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Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ACCREDITATION PROCESS AND TIMELINES

The Verification Agencies that applied to SANAS before 28 February 2009, must re-submit their document management system for review by 30 April 2009. Thereafter SANAS will conduct a pre-assessment process and issue a letter (pre-assessment letter) confirming that the requirements of pre-assessment have been met and non conformances have been cleared. This process should be completed by 31 July 2009.

The pre-assessment letter will be a confirmation that these VAs are in process of being accredited and they are adhering to the stipulated guidelines when conducting the B-BBEE Verification process. Certificates issued by these VAs will be acceptable in the market.

In order to obtain a pre-assessment from SANAS, the following conditions must be met:

Document Management Review which tests the compliance of the following documents: SANAS R47, Verification Manual and the Codes of Good Practice.

Pre-assessment is the site visit conducted by SANAS to verify the implementation of the Document Management System. Any non-conformances raised during the pre-assessment process must be satisfactory cleared.

Failure to obtain a pre-assessment letter by 31st July 2009 will result in the verification agencies certificates not being acceptable in the market. These VAs will be unable to issue certificates between 31st July 2009 and the date of receipt of a pre-assessment letter.

Timeframe for accreditation following receipt of pre-assessment letter

The pre-assessment letter is valid for 16 weeks from date of issue. Verification Agencies that fail to obtain accreditation within this 16 weeks period will have to re-apply for accreditation.

Verification Agencies that apply as from 1 April 2009 will have 16 weeks to complete pre-assessment, and a further 16 weeks to achieve accreditation.