

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
NOTICE 1023 OF 2015

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

**AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR
CIRCUIT-BREAKERS (VC 8036)**

I, Dr Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry, hereby under Section 13 (1) (a) of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act (Act 5 of 2008), declare the amendment of the Compulsory Specification for circuit-breakers (VC 8036) as set out in the attached schedule, with effect 6 months from the date of publication of this notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Davies', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Rob Davies, MP
Minister of Trade and Industry

SCHEDULE
COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR CIRCUIT-BREAKERS
(VC 8036)

1. SCOPE

1.1 This compulsory specification covers circuit-breakers, the main contacts of which are intended to be connected to circuits, the rated voltage of which does not exceed 1 000 V a.c. or 1 500 V d.c.; *rated currents not exceeding 125A and a rated ultimate short circuit breaking capacity (L_s) not exceeding 10 kA.*

1.2 This compulsory specification does not cover the following:

- circuit-breakers for equipment (CBE)
- circuit-breakers that incorporate residual current protection/earth leakage protection
- modular residual current devices
- switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse combination units

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 For the purposes of this document, the definitions in **SANS 556-1**, Low-voltage switchgear Part 1: Circuit-breakers, **SANS 60947-1**, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - general rules and SANS 60947-2, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear-Circuit-breakers*, shall apply.*

2.2 In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

2.2.1 **applicant**: the manufacturer or importer seeking approval for a circuit-breaker(s). The applicant shall be an existing legal entity within the Republic of South Africa.

2.2.2 **approval**: confirmation by the NRCS that a particular circuit-breaker satisfies the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.2.3 **conformity of production**: proof that circuit-breaker(s) have been manufactured to the approved design and continue to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.2.4 **declaration report:** a report that is issued by an accredited conformity assessment body, indicating the equivalence of products and/or standards.

2.2.5 **NRCS:** National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications as established by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008).

2.2.6 **proof of conformity:** documented evidence of conformity with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.2.7 **product certification:** is a certification system described in requirement 7.2.2 of this compulsory specification.

2.2.8 **ordinary person:** a person who is neither a skilled nor an instructed person.

2.2.9 **valid test report:** a copy of an original test report.

2.2.10 **valid product certificate:** copy of an original product certificate of conformity issued by an accredited product certification body. (See 7.2).

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The applicant shall ensure that each type of circuit-breaker has been approved by the NRCS before offering it for sale, in accordance with the requirements of Annex A.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The applicant shall, on request, provide the NRCS, within five (5) working days, with satisfactory proof of approval in respect of any type of circuit-breaker included in the scope of this compulsory specification.
- 3.4 Failure to provide such proof shall constitute reasonable grounds for suspicion of non-compliance with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Circuit-breakers shall comply with the requirements of **SANS 556-1**, *Low-voltage switchgear Part 1: Circuit-breakers*.

5. EQUIVALENCE OF STANDARDS

Standards issued by different standardization bodies such as ISO and EN, will only be accepted if it is proven, in the form of a declaration report from an accredited conformity assessment body, that they are 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.

6. CONFORMITY TO REFERENCED STANDARDS

- 6.1 For the purposes of this compulsory specification, a new edition of a referenced standard shall become effective twelve (12) months from the date of publication as a South African National Standard.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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 up to five (5) years from the effective date of the new standard, subject to the requirements of Annex A, unless declared otherwise by the Minister.

7. EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY

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

- 7.1** A product certificate and a valid test report issued by an appropriately accredited and internationally recognized body being a member of an IAF/ILAC/IECEE mutual recognition scheme in accordance with the NRCS's conformity assessment policy.
- 7.2** The certification system administered by the product certification body in 7.2.1 shall include testing of the products and assessment of the quality system of the manufacturer. Surveillance of the quality system shall be conducted and representative samples of circuit-breakers of each type or representative of the family of circuit-breakers or of generically the same design in respect of components wiring methods, intended to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification, shall be taken from the point of production and shall be assessed through inspection and/or testing for on-going conformity.

The certification system shall include the following:

- samples from the point of production requested by the certification body;
- determination of the characteristics of the samples by testing;
- initial assessment of the production process and quality system;
- evaluation of the test reports;
- decision on certification of the manufacturer;
- granting certification to the manufacturer;
- surveillance of the production process and quality system, and
- surveillance by testing of samples from the factory and the market.

A system 5 certification contemplated in ISO/IEC Guide 67 which covers the requirements of this clause shall be deemed to comply with these requirements.

ANNEX A - APPROVAL OF CIRCUIT-BREAKERS

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

An application for approval of each type of circuit-breaker (or family of circuit-breakers of generically the same construction) intended for sale shall include:

A.1.1 Details of the type of circuit-breaker(s) 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 circuit-breaker type is produced;

A.1.3 For new applications, proof of conformity as described in requirement 7.2 of this compulsory specification, 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 (LOA), an application for a renewal of the LOA may be granted, provided that all the conditions of the product certification were met. In this case, a valid product certificate and conformity of production (not less than 18 months) shall be required.

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

A.1.6 Any reasonable additional information in order to clarify the above that 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 (3) years and three (3) years for an extension.

A.2.4 The approval granted with respect to each type of circuit-breaker that is pursuant to this compulsory specification may be withdrawn at any time, after the manufacturer has been notified in writing, if the requirements have not been met or maintained.