

SAQCC FIRE - 1475 NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2016



SAQCC Fire herewith wishes all the technicians a prosperous festive season. We trust that 2016 has been as productive for you as it has been for the SAQCC Fire. We have been driving road shows, national training recognition and have been addressing industry obstacles with the DOL and SABS so as to ensure a better working environment for you. Our marketing drive is now in new hands and we ensure you that communication to update you on industry matters is a major goal of the SAQCC Fire.



DRIVE TO REGISTER 1475 RECONDITIONING AS A RECOGNISED NATIONAL OCCUPATION

Any person who wants to execute reconditioning activities has to be registered with the SAQCC. For years this Committee had to drive the development and accreditation of a curriculum for registration purposes itself. However, the SAQCC has applied to the QTCO (Quality Council for Trades and Occupations) to recognise and register the 1475 reconditioning as an occupation within the national framework.

The impact of such registration will be that you as competent person will be noted on a national register with a recognised occupation similar to that of other trades and occupations such as plumbers.

Furthermore the curriculum and categories of SAQCC registration have been revised and will offer improved and extended knowledge and skills.

It is foreseen that the entry level registration will be as an assistant. This will be compulsory for all persons within 3 months of being employed in the 1475 industry. These persons will be required to complete training modules for basic skills and knowledge some of which can be done in-house.

The next category would be the trainee who can register on completion of all the modules as set for this category. Some of these modules are e.g. to perform basic fire fighting, apply health and safety principles, understanding pressure and temperatures as well as the modules included in the current SAQCC training.



Once a minimum of 6 months practical training under a competent person is concluded, as well as some further training modules such as *Quality Control Requirements in terms of SABS – (1475-1), Positioning and Distribution of fire-fighting equipment (SANS10105 / 10400 / 1910 / By-Laws*, a person can be registered as a competent person. It is foreseen that these 3 categories of registration will be compulsory.

In addition another voluntary registration category is planned in accordance with which the competent person can upskill himself even more. Modules of training planned for this category includes conducting a continuous risk assessment in a workplace and how to conduct evacuations and emergency drills.

The complete proposed skills program can be viewed on the SAQCC website.

It is foreseen that this process should be concluded within 18 months and we will keep you updated on our progress.



Legal requirements for the importation of CO2 extinguishers



It has been brought to light that CO2 Fire extinguishers imported since 2009 do not comply with the PER requirements except those stamped with the CE mark and as could be substantiated with the necessary conformity assessment certificates.

The SAQCC Fire 1475 has requested a concession from DOL in writing that CO2 extinguishers manufactured since 2009 to current, should be allowed to stay in service, providing that an addendum be made to SANS 1475 which requires CO2 extinguishers manufactured since 2009 and that are NOT CE-marked, be pressure-tested within a 5 year cycle and thereafter again, as per the 10-year interval.

Some of these units imported even before the inception of the PER which have now been submitted for pressure-testing have been found to have incomplete stampings.

This information has started to filter down to the gas test stations and has been brought to the attention of SANAS by SAQCC representatives. SANAS has given a proposed procedure to the DOL on how to deal with this matter. DOL is currently reviewing the proposal and should make a decision once all safety aspects have been taken into account.

It is foreseen that the concession itself, if approved, would be issued before the end of the year. Technicians are advised to continue servicing CO2 extinguishers until the DOL issues its decisions in writing to the industry. As the DOL is the custodian of the legal requirements of the occupational health and safety, the SAQCC has to await the instructions of DOL and this authority has the right and responsibility to make a call on these matters.

SAQCC will keep technicians advised as this issue progresses!



Requirements for institutions doing training in 1475 workshops

All industry role players should take note that training being conducted other than at a registered establishment does require prior permission from SAQCC. A written request must be submitted at least two weeks before the proposed training is to take place.



This is to ensure that the physical environment and the tools and equipment used during the training, fulfill in the requirements to conduct effective training. The following must be submitted:

(1) A letter of request from the training institution stating the time and dates of the training and an indication and the availability of tools and equipment whether supplied by the 1475 company or the training institution; the SANS standards to be supplied for use during training.

(2) A letter on a company letterhead from the proposed SABS1475 Company, certified by the SAP containing the following details:

- a. The company who will perform the training
- b. Confirmation that their SABS audits are up to date.
- c. Confirmation that they will be supplying all the required tools (in terms of SABS)
- d. Confirmation that they will supply all the current standards (in terms of SABS)
- e. Indicate that all normal activities cease during the Practical training and the proposed workshop complies with the OHS Act.

(A copy of their SABS Certificate to be submitted)

Failure to comply with these instructions will result in the suspension of the training license for the SAQCC 1475 training provider.



UPGRADING OF THE SAQCC WEBSITE

On Line Payment to become a reality! With the upgrading of the SAQCC website a great new feature will be added allowing technicians to register and then make payments online through a Virtual Card System. It was hoped this would be in place in time for the renewals this coming year but with so much to get right, it will probably only be introduced later in the year – so watch out for notification.





The “Tool Box Talks” will be another exciting new addition which has been designed to be both, informative and practical , giving technicians tips and advice on not only general servicing but also on the safety and legal requirements necessary in providing the essential knowledge and equipping technicians for their everyday work situations . An example of what can be expected is attached – this one is entitled “Why you cannot service a cartridge unit”.

As soon as the website has been confirmed as operational – notification will be sent far and wide by all our methods of communication.

Disciplinary Hearings



Cape Town: A complaint was received from this company and Committee members had flown to Cape Town to deal with the disciplinary hearing . A technician had been found guilty of not servicing in accordance with SANS 1475 standard . He was required to undergo a one day assessment, failing in this, it would be a 5 day course and if he is still not successful, then his registration would be cancelled. The point was raised at the hearing that the person representing the technician was the owner of the company. The owner had admitted that he had put a procedure in place that technicians complete the service labels before pressure testing and if the customer did not want to pay for the pressure test, then they would conduct the service anyway.

