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9th June 2010.

Attention all electrical associations.

Subject - What and who is ERIC?

ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE ORGANISATIONS HAVING TO MEET THE STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN STANDARDS IMPOSED BY LEGISLATION, OR MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU CHOSE *VOLUNTARILY* TO BECOME A PERMIT HOLDER AND ADOPT A PERFORMANCE / SAFETY STANDARD, BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR PRODUCT AND ULTIMATELY WANT TO SUPPLY A QUALITY PRODUCT TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, ONLY TO FIND MANY NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS ON THE SHELVES BEING SOLD WITH APPARENT GAY ABANDON AND SEEMINGLY NO ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS?

PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE SOUTH AFRICAN MANUFACTURERS OR LEGITIMATE IMPORTERS / SUPPLIERS BATTLING TO REMAIN VIABLE BECAUSE IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THE COMPETITION OF THE NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCT?

ARE YOU CONCERNED BY THE NUMBER OF NON COMPLIANT ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN STORE SHELVES. ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE YOUR PRODUCTS ARE NOT BEING CORRECTLY SELECTED AND ARE BADLY INSTALLED BECAUSE SOME INSTALLERS ARE NOT TRAINED AND CONSEQUENTLY YOUR PRODUCT SUFFERS. ARE YOU AWARE OF AND UNDERSTAND THE LEGISLATION AND COMPULSORY STANDARDS TO WHICH YOUR PRODUCT / INSTALLATION MUST COMPLY?

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE PROBLEM, OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION? IF YOU WISH TO BE ONE OF THE LATTER READ ON.

**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF
“ERIC”?**

**IF YOUR ANSWER IS “NO” OR “MAYBE”
THEN PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS DOCUMENT AND
LET ME TRY AND EXPLAIN.**

**If your answer is “yes“, then by reading, it may just help you to understand
the reason behind it a little better.**

Your first question may well be, so what does this acronym “ERIC” stand for?

WHAT DOES “ERIC” STAND FOR?

ELECTRICAL REGISTRATION and INSPECTION COUNCIL.

So what does that mean?

Exactly what it says! It registers products, companies and people who are eligible.

It is a body of electrical organisations currently comprising the

CONSULTING ENGINEERS of SOUTH AFRICA (CESA),
INSTITUTE of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (IEE),
SA ARCHITECTURAL COUNCIL (SA)
ASSOCIATION of MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS (AMEU),
SA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (SAPOA),
ASSOCIATION of SA QUANTITY SURVEYORS (ASAQS),
INSTITUTION of CERTIFIED M&E ENGINEERS (ICMEESA),
SA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (SAFPA),
SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU of STANDARDS (SABS),
NATIONAL REGISTRAR for COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS (NRCS),
ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION of SA (EMASA),
ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR ASSOCIATION of SA (ESASA),
ASSOCIATION of ELECTRICAL CABLE MANUFACTURERS of SA, (AECMSA),
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION of SA (ECA SA),
SA FLAMEPROOF ASSOCIATION (SAFA),
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING and ALLIED INDUSTRIES of SA, (EEAIA),
WIRE ACCESSORIES ASSOCIATION of SA (WAMSA),
SA HOME BUILDERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL (HBRC),
NATIONAL LABORATORY ASSOCIATION (NLA),
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS (currently in the process of registering with this body).
ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE EDUCATORS & TRAINING (APE&T)

Other participants, interested parties and advisors,

TSWANE UNIVERSITY of TECHNOLOGY,
ESKOM,
SWITCHBOARD MANUFACTURERS (Interested private advisor).
SURGE PROTECTION DEVICES (Interested private advisor).
SA NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM (SANAS),
SA INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (SAIA) (Interested party)
DEPARTMENT of LABOUR (HEALTH and SAFETY) (DOL),
SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTRICAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION (SAEWA),
SASOL TECHNOLOGYS (interested party)
ASSOCIATION of ACCREDITED ELECTRICAL INSPECTION BODIES of SA,
(AAEIB SA) (interested party)
BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

All of the above professional bodies, associations as well individuals across the board in the industry in the broadest sense, have got together as a steering committee. ERIC has an approved Constitution, is registered by SARS as a non-profit organisation with a very broad scope waiting to get up

and running. With the commitment already given by the organisations who currently have representation on the steering committee, we believe we can only be successful.

WHAT IS THE AIM?

- 1. The aim is to help the electrical industry, including the authorities, insure that all products *designed, manufactured, imported, purchased, sold and installed* in South Africa, meet the standards imposed by legislation.**
- 2. To keep a register on a national database of compliant companies and products.**
- 3. To offer an auditing facility in respect of the above.**

HOW DOES “ERIC” PROPOSE TO DO THIS?

ERIC proposes to offer a voluntary registration system for companies, products and individuals, to all those companies, local manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, installers, individuals, specialists, education and training institutions, professions and others not yet thought of, to acknowledge best practice principals in industry.

The above registration will be offered to those described above who subscribe to a code of good practice and peer review.

Individual parties that are members of the associations mentioned above may apply for registration. Registration must be done annually, is open for products, companies and individuals, provided they meet the prescribed criteria. On registration their names will be added to the national registration database and all parties will be informed of their registration.

Should the registered party fail to perform they could have their registration withdrawn. This information will be published to all parties including the consumer and professional organisations.

All registrations, rules etc., will be done by sector boards, which will be representative of the respective industries within the industry.

The ECB is the first Sector board to have been established. This body is well on its way to offering voluntary registration to those companies and individuals, in many disciplines who have proven competence. The ECB is currently in the process of establishing criteria appropriate for the task and the necessary curriculum and

training where necessary. The education and training required will be outsourced, to suitable training providers.

The ECB has been appointed since 1993 to do the compulsory registration of electrical contractors on behalf of the Department of Labour, and this information is captured on a national database.

The ECB is also the current supplier of the CoC / Test Report and controls the unique numbers required on the CoC by the DoL. Our IT people tell us that this database is ideally suitable for the voluntary registration proposed by ERIC and could be implemented as soon as required.

ERIC has recently being making good progress in establishing working groups in numerous fields, particularly in the areas covered by the ECB Sector board.

We believe that if we work together in this endeavor we will be able to assist the legislators in their efforts to rid our country of non-compliant product, bad designs, shoddy and badly installed electrical installations, fraudulent CoC's, and much more.

If you want to become part of these exiting times, then your association needs to become involved. Therefore if you would you like to know more please contact us on 012 8049652 (Tony McDonald (Chairperson) and 0825330692 James Baker (Secretary) and we would be only to pleased to address your organisation.

Remember the official **ERIC Launch on Wednesday 18th August 2010** at Bytes Technology Conference Centre, Midrand 08h00 to 17h00.

We thank those of you that have already shown support in various ways and look forward to your further support and contribution.

Yours faithfully,

Tony McDonald
Chairperson.

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