

THE EXCLUSION OF SANAS ACCREDITATION SYMBOL

By Thabo Chesalokile

CLARITY REGARDING THE EXCLUSION OF SANAS ACCREDITATION SYMBOL ON REPAIR GUARANTEE, VERIFICATION AND REJECTION CERTIFICATES.



The publication of the new Legal Metrology Regulations was finalised in August 2018. These new regulations came about with some operational challenges, as they effectively prohibit the use of the accreditation symbol on verification certificates



It is stated clearly that only a symbol identifying the national regulator (NRCS) shall be attached on the Repair Guarantee, Verification and Rejection certificates and not the accreditation symbol as it has been the case. It has been argued that the reason behind this is to distinguish between the roles and responsibilities of NRCS as the national regulator for compulsory specifications versus SANAS's role as the accreditation body.

This development is meant to give the verification certificate a "look and feel" that it's a document regulated by the national regulator (NRCS) and not SANAS



Steps to be implemented immediately:

Verification laboratories have been granted a grace period to use and exhaust their existing verification certificates books until 31 July 2019, after which continued use will be viewed as a deliberate breach of the rules and will attract commensurate penalties.

Accredited laboratories will issue verification certificates without SANAS accreditation symbol as per the **regulation 120 (xiv), 122(j) and 128 (m)**.

All verification certificates are to be accompanied by a test report. However, there's nothing prohibiting accredited laboratories from attaching a SANAS accreditation symbol and the National regulator symbol on the test report. It follows then that the Repair Guarantee, Verification, Rejection Certificates and Test reports must be separated.



All verification and repairer accredited laboratories are reminded of Section 25, of the Accreditation for Conformity Assessments, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice; Act 2006 which states that in any legal proceedings, a document that purports to be a certificate issued by an accredited body in terms of their approved accreditation and signed by a person deemed by SANAS as competent to do so is upon its production evidence of the facts contained therein.

VERIFICATION

By Dees Dhanraj

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE IS TO CLARIFY THE PROCESS AND GIVE GUIDANCE ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BROAD – BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (B-BBEE) VERIFICATION AGENCY, AS PER CLAUSES 6 AND 18.1.1 OF R47

The role of the B-BBEE verification agencies is to assess, verify and validate B-BBEE information for decision-making.

B-BBEE verification agencies shall assess, verify and validate both disclosed and undisclosed B-BBEE-related information on measured entities. The verification shall be based on the principles contained in this document, the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice, as well as the relevant gazetted industry charters, published and accepted as a Sector Code of Good Practice on Broad-Based B-BBEE (Section 9 of the Act).

What do the terms **Assess**, **Verify** and **Validate** mean and what is required to fulfil this requirement.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary **Assess** means to **measure, evaluate, judge, weigh up, calculate, consider, or gauge**. To judge or decide the amount, value, quality, or importance of something.

Verify is to **confirm, prove, authenticate, substantiate, corroborate, or attest**. To prove that something exists or is true, or to make certain that something is correct.

Validate is to **authorise, confirm, certify, justify, support, ratify, or endorse**. To make something officially acceptable or approved, especially after examining it; or to prove that something is correct.

Per ISO/IEC 17025:2017, verification is the provision of objective evidence that the given item fulfils the specified requirement(s).

Therefore, in the B-BBEE field it means to collate the information provided by the measured entity, evaluate the information on hand, establish that the information gathered supports the requirements and then make a pronouncement thereon.

The starting point is always a source document, whether it is the Codes of Good Practice, verification manual, sector codes, other legislation or standards used. Then identify the requirements (What do you want to verify? Why? What is needed to fulfil the requirements?).

The process that you are going to use must be clearly documented in the management system manuals, to ensure consistent application of the process. Cross-referencing is needed to obtain corroborative evidence that the requirements are met. The referenced evidence needs to be examined for authenticity as well (“not manufactured to satisfy a requirement”).

It is imperative that professional scepticism should be applied when decisions are being made. All deliberations are to be sufficiently recorded and traceable.

Note – verification is neither a collection of evidence, nor a tick box exercise. The onus is on the verification agency to ensure that the evidence provided really meets the requirements.

The importance of B-BBEE verification cannot be overstated, in trying to achieve the aim of the government intervention to economically empower previously disadvantaged persons, and the need to provide accurate and reliable scores at all times.

Conclusion

Verification is, therefore, a process of substantive testing to ensure that the requirements of the respective pieces of legislation have been fulfilled.

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