

The Department also represents South Africa regionally and internationally and actively participate in the following Committees:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
- Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)
-Leader of South African delegation
- Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)
- Codex Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

Nationally FAI serves on Committees such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) /SPS Committee and the National Codex Committee (NCC). FAI inspectors are also appointed as “inspectors” in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act (Act 54 of 1972).

FAI has agreements with regulators in several countries such as Namibia, Mauritius and Mozambique (SADC) and Thailand, Australia and Papua New Guinea. The department also co-operates closely with authorities in the USA, Canada and Brazil. It is recognized by the EC as the competent authority for the inspection and the issuing of health guarantees for fish and fishery products destined for Community Member Countries and is regularly audited by EU inspectors to ensure compliance with EU requirements.

LEGAL METROLOGY

Legal Metrology Department is responsible for the administration of the requirements of the Trade Metrology Act, 1973 and Regulations.

The department ensures the orderly conduct of commerce, the protection of all participants in the market for goods and services and protection of consumers by ensuring equity and fairness in all trade based on measurements of quantity as a basis for the transaction, and that products are correctly labelled. This is achieved through:

- Conducting market surveillance inspections of products from manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers to ensure that consumers receive fair measure and that all legal requirement are met;
- Verifies the accuracy of measuring instruments and measures;
- Calibrates measures and measuring instruments on site and in the laboratory;
- Conducts technical training courses for its own staff and businesses involved in installation, maintenance, verification and calibration of measuring instruments;
- Takes immediate action to stop the sale of goods when legal requirements are not met

The Legal Metrology “e” Mark is a voluntary pre-pack scheme that assures consumers that packers consistently meet requirements regarding labelling and quantity packed, and that they have adequate management systems in place to ensure that they continue to comply.

The Legal Metrology Department represents South Africa on the following regional and international forums:

- International Legal Metrology Organisation (OIML)
- SADC Legal Metrology Cooperation (SADC MEL)
- Intra- Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS)

Legal metrology is also a participant in the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on the acceptance of Type Approval test results and a Bi Lateral MAA with the Netherlands on the acceptance of prepacked products.

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THE NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS

**Protecting health, safety,
the environment and
ensuring fair trade**



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ABOUT NRCS

NRCS is an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry established to administer compulsory specifications and other technical regulations with the view to protect human health, safety, the environment and ensure fair trade, in accordance with Government policies and guidelines.

The organisation is mainly responsible for the administration of three Acts that resides under its jurisdiction and these are the, NRCS Act, Trade Metrology Act and National Building Regulations Act. Furthermore, the organisation administers regulations that fall under the jurisdiction of other government departments, as per agreement with the respective departments.

NRCS protects the consumer and the environment by enforcing compulsory specifications for

- Fish and fishery products and canned meat
- Vehicles, tyres and vehicle components
- Electrical products and components
- Building and construction materials
- Sanitation chemicals
- Microbiological safety cabinets
- Personal protective equipment
- Firearms and shooting ranges
- Plastic bags
- Flame-producing devices
- Accuracy and suitability of measuring instruments through type approval and inspection
- Ensuring confidence in measurement
- Control of quantity in Pre packaged commodities
- Assessment and designation of private verification laboratories

Where products and services do not meet the minimum standards, NRCS applies sanctions including stopping sales of non-conforming products, seizure, destruction and prosecution of offenders.

The organisation has five departments administering the compulsory specifications in different industry clusters and these are:

AUTOMOTIVE

The Automotive Department is responsible for the regulation of compulsory standards/specifications applicable to motor vehicles and certain replacement components of motor vehicles. In addition, the Automotive Regulatory Department was appointed by the Department of Transport as an Inspectorate of Manufacturers, Importers and Builders of Motor Vehicles (MIB's). In terms of applicable regulations, the Automotive Department has a duty to evaluate the MIB companies in respect of compliance of the vehicles manufactured, built, modified or imported by such MIB companies with the relevant legislation, standards, and specifications in respect of motor vehicles sold in the Republic of South Africa.

The regulated products include, but not limited to the following:

- Vehicle models including light and heavy passenger vehicles, goods vehicles and agricultural tractors;
- Tyres, safety glass, replacement brake lining assemblies, lamps and lights;
- Child restraining devices;
- Motor cycle helmets.

The Department also issues Letters of Authority (LOA's) required by importers of vehicles that comply with regulatory requirements in order to obtain Customs clearance.

Vehiclesreg@nrccs.org.za

CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL AND MATERIALS

The purpose of CMM Department is to contribute to the protection and health of consumers and the environment against commodities that are unsafe or that do not provide the protection against the hazards as claimed through the administration of compulsory specifications.

The commodities that are regulated by CMM by means of technical regulations, fall within the scope of the following industry sectors:

- Personal protective equipment.
- Firearms and associated industries.
- Health related products.
- Environmental protection.
- Flame-producing devices.
- Construction materials.

The compulsory specifications are administered by means of the pre-approval of commodities before it is placed in the market, surveillance inspections in order to monitor compliance in the market and the implementation of legal sanctions against suppliers of non-compliant commodities.

ELECTROTECHNICAL AND GAMING

Electrotechnical and Gaming Department ensures the safety and energy efficiency of electrical and electronic apparatus, components and related products, including:

- Appliances;
- Hand-held and transportable electrical power tools;
- Electronic equipment;
- Sound and communications (audio visual) equipment;
- IT equipment;
- Luminaires (lighting equipment), components and lamp control-gear;
- Components of appliances such as switches;
- Electric cables and flexible cords, including appliance couplers, cord sets and cord extension sets;
- Electric plugs, socket outlets and socket outlet adaptors, etc
- Components of low-voltage fixed-wiring installations, circuit breakers and earth-leakage protection units.

Regulated electrical products must be approved before being offered for sale. Manufacturers and importers are inspected regularly to ensure ongoing compliance.

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FOOD AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES

FAI Department administers compulsory specifications to ensure food safety and fair trade for:

- Canned fish, marine molluscs and crustaceans;
- Frozen fish and frozen marine molluscs;
- Frozen rock lobster products;
- Frozen shrimps (prawns), langoustines and crabs;
- Canned meat products;
- Smoked snoek

Spoilage or contamination of these products poses a serious threat to human health.

