

Transition workshops for SANS 10378: 2012 and SANS 1649

During September 2012, SANAS held successful transition workshops in Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town to discuss changes to SANS 10378:2012 and SANS 1649. Those who attended the workshops made a positive contribution through the feedback regarding the changes to these national standards and for this we are most grateful.

In order to address the concerns raised by workshop attendees, SANAS will be conducting a mass/volume Specialist Technical Committee meeting in the very near future to debate and resolve all outstanding issues.

Changes affecting SANS 1649 will be implemented immediately, whereas changes to SANS 10378: 2012 should be fully implemented by March 2014. Laboratories can refer to the Transition Policy communicated by SANAS.

Take note:

All laboratories must submit their Organisational Action Plans to Thabo Chesalokile at thaboc@sanas.co.za or Emelda Udensi at emeldau@sanas.co.za by March 2013.

SANAS would like to thank those laboratories that have already submitted their action plans, and is looking forward to a smooth transition process.

New developments within the B-BBEE policy arena

The Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) announced two new requirements for the accreditation of B-BBEE Verification Agencies, set out in Government Gazette 754 of 23 September 2012. All new applicants must:

1. have completed training on B-BBEE Verification Services and Certification offered by Unisa and Wits, further details of which can be found on www.bbbee.traininggateway.co.za (note that SANAS is not involved in this training thus all enquiries should be directed to the relevant institutions whose details are on this website)
2. be in possession of a B-BBEE certificate with at least Level 3 B-BBEE compliance.

Failure to meet these two requirements means that SANAS cannot process the application for accreditation.

The B-BBEE Amendment Bill is in the finalisation stages and the much expected Amended Codes of Good Practice has been gazetted for comments on 5 October 2012. SANAS has sent this document to all accredited Verification Agencies and also loaded it on the website under announcements. According to the dti, these changes are aimed at addressing opportunistic rent seeking by black entrepreneurs and curb the practices of setting up paper enterprises in order to win contracts as BEE intermediaries for larger and established businesses instead of creation of medium sized black owned black businesses. The B-BBEE Amendment Bill, No 34845, 9 December 2011 emphasises the fact that

fronting is a criminal offence. It is very important for Verification Agencies to take cognisance of subsection 2 of Section 20 which states that a B-BBEE Verification Professional who becomes aware of fronting and fails to report it to an appropriate law enforcement agency is guilty of an offence.

The Bill also introduces a Regulator for the verification agencies in the form of the Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors and the B-BBEE Commission whose main function will be to oversee, supervise and promote adherence to the B-BBEE Act in the interest of the Public. The Bill puts to the core of B-BBEE a commitment to established companies to develop black enterprises and use procurement to build sustainable black businesses.

SANAS believes that the Regulator and B-BBEE Commission will become new areas of emphasis in B-BBEE measurement, following implementation and observation of strengths and weaknesses of the current legislation. As a B-BBEE practitioner, SANAS understands that the overarching need to address socio-economic imbalances is more urgent now than ever before for the long-term stability, both politically and economically, of our beloved country, South Africa.

SANAS hopes to schedule a Documenting the Systems Course based on R47 (Accreditation of BEE Verification Agencies) in 2013 depending on interest. For planning purposes, all interested agencies must register their intention to attend this course with the Field Manager, Phinda Ndabula, as soon as possible at PhindaN@sanas.co.za.

Document for Comment

SANAS stakeholders, interested parties, accredited facilities and assessors are encouraged to give comments on the draft R03-07 "Nominated Representative and Signatories: Responsibilities, Qualifications and Approval" document. Details are available on the SANAS website <http://www.sanas.co.za/announcements.php>.

The comment period is valid for 30 days, closing on 15 November 2012. For more information, please contact the SANAS Quality Manager, Yolanda Vinnicombe, on yolandav@sanas.co.za or send a fax to 012 394 4760.

