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Compliance issues continue to impede importers

Despite efforts to educate the shipping industry in the complex compliance requirements of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), importers are continuing to face delays and additional costs.

While ignorance of the law on the part of shippers is part of the problem, there have also been complaints about the inefficiency of the NRCS in the application of the law.

The NRCS was established to administer compulsory specifications and other technical regulations, and all products imported into South Africa that fall within the scope of the NRCS must be registered and tested by the SABS/NRCS against South African National Standards.

While no one has an argument with the motivation behind the legislation – ensuring that South Africa does not become a dumping ground for substandard products – the rules are extremely complex, with errant importers often paying a hefty price for non-compliance, says Value Logistics divisional director Stephen Segal.

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