

Government Gazette
Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 729 20 March Maart 2026 No. 54374

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ISSN 1682-5845





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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION

NO. 7284 **20 March 2026**

STANDARDS ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 8 OF 2008)

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PRE-EXPORT VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY PROGRAMME FOR CERTAIN UNREGULATED PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In terms of section 33 of the Standards Act, 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008), I, Mr Mpho Parks Tau, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, hereby publish the Ministerial directive set out in the Schedule hereto.

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MR MPHO PARKS TAU, MP
MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND COMPETITION

SCHEDULE

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PRE-EXPORT VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY PROGRAMME FOR CERTAIN UNREGULATED PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. Purpose and Legal Basis

1.1 This Directive is issued in terms of section 33 of the Standards Act, 2008, to facilitate the application of South African National Standards (SANS) to certain **unregulated products** imported into the Republic.

1.2 This Directive applies **only to products that are not subject to compulsory specifications administered by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)**.

1.3 Nothing in this Directive must be interpreted as—
(a) extending to products regulated under any other legislation;
(b) conferring regulatory powers on the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) beyond those provided for in the Standards Act, 2008; or
(c) limiting or replacing the statutory mandate of the NRCS or any other regulatory authority.

2. Scope of Application

2.1 This Directive applies to the categories of unregulated products listed in Annexure 1.

2.2 Where a product listed in Annexure 1 subsequently becomes subject to a compulsory specification under applicable legislation, such product shall automatically fall outside the scope of this Directive from the effective date of such regulation.

2.3 The list in Annexure 1 may be reviewed periodically by the Minister, following consultation with relevant authorities, to ensure continued alignment with statutory mandates and risk assessments.

3. Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC)

3.1 A Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) Programme is hereby introduced in respect of the products listed in Annexure 1.

3.2 The Programme requires that applicable products imported from the People's Republic of China be accompanied by a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) confirming conformity with identified applicable South African National Standards (SANS) or recognised reference standards.

3.3 The conformity assessment activities contemplated in this Directive shall be undertaken within the legislative mandate of the SABS.

3.4 Any cooperation arrangement between SABS and a foreign conformity assessment body, including the China Certification & Inspection Group (CCIC), shall operate as an administrative and technical cooperation mechanism and shall not have independent regulatory force.

3.5 This Directive derives its authority solely from the Standards Act, 2008, and not from any Memorandum of Understanding.

4. Import Documentation Requirement

4.1 A valid Certificate of Conformity issued in terms of the PVoC Programme shall be required as supporting documentation for purposes of importation of products listed in Annexure 1.

4.2 The recognition and processing of such documentation shall occur within existing customs and import control legislative frameworks.

4.3 This Directive does not create new enforcement powers and shall be implemented through existing statutory mechanisms.

5. Enforcement

5.1 The South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the Border Management Authority (BMA) may verify compliance with this Directive within the scope of their respective statutory mandates.

5.2 Enforcement shall occur strictly in terms of applicable customs and border management legislation.

6. WTO Consistency and Transitional Period

6.1 This Directive is adopted for legitimate public policy objectives, including consumer protection, safety, and quality assurance.

6.2 In accordance with South Africa's obligations under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, a reasonable interval is provided between publication and entry into force.

6.3 This Directive shall come into operation six (6) months after the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

7. Commencement

This Directive comes into operation six (6) months after publication in the Government Gazette.

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065

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