

BOARD NOTICE 151 OF 2009



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NRCS- CONFORMITY ASSESSEMENT POLICY



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1 Policy statement

This policy applies to the assessment for conformity of commodities, products or services with their mandatory requirements.

It specifies the minimum criteria for the recognition of conformity assessment bodies and the criteria for the acceptance of evidence of conformity, provided by these bodies.

2 Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- 2.1 Provide a framework for the scope of the activities applicable to ensure the conformity of commodities, products and services by the NRCS inspection bodies;
- 2.2 Ensure that the conformity assessment function complies with the standards and ethics of the NRCS;
- 2.3 Focus NRCS staff attention on the practices of good governance; and regulatory compliance to ensure individuals comply with the requirements of the NRCS Act.

3 General rules

- 3.1 Conformity assessment bodies shall demonstrate appropriate technical and proficiency skills for the assessment of the conformity of commodities or products with the requirements of compulsory specifications, and meet any additional specific requirements that the Regulator may prescribe.
- 3.2 In addition the body shall meet with one of the following requirements in respect of competency to determine the conformity of commodities or products, with the requirements of a compulsory specification:
 - Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020 and/or ISO Guide 65, as applicable, by SANAS or an ILAC or IAF affiliated organization; or
 - Successful peer review/mutual acceptance against the above requirements, acceptable to the Regulator; or
 - In the absence of evidence of appropriate accreditation, or successful independent peer review/mutual acceptance, the conformity assessment body shall provide satisfactory evidence of compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO/IEC 17020, as applicable, that satisfies the Regulator.
- 3.3 The Regulator will only use conformity assessment bodies that meet with the above competency criteria.
- 3.4 Conformity assessment bodies shall not use any recognition by the Regulator, or any other outcome arising from such recognition, for commercial purposes.
- 3.5 The Manufacturer or Importer shall, on request, provide the Regulator with the required evidence of product conformity, and ongoing evidence of conformity, at its own cost. Where specifically required by a compulsory specification, the Manufacture or Importer shall also provide evidence of conformity of production, at its own cost.
- 3.6 The Regulator will only recognize evidence of conformity from conformity assessment bodies that have satisfied its specified criteria

3.7 Where South Africa is a signatory to an international agreement, the terms and conditions stated in such mutual acceptance arrangement, as to the acceptance of conformity assessment shall be upheld by the Regulator".

4 Reference Sources

National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, 2008 (Act 5 of 2008)

5 Definitions/Abbreviations

NRCS means the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications

6 Replacement and withdrawal

This is the first edition

7 Revision particulars

7.1 The Manufacturer or Importer shall, on request, provide the Regulator with the required evidence of product conformity, and ongoing evidence of conformity, at its own cost. Where specifically required by a compulsory specification, the Manufacturer or Importer shall also provide evidence of conformity of production, at its own cost.

7.2 Where specifically required in a compulsory specification, approvals shall only be issued after provision by the Manufacturer or Importer of satisfactory evidence of conformity.

7.3 The Regulator will only recognize evidence of conformity from conformity assessment bodies that have satisfied its specified criteria

8. COMMENTS

PLEASE forward all comments in writing on this document to the NRCS ,Private Bag X25, Brooklyn, 0075 or email : fourief@nrcs.org.za for attention of Dr Zen Fourie.