

28. CONSTITUTION

- 1) 1961. First constitution based on that of the South African Institute for Refrigeration (SAIR).
- 2) 1962. Constitution amended to allow for branches.
- 3) 1972. A major new constitution was adopted and the name abbreviation changed to SAAFoST in line with IUFoST usage.
- 4) About 1978, the constitution was amended to allow for the formation of specialist groups, which would be controlled by the relevant branch. The first and only specialist group, the Fermentation Group, was formed at the beginning of 1979 under the Northern Branch but this was disbanded in 1983 due to lack of support. The Constitution made provision for Student Chapters, there having been chapters in the Cape and Natal (in 1994) which continued until about 2002.
- 5) 1987. All members were re-graded, in line with the new constitution and the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) rules, based on submitted copies of highest academic qualification and experience.
- 6) 8 June 1989. Small changes to the constitution required by the Receiver of Revenue to meet certain provisions of the Income Tax Act for the association to be exempt from paying income tax on the interest from its investments.
- 7) 19 August 1991. Amendment of the rules so that Honorary Life Members would be elected on the recommendation of the Council by a 75% majority vote of the corporate members present at the Biennial General Meeting instead of the vote having to be unanimous.
- 8) 18 July 2001. Incongruities in the constitution and rules were eliminated and improved succession planning was implemented by changing one of the two Vice-Presidents to a President Elect. Afrikaans was eliminated as one of the two official languages of the association.
- 9) 2008. Amendments to the constitution and rules were approved, concerning:
 - (a) Extension of the postal ballot to include electronic voting,
 - (b) Changing the membership and the financial year, from 1 July – 30 June to the calendar year, 1 January – 31 December.
 - (c) Extending voting and nomination rights from only corporate members (Professional and Honorary Life Members), to include certain non-corporate members (members, Custodian Member representatives, institution member representatives but not students). Extending the vote was done in two parts; firstly the voting members, at the time, (corporate members) had to vote in favour of the concept of extension of the vote (which they did in 2008) and secondly; these voting members had to vote for or against the many changes that had to be made to the constitution and rules in order to accommodate the new voters - they voted in favour of these changes in 2010.
- 10) 2010. In the first electronic ballot to make changes to the constitution and rules, corporate members (professional and Honorary Life Members) voted in favour of amendments to the constitution to extend voting rights to include members, Custodian Member representatives and institution member representatives. The ballot closed on 4 May 2010. Corporate and non-corporate classes of membership fell away and were

replaced by voting and non-voting members. (the only non-voting members being students). Grades of membership; Honorary Life Member, professional member and student member were not affected by the changes. More changes had been made to the constitution and rules than ever before, thirty three in total, and were carefully scrutinized and ratified prior to the ballot by Honorary Life Members and SAAFoST constitution experts Bernard Cole, Maurice Kort, Nick Starke and Pieter van Twisk.

