



Energy Management Systems (EnMS) SANS/ISO 50001

SANAS launched new accreditation programme

The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) launched a new accreditation programme for Energy Management Systems (EnMS) in accordance with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)'s standard, which was adopted as a South African National Standard SANS/ISO 50001.

The roll out of this new accreditation programme for Energy Management Systems (EnMS) for certification bodies was the result of work done by a SANAS working group of technically knowledgeable experts who developed the SANAS technical requirements. The working group must be commended for their commitment and robust engagement to complete the technical requirements within the time. The technical requirements address scopes of accreditation and the minimum qualification and experience in EnMS.

Stakeholders involved in the implementation and certification of energy management systems were invited to attend the launch. The workshop was held at the **Manhattan Hotel** in Pretoria on **6 February 2014**.

We all know that energy costs have risen globally and in South Africa over the past years. Energy management has therefore become important for the reduction of energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Organisations' performance is no longer measured only in terms of profits made for the year, but also on how sustainable and environmentally friendly they made those profits. Thus, EnMS has become one of the key performance indicators.

SANS/ISO 50001 EnMS is a voluntary international standard. It applies to organisations of any size, and gives guidelines for establishing, managing and improving their energy consumption and efficiency.

The SANS/ISO 50001 standard aims to do the following:

- Assist organisations in improving energy efficiency, energy use and consumption
- Create transparency and facilitate communication on the management of energy resources
- Promote energy management best practices and behaviour
- Assist facilities in evaluating and prioritising the implementation of new energy-efficient technologies
- Provide a framework for promoting energy efficiency throughout the supply chain
- Facilitate energy management improvements for greenhouse gas emission reduction projects

The purpose of SANS/ISO 50001 EnMS is to enable organisations to establish the systems and processes necessary to improve energy performance, including energy efficiency, use and consumption. The implementation of SANS/ISO 50001 EnMS is also intended to lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and other related environmental impacts and energy costs through

the systematic management of energy. Therefore, the implementation of EnMS by South African organisations will be very beneficial to environmental sustainability and energy conservation.

Accreditation is internationally and nationally recognised as a reliable and transparent method of confirming the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies (CABs), such as certification bodies, testing laboratories and inspection bodies. SANAS, as the sole accreditation body of the Republic of South Africa, provides formal recognition of CABs' technical competence to perform certification, testing and inspection functions as per their scope of accreditation. SANAS is also recognised internationally by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Accreditation has proven to reduce the risk of inaccurate results and enhance public confidence and assurance in the results that are produced from the CABs that are accredited. With this new accreditation programme, which was rolled out on 6 February 2014, SANAS will be providing third-party attestation of the technical competence of the certification bodies that will be certifying organisations' energy management systems in accordance with SANS/ISO 50001. The SANAS-accredited CABs will be certifying organisations on how well they have fulfilled the requirements stated in SANS/ISO 50001. The certification will be based on the evidence of tangible energy management provided by the organisation endeavouring to achieve recognition for its efforts in managing its energy.

The workshop was used as the platform to roll out the SANAS accreditation programme for EnMS, and was also used to inform EnMS stakeholders that SANAS is ready to accredit certification bodies that are to offer certification in EnMS. During the workshop, the accreditation process of SANAS was presented and explained. SANAS applauded for timely delivery and the efficiency with which they delivered the EnMS accreditation programme. The expectation is that organisations that have implemented the EnMS and those that envisage implementing it will in future require certification by an accredited certification bodies as such certification gives credibility and confidence to the implemented systems.

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