

No. R. 1079

19 November 2010

**NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS ACT
(Act 5 of 2008)**

**AMENDMENT OF COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR THE SAFETY
OF FLEXIBLE CORDS FOR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
(VC 8006)**

I, Dr. Rob Davies, the Minister of Trade and Industry, hereby under section 13 (1) (a) of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, (Act 5 of 2008), and on the recommendation of the NRCS Board, withdraw the Compulsory Specification for *The safety of flexible cords for electrical appliances*, and replace it with the Compulsory Specification as set out in the attached Schedule, with effect from the date two months after publication of this notice. The requirements for an LOA, as set out in Annex A of the Schedule, shall be effective from the date six months after publication of this notice.



Dr. Rob Davies, MP

Minister of Trade and Industry

SCHEDULE**VC 8006****COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR FLEXIBLE
CORDS FOR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES****1 SCOPE**

This specification covers the safety requirements for insulated single core flexible cords rated at a minimum of 500 V ac and multiple core flexible electric cords rated at a minimum of 300/500 V ac. These flexible cords are intended to connect single or 3 – phase appliances, luminaires and light industrial equipment to a low voltage mains supply conforming to the standard applicable in the Republic of South Africa i.e. 230 V +- 10% single phase ac., or 400 V +- 10% three phase ac.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this compulsory specification, the following definitions apply:

- 2.1 applicant:** The manufacturer or importer seeking approval of flexible cords. The applicant shall be an existing legal entity within the Republic of South Africa;
- 2.2 approval:** Confirmation by the NRCS that a particular flexible cord satisfies the requirements of this compulsory specification;
- 2.3 conformity of production:** Proof that flexible cords offered for sale have been manufactured to the approved design and continue to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification;
- 2.4 declaration report:** A report, that is issued by an accredited conformity assessment body, indicating the equivalence of products and/or standards;

- 2.5 flexible cord:** Length of one or more flexible cores of cross-sectional area not more than 4 mm², with or without protective covering for domestic and light duty applications;
- 2.6 NRCS:** The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications as established by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008);
- 2.7 proof of conformity:** Documented evidence of conformity with the requirements of this compulsory specification;
- 2.8 valid certificate of conformity:** A certified copy of an original certificate of conformity;
- 2.9 valid test report:** A certified copy of an original test report.

3 REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1** Rubber insulated flexible cords shall comply with the requirements of SANS 1574 *Electric flexible cores, cords and cables with solid extruded dielectric insulation Part 4: Rubber insulated cords and cores*, and the requirements of SANS 1574 *Electric flexible cores, cords and cables with solid extruded dielectric insulation Part 1: General*.
- 3.2** Polyvinyl chloride insulated flexible cords shall comply with SANS 60227 – 5 (IEC 60227 – 5) *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/700V Part 5: Flexible cables (cords)* and the requirements of SANS 1574 *Electric flexible cores, cords and cables with solid extruded dielectric insulation Part 1: General*.
- 3.3** The applicant shall ensure that every type of flexible cord has been approved by the NRCS before offering it for sale, in accordance with the requirements of Annex A.
- 3.4** The applicant shall inform the NRCS of any change in design or materials affecting any mandatory requirement in terms of this compulsory specification. In the event of such change/s the NRCS may, at its discretion, demand that the applicant submit a new application for approval.

3.5 The applicant shall, on request, provide the NRCS within five working days, with satisfactory proof of approval in respect of any flexible cord included in the scope of this compulsory specification.

3.6 The applicant shall, on request, provide the NRCS within five working days, with satisfactory proof of conformity of production.

3.7 Failure to provide the requested proof shall constitute reasonable grounds for suspicion of non-compliance with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

4 EQUIVALENCE OF STANDARDS

Standards issued by different standardization bodies such as ISO, IEC and EN, will only be accepted if it is proven, in the form of a declaration report from an accredited conformity assessment body, to be technically equivalent to the relevant South African National Standard. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining such a declaration report. Proof of conformity with such a standard shall be accepted as conformity with the corresponding South African National Standard.

5 CONFORMITY TO REFERENCED STANDARDS

5.1 For the purposes of this compulsory specification, a new edition of a referenced standard shall become effective six months from the date of publication as a South African National Standard.

5.2 New products, or products resubmitted for approval because of a change in design or materials, shall in all cases be evaluated against the requirements of the latest edition of any referenced standard.

5.3 When a new edition of a referenced standard is published, products originally approved in accordance with the previous edition of that standard may have their approval extended for a maximum of five years from the effective date of the new standard, subject to the requirements of Annex A, unless declared otherwise by the Minister.

6 EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY

The following alternative forms of evidence shall be submitted to the NRCS as proof of conformity with the requirements of this compulsory specification:

6.1 Test reports and certificates in IEC format or any equivalent format acceptable to the NRCS and issued by an appropriately accredited internationally recognized body being a member of an IAF/ILAC/IECEE mutual recognition scheme in accordance with the NRCS conformity assessment policy.

6.2 The certificates and test reports shall prove conformity with all the applicable mandatory requirements

6.3 Evidence of conformity shall be traceable to the specific type of flexible cords.

ANNEX A - APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE CORDS

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

An application for approval of each type of flexible cord intended for sale shall include:

A.1.1 Details of the type of flexible cord for which approval is sought and the standard/s to which it is claimed to conform;

A.1.2 Details of the manufacturing plant/s in which the flexible cord is produced;

A.1.3 For new applications, proof of conformity, with all the requirements of this compulsory specification, issued less than 36 months before the date of submission to the NRCS;

A.1.4 On expiry of the approval, an application for an extension may be granted, provided that all the conditions of the previous approval were met. In this case, proof of compliance, with all the requirements of the relevant compulsory specification, issued less than 60 months before the date of submission to the NRCS, shall be required;

A.1.5 Identification markings and other information appearing on the product; and

A.1.6 Any reasonable additional information as may be requested by the NRCS.

A.2 APPROVAL

A.2.1 The NRCS shall assess the evidence of conformity supplied by the applicant and shall decide to grant approval or not, at its sole discretion.

A.2.2 The NRCS shall assign a unique number to each approval.

A.2.3 The NRCS shall issue a letter of authority certificate (LOA) for each successful application, to the applicant, when all the requirements have been met. The validity period of an LOA shall be three years and two years for an extension.

A.2.4 The approval granted with respect to flexible cords pursuant to this compulsory specification may be withdrawn at any time, after the applicant has been notified in writing, if the requirements have not been met or maintained.