This had been noted at the hearing and since been forwarded to both SABS and DOL to take action against the company.

Company owners and technicians are urged to ensure that they do not deviate from the standard as they will equally be held responsible.

Outcome of Disciplinary Hearings held in Johannesburg in November:



1. Technician found guilty of servicing for an illegal company whilst registered and still in the employment of another company. He has since been de-registered and must successfully complete the SAQCC Fire-1475 5 day course at an approved training centre. Once completed, he must then register as a trainee and undergo the minimum six months on the job training under the supervision of a registered competent person before being allowed to register again and a new registration number would then be issued.
2. A trainee reported by the SABS for servicing without the supervision of a registered competent person. He pleaded guilty to the offence and was issued with a warning letter.
3. The registered competent person who was the supervisor as well as both the owner and management representative of the company employing the trainee in point 2 above, was found guilty of knowingly allowing his trainee to service without supervision. He must successfully complete the SAQCC Fire-1475 5 day course at an approved training centre before 28th February 2017. If he fails to do this, then his registration for 2017 will not be renewed.



Submission of complaints to the SAQCC Fire

Your attention is drawn to the fact that should you have a complaint – there are certain steps that must be followed and the form is available on the website that will guide you through the process. No complaints can be entertained unless the form has been completed with accompanying evidence. As can be seen from the above, the committee does take action when within its jurisdiction, so your complaint does not fall on deaf ears – and in each case both SABS and the Department of Labour are kept advised. In those cases which are outside the scope of SAQCC Fire, then the information is forwarded to both the Department of Labour and the SABS, should it involve their permit mark.



2016 Road shows

The 2016 annual road shows have proved to be great success with generally good attendance in all the areas, the new format has been received enthusiastically with lots of feedback being given.

Well done to our technicians in KZN – the Durban road show which was hosted at a new venue at the Mt Edgecombe country club was an exceptional success, with Durban having the largest attendance from all the road shows based on the ratio of registered technicians – so wake up the rest of the country and see if you can beat their record next year.



Although the Johannesburg road show was well attended overall, there has been expressed disappointment as a large number of technicians confirmed attendance but did not attend the road show. Johannesburg wasn't the only venue where this happened as there were guilty parties in all provinces, but it had the largest number of “no shows”.

This has led to the decision being taken to inform all companies that as from the first road show of 2017 which is Cape Town – any company that books for two or more technicians –will be invoiced at the rate charged by the venue should they not arrive. Plenty of notice is given of the road shows – and there is no excuse for the large numbers that do not arrive. The road shows are organized for the benefit of all registered persons and it is their registration fees that are used for this – so it is their money that is being wasted.

Check out the SAQCC Face book page for all the Road Show pictures!



2017 ROAD SHOWS are being organized with venues confirmed for Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban already. However, this is where you as the registered person comes in – we would like to hear from you as to what you would like to see featured at these road shows. Suggestions already put forward are

- ☞ Signage – law, placement etc
- ☞ Practical health and safety applications workshop
- ☞ Dealing with crucial areas of SANS 1475
- ☞ Case studies
- ☞ Risk Assessment
- ☞ Update on cartridge type extinguishers

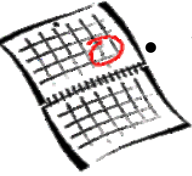


Please forward any suggestions or comments you may have to the administration office **BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY** so that this can be looked at by the committee and a plan of action drawn up in good time for the first road show which will take place in Cape town early in April.

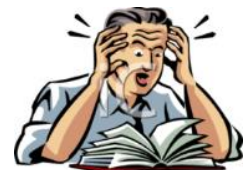
REMINDERS

Important

- With effect from 1st September 2016, should an SAQCC Fire-1475 registered trainee transfer companies whilst still in his training period, he will have to be re-registered and failure to comply with this, will result in the trainee's registration being cancelled. Transfer forms are available from the Administration office – 011 455 3157 or saqccfire@tiscali.co.za
- Trainees can only be registered for a maximum period of 24 months. At the end of 24 months they will automatically be de-registered. Please ensure you register as a competent person before your time is up!
- Renewal invoices will be emailed to everyone early in January, so please ensure the administration office has your correct email address. Remember, without proof of payment of your renewal, no card can be issued.
- We are using the bulk sms service on a regular basis to ensure we reach each of you personally and do not rely on your company to keep you informed, so it is very important to notify us when you change your cell number. It is most frustrating when we have so many failures because a number has changed. This is our most efficient way of communicating with you and it is in your own interest to ensure we are up to date with your number.
- Herewith to remind all company management representatives that as per legal requirements **“No person shall fill, recharge, recondition, modify, repair, inspect or test any fire extinguisher unless such person is an authorised person employed by a permit holder: Provided that a permit is issued by an organisation approved by the chief inspector.”** Currently the SABS is the only organisation approved to issue a 1475 permit and the SAQCC will only be able to register competent persons working for a company issued with a permit from the SABS. Only when the Department of Labour should issue a directive that another organization is approved, can the SAQCC act on such a directive.



All that remains now is for all of us on the SAQCC Fire-1475 Committee to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday period – we hope you take time to rest and recharge your batteries and we look forward to a great 2017 – and remember to take the opportunity next year of keeping yourself informed by your attendance at the road shows when you will get to meet some of the personalities involved in the industry. And last but not least here is a little something to make you smile!



*Pre Govender
Editor in Chief!*

CHECK THIS OUT I'M TAKING AN ELFIE!