

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 17 May 2021

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

RE: THE NRCS WILL CELEBRATE WORLD METROLOGY DAY ON 20 MAY, ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONAL METROLOGY ORGANISATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD

South Africa, through the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), represented by its Legal Metrology Unit, will join other member countries and territories of metrology organisations all over the world to commemorate World Metrology Day, which is an annual celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.

The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is Measurement for Health. This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in health, and thus in the wellbeing of all citizens.

It also seeks to recognise and celebrate the contribution of all people working in intergovernmental and national metrology organisations.

The day is commemorated on 20 May worldwide to mark the framework which was developed on the day for global collaboration in the science of measurements in industrial, commercial and societal applications. The framework provides the basis for a worldwide coherent measurement system that underpins scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the global environment.

South Africa is also a member of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) which develops international recommendations or standards to harmonise legal metrology requirements applicable to measurable products and services, measurements in trade, health, safety and the environment and regulated measuring instruments. The OIML also operates the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) which facilitates international acceptance and global trade of regulated measuring instruments.

The metrology system in South Africa provides the necessary assurance and confidence that measurements are accurate, providing a sound basis for global trade today and helping us to prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. This has been augmented by the introduction of the Legal Metrology Act, 2014 and the Legal Metrology Regulations, 2017, which now include measuring instruments and measurements in the fields of health, safety and the environment.

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ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS (NRCS).