDO INSPECTION PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES

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# NEWS

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“Wood-destroying organism inspection” means the service of inspecting a building or property for the presence of wood-destroying organism pests destructive to its structural components, and/or their damage, and/or conditions conducive to infestation and damage.

The inspection is carried out by certified pest management officers: qualified in all aspects of wood-destroying organism biology, detection, identification and treatment processes; in possession of a valid P-registration certificate; and registered with the South African Pest Control Association as authorised Inspectors for Wood-destroying Organisms.

The purpose of an inspection for wood-destroying organisms in a building is to assess the following:

- Evidence of wood-destroying organisms
- Severity of damage caused by wood-destroying organisms
- Remedial and protective measures required
- Susceptibility of the building to infestation by wood-destroying organisms

The wood destroying organism inspector should have adequate insurance due to the risk involved. This should include public liability and professional indemnity as well as all risks for the death or injury to self or employees.

If infestation is found, the affected building will need treatment to eradicate the infestation before a Certificate of Clearance may be issued. Because of the stringent requirements for a Certificate of Clearance, the recommended treatment must also make allowance for the possibility of latent infestation and infestation in inaccessible areas. Accordingly, the type and location of the infestation affects the recommended method of treatment.

A careful planned approach to the work is necessary in order to make sure that nothing is missed. It is often best to develop a routine in order to make sure the whole building is properly inspected.

The person requesting the report shall arrange for the WDO inspector to have reasonable access to the property, together with any information that may be necessary to carry out the inspection.

Your first step should therefore be to interview the owner or the occupier and determine as far as possible the age and history of the building, and whether any previous maintenance or repair work has been carried out, which may indicate that particular areas should be investigated more thoroughly.

Where no access or exposure is possible, comment must be recorded in detail on the inspection report. The importance is to note these anomalies so that they are part of the reporting documentation and contributory to the application of full disclosure.

An inspector is responsible for making sure that all infestations are noted on the date on which he carries out his inspection. He must make quite sure that any pest or fungus damage present has been noted in his book.

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An inspector is not responsible for fresh infestations arising in the weeks following his inspection. It is well known that beetles and termites can gain access quite quickly to timber; but the inspector is not liable for infestations which arise after he has finished his work.

An inspector's responsibility is to the customer or agent who first placed the order for the inspection. The occupier of a building may ask for the results of an inspection, but he may not be the customer who requested it in the first place. An inspector must remember that his first responsibility is to the one who placed the order.

Authorised inspectors are required to report as completely and fully as reasonable possible, with a view to full disclosure regardless of the stipulated requests that may or may not appear on the Deed of Sale.

