

**Topic: SANAS Accredited Inspection Bodies Workshop Report**

**Date of Meeting: 25 May 2022, from 08:30 to 16:00**

**Venue: CEF House, Block C, Upper Grayston Office Park, 150 Anne Crescent, Strathavon, SANDTON**

**Convenor and Chairperson: Mr. King Modingoana**

**Attendance: See Attendance List attached, as Annex A to this report**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) together with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) hosted a workshop for Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) SANAS Accredited Inspection Bodies (IB) at CEF House.

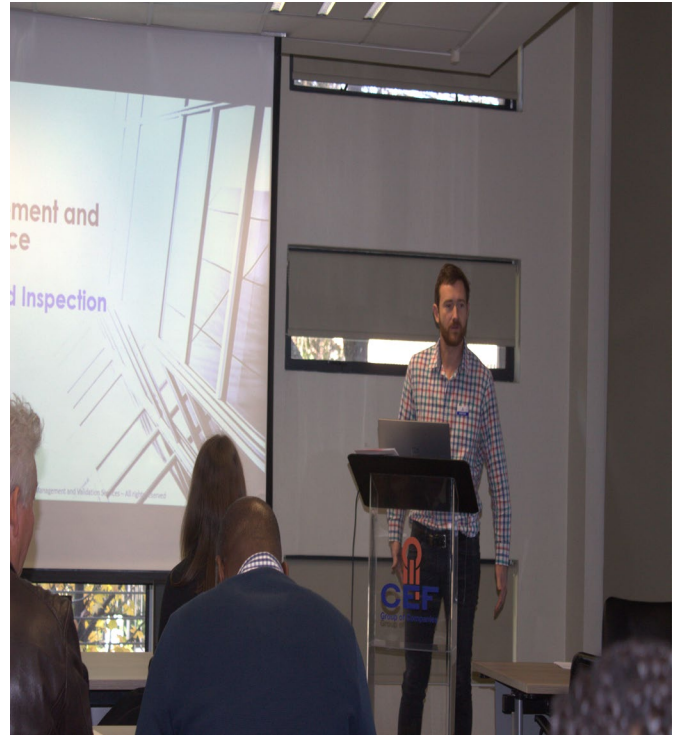


The objectives of the workshop was to solidify the relationship between the regulator, its regulatory partners and the SANAS Accredited Inspection Bodies who are mandated by the regulation to issue the EPC. The DMRE, which is the Regulator of the EPC together with its regulatory partners which are SANEDI (the EPC program administrator) and South African National Accreditation Systems (SANAS) – the accreditor of inspection bodies – successfully engaged the accredited inspection bodies on critical issues of compliance, accreditation, EPC awareness creation, market challenges that the inspection bodies are facing and possible solutions for the future.



The DMRE presented on the alignment of the EPC with the Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings and Infrastructure Program (EEPBIP) and highlighted the importance of the IB's involvement with the EEPBIP. The workshop emphatically emphasized the need to upload and register buildings for the purpose of efficient monitoring. Moreover, important topics which were relevant to the IBs work on the EPCs such as awareness creation for EPC and EEPBIP, capacity building and job creation for youth, women and people with disabilities and formation of the IBs representation body were discussed.

The IBs also took the opportunity to present on the challenges they are faced with in the EPC market. They gave presentations on the role of the regulator and custodianship, market challenges and further submitted proposals on the EPC Regulation. As part of the major challenges they are faced with, the building owners do not know much about the EPC and let alone the processes of acquiring certification for their buildings, which requires the IBs to take the client through thorough information sharing before they can engage in business. This challenge has time cost implications of its own. The other challenge, which will prove detrimental to the EPC program if it is not resolved quickly, is the issue of data integrity. It is currently a challenging experience for IBs to access data. The availability and quality of data poses significant challenges. Even the clients who have good systems in place have trouble presenting data in a usable format, in a timely manner and error free. Furthermore, to resolve the issue of data quality, it will increase the cost of assessment which becomes unnecessarily costly for the client.



Furthermore, the workshop considered the opportunity of creating a single voice for the inspection body market for an effective relationship with the Regulator and its regulatory partners. Key to structured training and development of the IB market and creation of high skills and job opportunities, is the uniformity of the IB market. The one voice that can be created by forming a representative body for the IBs will strengthen the IB business and help it to expand beyond the borders of South Africa – thus having a local positive economic impact.

### **Resolutions and Action Items**

- All SANAS Accredited Inspection Bodies are invited to present at all EPC roadshows and awareness workshops which will be arranged by the DMRE and SANEDI and will be taking place in the period of June to October 2022. SANEDI will be sending out invitations to the IBs in due course.
- The workshop has agreed that the SANAS Accredited Inspection Bodies will form a representation body that will be representing the IBs as a unit. Part to the envisaged mandate of the representative body will be to increase the number of SANAS Accredited IBs. It was agreed upon that Mr. Frikkie Malan of Remote Metering Solutions will give the DMRE and SANEDI the feedback on the possibility of housing the Representative Body under the ESCo Association of South Africa (EASA). SANEDI will follow-up with Mr. Malan and arrange for further engagement for the establishment of the Body.



- The DMRE will provide clarity to the market regarding the penalties of noncompliance of the EPC Regulation. They will explain what it means to be charged with a fine of up to Five Million Rands (R5 000 000) and five year imprisonment.
- SANEDI and the DMRE will assess the possibilities of producing the interpretation notes for the Regulation and the technical interpretation of the SANS 1544:2014.

- The DMRE will issue out an expression of interest to the Inspection Bodies with the aim of creating a pool of EPC service providers for its EPC projects. This will also be used to assess and determine the standardised EPC cost for government buildings.

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Date of Report: 6 June 2022