

THE ROLE OF THE REGULATORY FUNCTION VERSUS ACCREDITATION FOR VERIFICATION LABORATORIES

By Letoke Mahlase

During 1990's the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) Regulatory Division acted as both the Regulator and the Accreditation institution for Verification laboratories.

Be that as it may and in 2001, the accreditation of Verification laboratories was transferred to SANAS. One of the reasons for this development at the time was to address the perceived conflict of interest wherein the Regulator appeared to be referee and player owing to the fact that the Regulator was also responsible for Inspection activities and providing assessors used by SANAS.

These Verification laboratories are accredited against the national standard SANS 10378:2012, titled "**General requirements for the competence of verification laboratories**", **Legal Metrology Act, Act no. 09 of 2014 and other related Technical regulations.**

It has come to our attention though that some accredited laboratories have misunderstood one of the requirements regarding the need to have approval from the NRCS prior to conducting verifications. As a result of this confusion some laboratories began to verify instruments as soon as they obtained SANAS accreditation.

The certificate of accreditation, does not on its own confer authority to verify in terms of the Legal Metrology Act. Approval to verify is granted by the Regulator, NRCS.

We therefore appeal to all accredited verification laboratories to adhere to this important requirement especially that the approval to verify by NRCS is linked to the duration of SANAS accreditation cycle.

CONTACT INFORMATION

SANAS website: www.sanas.co.za | **Main Switchboard No:** +27 (0) 12 394-3760 | **General Fax No:** +27 (0) 12 394-0526 |
Physical Addresses: the dti Campus, Block G, Ground Floor | 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria | **SANAS Knowledge Transfer Centre:** 121 Muckleneuck Street Nieuw Muckleneuk | Pretoria | 0002 | Private Bag X23 | Sunnyside | Pretoria | 0132

