

South African National Accreditation System

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Our Reference:

Your Reference: **Media Statement – Accreditation of Laboratories verifying water meters**

31 October 2025

CLARITY ON THE ACCREDITATION OF WATER METERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Water meters in South Africa must be verified for accuracy of volumes by SANAS accredited Verification laboratories. The water meters must first be type-approved, for public use, by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), also referred to as the Regulatory Authority. The standards used to verify the water meters is developed by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). According to the NRCS rules, only type-approved water meters need to be verified.

The requirements for accreditation of water meter are guided by the **SANS Compliance requirements**, the **Legal Metrology Act (Act 09 of 2014)** as well as **Type Approval by NRCS** as follows:

1. SANS Compliance:

- SANS 1529-1: Applies to all water meters from 15 mm up to and including 100 mm. Covers metrological characteristics and marking requirements;
- SANS 1529-9: Applies to prepaid water meters, including electronic indicators and prepayment systems.

2. Legal Metrology Act (Act 09 of 2014):

- Approved water meters
- Visible SANS markings

3. Type Approval by NRCS

- Water meters used in trade must be type approved

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SANAS accredited laboratories are authorized to verify approved water meters for legal trade use in South Africa. Meanwhile, the NRCS is responsible for the type approval of water meters in accordance with relevant national standards, ensuring compliance with the Legal Metrology Act, Act 9 of 2014.

In addition, the current key accreditation requirements are guided by:

Compliance with National Standards:

- SANS 1529-1: For mechanical water meters (15 mm to 100 mm approved water meters)
- SANS 1529-9: For electronic and prepaid water meters

Legal Metrology Act (Act 9 of 2014):

- Requires a technical assessment of water meters in a SANAS accredited laboratory
- Meters must be type-approved by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)

Historically, SANAS adopted the title of SANS 1529-1, "*Water meters for cold potable water – Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements for mechanical water meters of nominal bore not exceeding 100 mm,*" to define the range of water meters eligible for verification under this standard". In this instance, water meters eligible for verification refer to type-approved water meters that have been allocated a South African Approval number (SA number).

Currently, there are **five SANAS-accredited water meter laboratories**, and the contact details are available on the SANAS website: www.sanas.co.za with many organisations working towards acquiring accreditation for water meter to support their operations. Additionally, accreditation enables manufacturers and suppliers to legally market, sell, and install water meters within South Africa.

SANAS will be hosting the next quarterly information session in December 2025, and at this session we will clarify on the overall accreditation process on the accreditation of water meters amongst other available accreditation programmes.

_____ end _____

Please direct any further queries or clarity you may have to:

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