



26 February 2014

## NRCS TO NOW INDEPENDENTLY PROFILE AND DETAIN CONTAINERS

From the 1st of March 2014, The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), will be independently profiling and detaining containers for inspection at all ports of entry.



Formerly the regulatory branch of the SABS, the NRCS has been mandated by the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) to administer compulsory specifications and other technical regulations to protect human health and to ensure safety as well as fair trade. It has advised that all shipping lines are to provide it with both hard and soft copies of container vessels' and vehicle carriers' manifests within five days of the last port of departure.

Added to this freight forwarders, clearing agents and importers need to submit import and approval documents for all detained containers.

See the below communications from the NRCS.

**Attention: SAASOA and SAAFF members**

**Re: Profiling and detaining of containers**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this communicate is to inform all affected parties about the duties of the NRCS. Furthermore, the NRCS intends for this initiative to open all lines of communication with industry stakeholders.

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) is mandated by the NRCS Act (5 of 2008), the Trade Metrology Act of 1973 and the National Building Regulations Act. Furthermore, in agreement with other government departments, the NRCS also administers various regulations.

The NRCS is an entity that falls under the umbrella of the Department of Trade and Industry. The purpose of the NRCS is to administer Compulsory Specifications and other technical regulations with the interests of protecting human health, safety, environment and ensuring fair trade in the Republic of South Africa. The NRCS is the former regulatory arm of the SABS.

The NRCS hereby informs all stakeholders:

- Shipping lines
- Freight forwarders
- Clearing agents
- Importers

**Effective as of 1 March 2014, the NRCS will be independently profiling and detaining containers for inspection at all ports of entry.**

- All shipping lines are to provide NRCS with both hard and soft copies of container vessels and vehicle carriers manifests within 5 days of the last port of departure.
- Freight forwarders, clearing agents and importers will have to submit import and approval documents for all detained containers.

Monthly meeting have been arranged with SAASO and SAAFF to address any issues that may arise. We look forward to the full cooperation of all stakeholders, with the intention of efficient operations.

***NB: Failure to comply with this directive will be in contravention of the NRCS Act.***

Yours Sincerely

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