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NOTIFICATION OF SANAS CEO

After spending just over 13 years with SANAS, Mr Mike Peet tendered his resignation to take up a managerial position with the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

Mr Ron Josias was subsequently appointed as Acting

CEO, he will oversee the organisation's operations until the appointment of the New CEO is finalised by the Board of Directors and the dti.

The Acting CEO's contact details are as follows: Telephone (012) 394 3764 and e-mail: ronj@sanas.co.za

We would like to wish Mike well in his future endeavours as he carries the national flag internationally.

**UPDATED REQUIREMENTS FOR
QUALITY AND COMPETENCE
OF MEDICAL LABORATORIES
(SANS 15189)**

BY VIJAY PADAYACHEE
Field Manager: Medical Laboratories

Medical laboratories are essential to patient care and therefore have to be available to meet the needs of all patients and the clinical personnel responsible for the care of those patients.

Such services include arrangements for requisition, patient preparation, patient identification, collection, transportation and storage of samples, processing and examination of clinical samples, together with subsequent validation, interpretation, reporting and advice, in addition to the considerations of safety and ethics in medical laboratory work.

Medical laboratory differs slightly regarding the emphasis and focus in diverse areas, a standard which sets out uniform requirements for quality and competence (and the accreditation needed to help ensure this), is very helpful to medical laboratories striving to provide quality service in this very demanding environment.

Accredited medical laboratory personnel are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the latest edition of SANS 15189, which specifies requirements for quality and competence of medical laboratories.

As SANAS has more than 200 accredited medical laboratories in South Africa, this new standard is of considerable importance in facilitating accreditation, and the training necessary to achieve this. SANAS also

prefers to refer to this national standard, as it means that the standard has been endorsed by a representative structure as being suitable for South African needs.

For further information on how to purchase the standard, please contact:
Standards Sales at the SABS
Telephone: (012) 428-6883
Fax: (012) 428-6928
Email: sales@sabs.co.za

The standard can also be downloaded directly from the SABS secure standards webstore on:
(http://www.sabs.co.za/Business_Units/Standards_SA/WebStore/WebStoreHome.aspx) on entry of a credit card number.

For Information on the standard, please contact:
Imma Loots
Manager: Services and systems standards, SABS
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E-mail: lootsi@sabs.co.za

For additional information on the standard, please contact:
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HOW TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDITS

BY MARLAN PILLAY
Field Manager: General Testing Laboratories

The objective of an internal audit is to verify whether the laboratory's operations continue to comply with the requirements of the Quality System and ISO/IEC 17025:2005. The internal audit programme should address all elements of the quality system, including the testing and/or calibration activities.

An effective internal audit has the following characteristics:

- It provides objective evidence of the extent that the quality system complies with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 requirements;
- It provides objective evidence of the extent that the quality system complies with Management's policies and objectives (current, over the short term objectives and over the long term objectives);

- It provides information on non-complying areas and provides opportunity to take corrective action;
- It identifies areas where preventive action can be taken;
- It provides an opportunity to measure progress of areas where action was taken but does not meet the desired standard yet;
- It provides opportunities for laboratory staff to know the quality system better;
- It helps the accreditation body during assessments to ascertain if the laboratory has maintained their quality system;
- It encompasses all aspects of the quality system including testing activities;
- Tools and checklists are used in order to conduct the internal audit to the correct depth that is necessary;
- It is done according to plan; and
- Action is taken timeously.

An effective internal audit rests on the quality (competence, training, knowledge of the area audited, qualification & experience) of the people doing the audit.

STATUS OF TEMPORARY MAJOR HAZARD INSTALLATIONS (MHI) APPROVALS

BY SOLOMON MAHLANGU
Field Manager: Inspection Bodies

The Department of Labour (DoL) confirmed that no MHI Inspection Bodies are allowed to operate as "Temporary Approved" AIAs anymore. The joint process of SANAS Accreditation and DoL Approval was formally

communicated to all parties and must be followed.

Any MHI AIA operating as "Temporary Approved" must be reported to DoL for the appropriate action.

MHI Risk Assessment Reports that were issued prior to the joint process of SANAS Accreditation and DoL Approval is acceptable until the statutory 5-year process runs out after which the Risk Assessment must be conducted by an Accredited MHI facility.

NATIONAL REGULATORY FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS

BY SOLOMON MAHLANGU
Field Manager: Inspection Bodies

In March 2009 the NCRS Electrotechnical and Gaming Inspection in Pretoria received their accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:1998. This, in turn will ensure the inspection,

sampling and approvals of Electrotechnical and Gaming products are safe to be used by the consumers.

The Electrotechnical includes manually operated Switches, Flexible Cords for Power, Lighting Appliances, Plugs, Socket-Outlets and Socket Adapters, Electrical and Electronics Appliances etc.

OUR MISSION

To create an impartial and transparent mechanism for organisations to independently demonstrate their competence and facilitate the beneficial exchange of goods, services and knowledge and provide a service that is recognised as equitable to best international practice while reflecting the demographics of South Africa in all that we do.

We issue our report monthly and if you would like to receive future copies, please forward your particulars to enable us to add your details to the distribution list.



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