



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1387

Mr R W T Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Competition:

What steps has his department taken to address the crisis facing the number plate industry which is dealing with illegal manufacturers operating without SA Bureau of Standards accreditation and is the subject of an investigation by the Competition Commission into price fixing by industry players? NW1549E

REPLY:

The regulator for number plates, with a statutory mandate to enforce compliance, is the Department of Transport (DoT), through the National Road Traffic Act, 1996, read with the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000, which provides mechanisms for the enforcement of the law; where any person contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 – and includes the specification on how to manufacture number plates.

Where the SABS' certification mark is used unlawfully by number plate manufacturers, who are not certified by the SABS, legal action is taken; commencing with a cease and desist notice.



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Apart from the above, three meetings (23 September 2025, 05 November 2025 and 24 February 2026) were convened by **the dtic** in an effort to address the challenge of non-compliance within the sector. These three meetings were attended by DoT, President License Plate Association of South Africa (LAZA), SABS, the Complainant and **the dtic**.

Key outcomes, - the Complainant agreed to join SABS Technical Committee (TC) 1070 dealing with number plates as well as a Task Team established to look into the number plate standard. All Stakeholders mentioned above, agreed to further explore the issue of manufactures supplying sub-standards products and to deal with illegal manufactures operating without the SA Bureau of Standards accreditation.

Meanwhile, on the manufactures operating without the SA Bureau of Standards accreditation, the DoT informed the meeting that the issue was addressed around 2014 and that the manufacturer lost a case at the Competition Commission and was instructed to cease and desist from operating. They further went on to say that if they are continuing, then they do so knowing that they are contravening the National Road Traffic Act. The DoT also informed the meeting that a letter will once again be sent to 'DGD' company, advising it to cease and desist from operating in number plates as they are operating illegally.

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