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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 895

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

What (a) is the current accreditation status of the SA Bureau of Standards' (SABS) cement certification laboratories and (b)(i) steps does the SABS take to regain accreditation once it has been lost, (ii) period is it expected to take and (iii) is the cost?
NW1140E

REPLY:

I have been advised by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) as follows.

- a) All SABS cement testing laboratories remain accredited to the requirements of ISO 17025. Effective from the 8th of August 2024, the accreditation of the cement scope (certification) was partially suspended by SANAS. This followed an assessment visit by SANAS which took place on 19th and 22nd to 24th July 2024. This means that SABS cannot issue certificates and/or reports or any other materials displaying the SANAS logo. Valid permits are not affected by the partial suspension; however, onboarding of new clients, new products and scope changes cannot be conducted until such time that the partial suspension has been lifted.
- b) (i) A detailed plan to address non-compliances which led to the partial suspension of accreditation of the cement scope was submitted to SANAS and implementation is monitored on a regular basis with the aim of regaining full accreditation.

(ii) The partial suspension of the accreditation of the cement scope is valid for a period of three months and is subject to successful clearance of non-compliances raised by SANAS.

(iii) Costs to be incurred are those linked to addressing non-compliances and reassessment by SANAS. Several engagements with the regulator and the cement industry (current clients) are taking place to mitigate the impact of the partial suspension.

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