



Event: NCC and SABS Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony

Date: 23 September 2025

Venue: SABS Campus, Groenkloof

Remarks by the Acting Commissioner, Mr Hardin Ratshisusu

Programme Director,

Acting CEO of the South African Bureau of Standards, Mr Blake Mosley-Lefatola,

Executives and Colleagues from the NCC and SABS,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning,

Today marks an important occasion as the NCC and the SABS sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in our efforts to ensure a competitive economy and effective consumer protection.

The rise of foodborne illnesses from the sale of expired foods and, in some instances, substandard products require much closer collaboration between our institutions.

At the height of foodborne illnesses towards the end of 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation on 15 November 2024, requiring regulatory institutions to act.

The President said, *“Our people have every right to be upset and to be angry in the face of such tragedies.*

At a time like this, we need to unite as a country and work together to end these deaths.”

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We must do what it takes to make sure such tragedies never happen again.

With this MoU, we are not only formalising a partnership between our two institutions, but we are also responding to this clarion call, at the same time reaffirming our shared commitment to ensuring safe products in the marketplace.

The Consumer Protection Act mandates the NCC to promote and enforce consumer rights in South Africa, whilst the SABS, through its standard-setting, testing, and certification work, ensures that products and services meet the highest standards of quality and safety.

This MoU recognises the critical synergies between the NCC and the SABS.

Our collaboration is intended to achieve the following:

- First, strengthen consumer protection by ensuring unsafe and non-compliant goods are swiftly identified and removed from markets;
- Second, enhance consumer education on the significance of standards in ensuring a competitive and orderly marketplace; and
- Third, support the industry in meeting compliance requirements that are fair, transparent, and in line with both domestic and international best practices.

This partnership aligns with **the dtic**'s priorities of industrialisation, economic transformation, sustainable development and building a capable state.

Standards on product quality and safety are critical in ensuring that suppliers provide products of good quality, for the competitiveness of products both in domestic and international markets.

The Consumer Protection Act is enforced through the lens of these standards, hence the need for the NCC to collaborate with other regulatory authorities.

Through this MoU, our collaboration will extend to the following areas:

- Access to the relevant South African and International standards through preferential and favourable Subscription Services, Licensing, and other Content Solutions offered by the SABS,
- Provision of Standards Information Services to the NCC,

- Participation of NCC in relevant SABS Technical Committees responsible for the development of standards,
- Joint Marketing efforts and outreach programmes,
- Joint and multi-stakeholder compliance inspections or market monitoring, and
- Product examination and laboratory testing, including but not limited to Clothing, Textile, Footwear and Leather products, Foodstuffs, and household items, for compliance with the Consumer Protection Act, various standards and such other prescripts as may be applicable.

Colleagues, today marks a new chapter in the collaborative journey between the NCC and the SABS.

Together, we can enhance our efforts to ensure that the rights of consumers are sufficiently protected.

Investigations on product safety and quality will be supported by the laboratory testing capabilities of the SABS.

There should be no room for poor quality products in the marketplace in South Africa.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the teams from both institutions for their commitment and dedication in ensuring we conclude this MoU.

I look forward to a long-lasting partnership with the SABS.

Let us put the rights of consumers first.

Thank you.